

Talking Points -- Graphic Novels and Comic Books

- **Comic Book:** A serialized comic appearing in a magazine- sized booklet; it tells just one short story or part of a longer story in each “issue”
- **Graphic Novel:** A novel-length self contained comic or a collection of comic books bound into a volume
- **Manga:** Stylized Japanese graphic novel, reads right to left, both page and panel-wise. “Manga” is a genre of graphic novels (like mystery is a genre of fiction) that come from Japan, featuring a unique aesthetic both in story and illustrations. The manga aesthetic has also carried over into anime, - a genre of cartoons also from Japan. There are manga titles in each of our collections as well.
- **“Graphic novel” and “comic book”** are formats like large type or paperback, **NOT** genres. In fact most genres such as nonfiction, mystery, sci-fi, etc... are available in a graphic novel.
- The “Graphic” in graphic novel refers to the use of both pictures and words equally to tell the story, not to the content of the story itself.
- Just like regular books, graphic novels and comic books are written with a certain audience in mind. This is why we have them divided into the children’s, YA and adult collections according to their content.

Education benefits of graphic novels and comic books:

- The average comic book introduces children to nearly twice as many new words as the average children’s book and more than five times as many as the average child-adult conversation.
- Many schools are using comic books as a way to encourage reluctant readers.
- Comic books contribute to the development of visual literacy, or the ability to understand and respond to a visual image.
- Even before children are ready to read text, comic books can give them practice in understanding material printed on a page, tracking left to right and top to bottom, and inferring what happens between individual panels in a story.
- Comic Books often contain more advanced vocabulary than traditional books at the same age/grade level.

Just for fun! Superhero identity cheat sheet

DC			Marvel	
Name	Secret Identity		Name	Secret Identity
Batman	Bruce Wayne		Spider-man	Peter Parker
Superman	Clark Kent		Iron Man	Tony Stark
Wonder Woman	Diana Prince		Thor	Thor Odinson
Green Lantern	Hal Jordan		Hulk	Bruce Banner
Green Arrow	Oliver Queen		Captain America	Steve Rogers
Aquaman	Arthur Curry		Wolverine	Logan