

Cristofher Griffin
SLIS 756 Collection Development Project

One of the main concerns I believe many parents have is how to encourage their children to read more, this is something that is often an issue for boys primarily as well. No matter how many great novels you throw their way, it seems as if some children just can't get into them. This is where graphic novels come into the picture. Now the biggest misconception about graphic novels is that they are glorified comic books, which they most certainly are not. They are novels that use images as well as words in order to tell a story. To this end, I want to expand the category of the graphic novel section and make it more friendly and easy for kids to take notice of it.

The images from the graphic novels reinforce the language rather than replace it. The words carry with the illustrations and make the graphic novel more appealing to the reader. A kid who hasn't really shown interest in this type of material may soon find themselves re-reading to get a better understanding of what is happening. The language is high quality. A really good graphic novel has to pair great illustrations with clear dialogue, the language and the images work together to create the story. With so little space for words they are chosen with a great deal of care for maximum impact and can seriously add to your child's vocabulary. They also deal with complex themes that will challenge them beyond their reading level.

Also, the images within Graphic Novels allow for a clearer overview of the story. This method encourages children to read the entire thing. With the assistance of the images the child can get a better sense of what is happening, particularly well for kids who are really turned off books. The language of graphic novels is high quality. The illustrations must be paired with clear and precise dialogue and work together in order to create the story. The space in graphic novels is minimal for words so they're chosen carefully in hopes of expanding the child's vocabulary.

I settled on this topic because from personal experiences, graphic novels have always been a consistently effective method of bringing more children into the library. There's always been hesitation on the parent's part due to this huge misconception that graphic novels are truly novels because they heavily involve illustrations to accompany the wordings. That's why

my development project outlines various paths and outlets parents and their children can take when it involves venturing into the library at such early ages.

<https://prezi.com/view/ZzCEQ8OcpoDROTwgYJ2x/>

List of Items:

Children's Core Collection:

1. Craft, Jerry. (2019). *New Kid*. New York, NY: HarperCollins

7th grader Jordan Banks, a very talented boy with a love for art and comics, is enrolled into a prestigious private school known for its academics, but where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade as well.

2. Gustavo & Northrop Michael. (2019) *Dear Justice League*. New York, NY: DC Comics

The greatest heroes to ever jump from the pages of the DC Comics Universe, the Justice League, take a break from crime fighting in this wonder story to answer mail from their biggest fans...the kids!

3. Herald, Nathan. (2011). *Graphic novels for young readers: a genre guide for ages 4-14*. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited

This collection of graphic novel listings would be great and beneficial for any parent or child interested in knowing more about the genre but unsure of where to start.

4. Long, Christopher E., Dubisch, Mike, and Warner, Gertrude Chandler. (2009). *The Boxcar Children Series*. Minnesota, USA: ABDO/Magic Wagon

Orphaned siblings Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden find an old red boxcar that keeps them warm and safe and decide to make it their home. This graphic novel series follows their adventures.

5. Telgemeier, Raina & Martin, Ann M. (2008). *The Baby-Sitters Club*. New York, NY: Scholastic/Graphix

Baby-sitting isn't always easy, and neither is dealing with overbearing parents, families, fashion dilemmas, and even mysterious secrets. But no matter what the issue is, the Baby Sitters Club will always have what they need most: friendship!

Kirkus:

6. Reading Rockets <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/graphic-novels-young-kids>
7. Comix Experience <https://www.comixexperience.com/graphic-novel-club-kids>

8. Kids Comics <https://www.kidscomics.com/>
9. Common Sense Media <https://www.common Sense Media.org/lists/graphic-novels>
10. Denver Library Teens Booklist <https://teens.denverlibrary.org/booklist/graphic-novels>

Library Apps:

11. BookBub (App) <https://www.bookbub.com/apps>
12. Libby (App) <https://meet.libbyapp.com/>
13. Goodreads (App)
<https://www.goodreads.com/blog/show/1307-introducing-the-all-new-faster-goodreads-android-app-includes-rereads>
14. Library Thing (App)
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.librarything.librarything&hl=en_US

Videos on Graphic Novel Ideas:

A Graphic Novel Helps Foster Racial Literacy in Teens | SLJ Summit 2017

15. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nwj-UcliLZY>

TEDxDartmouth 2011- Michael Chaney: How to Read a Graphic Novel - March 6, 2011

16. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAyEbgSPi9w>

Book Expo & BookCon Comic & Graphic Novel Haul

17. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77Wp3m-NX7s>

Young Readers 3 - The Comics Alternative

18. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzyzv7uKwQ4>

School Library Journal:

19. Scholastic. "The Power of Story—Scary Stories for the Rest of Us" School Library Journal. 28 October 2019.
<https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=the-power-of-story-scary-stories-for-the-rest-of-us>
20. Mandanna, Sangu. "Color Outside the Lines: Stories About Love" School Library Journal, Nov 2019, <https://www.slj.com/?reviewDetail=color-outside-the-lines-stories-about-love>

Five Resources I Would Use:

- **The Boxcar Children Series**
- **The Baby-Sitters Club Series**

The first of my resources I would implicate involve using the box car and baby sitters club series as an ice breaker for parents interested in getting their kids to read more. I like this route because even though they're in graphic novel format, both of these series have been around since the 1920s (Boxcar Children) and 1980s (Babysitters Club). These are

two titles most parents will already be familiar with putting their doubts of graphic novels simply being glorified comic books more at ease.

- **Kids Comics**

With Kids Comics, the plan is to not only let kids know that various graphic novels would be available to check out at the library, but if they should consider wanting to purchase the title outright they can do so by going to this website and checking their catalog and database to see the price of the book. Also, they can find if it's available for purchase at their local comic book shop or on Amazon.com

- **BookBub**

Kids Comics would be a valuable resource for the children, whereas BookBub would be more beneficial for the parents. Unlike Kids Comics, BookBub is available in app format and allows parents easy access to any title their child would be interested in. It not only gives them the chance to see what it is their child is interested in, but it also helps them monitor the type of material their children get hold of.

- **The Power of Story—Scary Stories for the Rest of Us**

This article is something I would also recommend parents read up on in regards to the former of the title. As stated in my earlier one page discussion, the power of story is very strong in literature and should not be shirked or ignored depending on the format, in this case the format being graphic novels. Not every great reading material is going to come primarily in word format alone. This is something all parents should know and understand for the better of their children.