

Resources

Titles mentioned and reviewed

The Acme Novelty Library by Chris Ware

This deluxe hardcover edition of *The Acme Novelty Library* features the first serial instalment of "Rusty Brown," Ware's first major lengthy narrative indulgence since his *Jimmy Corrigan* graphic novel. The first instalment begins with young Rusty, an outcast in his suburban Chicago elementary school, befriended solely by his Supergirl action figure until he meets new kid on the block and fellow comic nerd, Chalky White. Rusty's story is an uncomfortably vivid and uncompromising look into the life of a social outcast.

The Adventures of Afi by Johnny Angel

Polynesia's answer to that mythical figure, the superhero. AFI, a comic creation from graphic artist New Zealand-born Samoan Johnny Angel, is a futuristic Samoan superhero driven to do good for humanity around the globe.

Alan's War : The memories of GI Alan Cope by Emmanuel Guibert

Guibert writes and draws for American G.I. Alan Cope in this poignant and frank graphic memoir of young soldier who was told to serve his country in WWII and how it changed him forever. When he first enters Fort Knox at 18, he is young and impressionable, more of a dreamer than the military type. Slowly, Cope grows through his experiences in the war. He forges candid friendships with his fellow soldiers and remains ever insightful in his recollections of the war and his life afterward. From Publishers Weekly Review.

Alia's Mission : Saving the books of Iraq by Mark Alan Stamaty

In 2003, as the war in Iraq draws closer to Basra, the chief librarian of the Central Library undertakes a mission of epic proportions. Determined to preserve the history and culture of her people, Alia, with the help of her neighbours who assist her at the risk of their own lives, smuggles over 30,000 volumes to safety. Written in comic strip format. Based on a true story. Suggested level: primary, intermediate.

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture. Presented in comic book format.

American Splendor by Harvey Pekar

American Splendor is the world's first literary comic book. Cleveland native Harvey Pekar is a true American original. A V.A. hospital file clerk and comic book writer, Harvey chronicles the ordinary and mundane in stories both funny and touching. His dead-on eye for the frustrations and minutiae of the workaday world mix in a delicate balance with his insight into personal relationships. Pekar has been compared to Dreiser, Dostoevsky, and Lenny Bruce. But he is truly more than all of them—he is himself.

Another Dirt Sandwich by Ray Friesen

Feeling a bit peckish? Try Another Dirt Sandwich! It's a graphic novel of the humorous persuasion with all the fixin's: Swindling! Mustard! Birds wearing hats! It's just chock full of cartoony goodness. This book chronicles the ramblings adventures of inept ostrich con-man Tbyrd Fearlessness, and his gullible rube-turned-sidekick Hopalong Cassowary in their search for fame and fortune, or at least lunch.

The Arrival by Shaun Tan

Tan captures the displacement and awe with which immigrants respond to their new surroundings in this wordless graphic novel. It depicts the journey of one man, threatened by dark shapes that cast shadows on his family's life, to a new country. The only writing is in an invented alphabet, which creates the sensation immigrants must feel when they encounter a strange new language and way of life. A wide variety of ethnicities is represented in Tan's hyper-realistic style, and the sense of warmth and caring for others, regardless of race, age, or background, is present on nearly every page. From School Library Journal Review.

Babymouse : Puppy Love by Jennifer and Matthew Holm

In the tradition of Snoopy, of Clifford, and of Lassie comes another great dog story for the ages . . . Babymouse: Puppy Love! Babymouse doesn't exactly have a great history with pets—even her goldfish ran away from home. But all that's about to change. Will Babymouse get the dog of her dreams? Will she ever find her missing fish? Find out in the eighth exciting Babymouse graphic novel! "Ruff! Four paws up!"—The Canine Courier Growing up, brother-sister team Matthew and Jennifer Holm had numerous beloved pets, including the creatively named Ruffy—best known for once sporting a pink mohawk and eating an entire chocolate birthday cake.

Barefoot Gen by Keiji Nakazawa

Depicts the powerful story of the bombing of Hiroshima as seen through the eyes of a young boy. Gen and his mother struggle to provide food, shelter and water for themselves and Gen's baby sister. At the heart of the story is the indomitable human spirit which prevails amidst chaos and vast human suffering. Keiji Nakazawa was born in Hiroshima in 1939, and was six years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on his city.

Bosnian Flat Dog by Max Andersson and Lars Sjunnesson

Swedish cartoonists Anderson and Sjunnesson straddle the line between reality and surreality with this tale of their trip to an alternative comics convention in the Balkans. The journey leads to one strange occurrence after another, starting with a pelting by ice cream grenades. From there the corpse of Josip Tito (stored in a freezer), a super-soldier program and the eponymous canine creatures all figure in a story that trades in strange and loaded images to express life during constant conflict. From Publishers Weekly Review.

Britten and Brulightly by Hannah Berry

Fernandez Britten is the messenger who would view being shot as a blessing. Battered by remorse over the lives he has ruined, he clings to the hope of redemption through delivering, just once, a truth with a positive impact. And so Britten and his 'unconventional' partner, Brulightly, take on the case of suicide Berni Kudos.

Can of Worms by Catherine Doherty

Nobody enjoys an unpleasant surprise at breakfast time. So imagine Angus's shock when he discovered his yummy cheesy spaghetti wriggling around in the saucepan like agitated slimy earthworms. His mother is too busy to look and his sister thinks it is just another one of his pranks, so he takes the spaghetti to school. Suggested level: primary

Captain Congo and the Crocodile King by Ruth Starke and Greg Holfeld

Captain Congo and his assistant Pug are given an assignment to search for a professor from Chicago, missing in Abyssinia (AKA Ethiopia). In a pleasant twist, Congo, like another famous 'Kong', is a gorilla, though the captain has such a calm temperament he even pauses to fold his cuffs before rescuing the hapless Pug from a crocodile. Pug is a penguin and is the source of most of the visual jokes but there is further fun to be found everywhere in textual asides, the brilliant drawings, and even in names (the housekeeper, a pig, is Madame Jambon—oh dear!).

The Castaways by Rob Vollmar and Pablo G. Callejo

The adventures of young Tucker Freeman as hops a train to escape from the poverty of his rural existence.

Charles Dickens and Friends by Marcia Williams

This volume retells, in comic-strip style, five of Dickens' most popular stories.

Charley's War by Pat Mills and Joe Colquhoun

Renowned UK comics writer Pat Mills (Marshal Law, Slaine) and legendary artist Joe Colquhoun (Johnny Red) continue the thrilling, humorous and horrifying story of World War One soldier Charley Bourne. Home from the war thanks to an injury, Charley escapes from a terrifying air-raid, only to run into a deserter from the Foreign Legion - who tells him of the awful siege of Fort Vaux, even as both men run for their lives from the Military Police!

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Chris Mould

In this carefully abridged version of Robert Louis Stevenson's much-loved classic, Chris Mould brings a mix of humour and verve both to his re-telling of the story, and the illustrations which accompany it. Text re-written with great care and suitable for less confident readers, sparky, spiky illustrations, full of character and witty observation. Cartoon style layout means that this classic story is presented with great immediacy and in an easily accessible form

Elizabeth I by Rob Shone, Anita Ganeri and Terry Riley

The daughter of the ruthless King Henry VIII, Elizabeth's rule was perilous. Surrounded by religious unrest, Elizabeth proved a shrewd and ruthless leader, executing rivals and even members of her own family. She led her country to victory against the Spanish Armada and her reign heralded an English Golden Age. The speech bubbles and strip cartoon-style illustrations of the graphic novel create a dynamic format that encourages readers to engage with the characters and get involved in the story.

Epileptic by David B.

Epileptic is a memoir of B.'s evolution into an artist, how learning to re-envision and recreate the world with his eyes and hands became his escape route from the madness and disease that might have destroyed him. B.'s family becomes involved with the shady alternative medicine world in France circa 1970 in an attempt to help his epileptic, unstable older brother.

Ethel and Ernest by Raymond Briggs

Raymond Briggs has used his parents in his work before. They were the archetypes for the bemused elderly couple in his fable of nuclear war, *When The Wind Blows*, and in lighter vein his father has been the model for Father Christmas. But in this latest work Briggs takes it a step further in writing (and, of course, drawing) a cartoon strip biography of his parents marriage from courtship in the twenties to death in the seventies. This tribute to ordinary lives--no affairs, no illness before the end, no regrets--is inevitably a very personal work, but also serves as a fascinating social history. From Amazon.Com Review.

Fagin the Jew by Will Eisner

The father of the graphic novel takes an iconographic character from Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist* and gives him a personal history. The scheming but humane criminal depicted in the social novel might have experienced, according to Eisner, a childhood marked by emigration from Germany and the early death of his impoverished parents, a doomed romance, and a sojourn abroad as an indentured prisoner. From School Library Journal Review.

Fairy tales of Oscar Wilde by P. Craig Russell

One of comic art's most respected and pioneering artists, well known for his opera adaptations and beautiful fantasy work adapts Oscar Wilde's famous fairy tales in a series of landmark volumes.

Fax from Sarajevo by Joe Kubert

Told through a combination of comic-book graphics and copies of the faxed communications sent back and forth between Sarajevo and the outside world, this dramatic account tells how the Rustemagic family survives the deadly siege of their homeland. The graphic novel format is ideally suited to bring the events to life in a compelling way. This portion of the book is followed by a condensed version of each chapter with photos of the actual people and places depicted in the narrative.

Foodboy by Carol Swain

Foodboy is about loss and hope, friendship and faith, bonds that are tested when the paths of two boyhood friends diverge. Gareth - the eponymous Foodboy - and Ross live in the small Welsh village of Llanparc. The attempt of a visiting troupe of Evangelists to convert them sends Ross into the wilderness. Gareth remains loyal to his friend, leaving food out for him, even when it becomes apparent that Ross is becoming increasingly feral. Foodboy is drawn in Swain's trademark style of exquisite panel compositions.

Fox by Margaret Wild and Ron Brooks

The simplicity of presentation belies the sophistication of this allegorical tale that demonstrates the tremendous power of caring and friendship. Dog, blinded in one eye, finds Magpie, whose wing has been burned in a forest fire. He carries her to his cave, but she is distraught and bitter because she can no longer fly. Dog is a true and patient friend and an optimist, and his encouragement lifts the bird's spirits. ("I will be your missing eye, and you will be my wings," Magpie declares.) Enter dashing, flattering Fox, full of "rage and envy and loneliness," who attempts to destroy the friendship by luring Magpie away. From School Library Journal.

Hardy Boys : A Hardy Day's Night by Scott Lobdell and Paulo Henrique

In this change of pace adventure, Frank and Joe Hardy discover a rogue mentor agent within A.T.A.C. (American Teens Against Crime) -- when that agent tries to kill them! But it's soon discovered he was being manipulated by malevolent forces who kidnapped his child -- and now the Hardy Boys have only until dawn to find the man's son!

Guards! Guards! by Graham Higgins and Stephen Briggs

Some night-time prowler is turning the (mostly) honest citizens of Ankh-Morpork into something resembling small charcoal biscuits. And that's a real problem for Captain Vimes, who must tramp the mean streets of the naked city looking for a seventy-foot-long fire-breathing dragon which, he believes, can help him with his enquiries. But there's more - now we get to see Ankh-Morpork in all its glory; illustrations so vibrant you can practically smell and taste the denizens of this delightful city (although with Corporal Nobbs, you might rather wish you didn't have to).

Henry V by William Shakespeare

Shakespeare's rousing tale of war and peace between England and France during the reign of Henry V springs to life in this unabridged, full-colour graphic adaptation. Every scene, every speech, and every battle is here, from "Once more unto the breach" to the decisive Battle of Agincourt, all in Shakespeare's original language. The lively illustrations accurately depict the era's costumes and settings.

Jack and the Box by Art Spiegelman

Jack's parents gave him a new toy and he can't believe how silly it is! Sometimes it's funny and other times it's scary. Sometimes it talks to him and other times it hides. At first, Jack loves all the surprises that his toy can offer, but after a while he starts to think his toy is a little too silly - in fact, it's gone out of control!

Jane's World by Paige Braddock

Meet Jane, the hapless heroine of a slightly wacky world, where women wash up on desert islands and are kidnapped by adoring Amazons, where random ex-girlfriends morph into monkeys, where best friends are always loyal (and occasionally even lustful!) and roommates never change... Not even their socks. Now enters the heartless, hip and totally hot, Chelle, who has Jane falling head over heels over office furniture. Will Chelle ever develop a soft spot for Jane? Will Jane's roommate, Ethan, ever get a job? Will kind-hearted but aimless, Dorothy, ever stop pouring coffee and actually use her doctoral degree?!

Little Things by Jeffrey Brown

Comics artist Brown presents evocative graphic short stories that deal with aspects of daily life--friendship, illness, work, jealousy--to show how the smallest and seemingly most insignificant parts of everyday existence can end up becoming the most meaningful.

Maus by Art Spiegelman

Some historical events simply beggar any attempt at description--the Holocaust is one of these. Therefore, as it recedes and the people able to bear witness die, it becomes more and more essential that novel, vigorous methods are used to describe the indescribable. Examined in these terms, Art Spiegelman's *Maus* is a tremendous achievement, from a historical perspective as well as an artistic one. From Amazon.Com Review.

Megillat Ester by JT Waldman

When Esther, a Jewish woman, is made Queen of Persia she must keep her identity hidden, all the while manoeuvring to save her people from annihilation. This book features the Hebrew text with English translation, and drawings depicting the story of the Persian Queen. Traditional interpretations of the story are woven throughout the panels.

Mo and Jo : Fighting together forever by Dean Haspiel and Jay Lynch

When the Mighty Mojo gives his powerful costume to Mo and Jo, these argumentative twins fight so much they rip it in half. Can they find a way to combine their powers, fight the evil Saw-Jaw and save their town?

The Mysteries of Harris Burdick by Chris van Allsburg

Presents a series of loosely related drawings each accompanied by a title and a caption which the reader may use to make up his or her own story.

Oishinbo by Tetsu Kariya and Akira Hanasaki

As part of the celebrations for its 100th anniversary, the publishers of the ToZai News have commissioned the creation of the 'Ultimate Menu,' a model meal embodying the pinnacle of Japanese cuisine. This all-important task has been entrusted to journalist Yamaoka Shiro, an inveterate cynic who possesses zero initiative--but also an incredibly refined palate and an encyclopaedic knowledge of food.

On the Edge of Life by Roger Leloup

Besides being pretty, intelligent and courageous, Yoko Tsuno is an electronics engineer. This specialization draws her and friends Pol and Vic into adventures that cross the border between fantasy and science fiction. Yoko crosses the globe and travels through time and space; but no matter where her exploits take her, the young girl always remains faithful to herself, never forgetting values such as loyalty, friendship and respect for life.

Otto's Orange Day by Frank Cammuso and Jay Lynch

After a genie fulfils Otto the cat's wish by turning the whole world orange, Otto realizes that his favourite colour is not the best colour for everything. In graphic novel format.

Read Responsibly by Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum

Aside from a year's worth of hilarious strips, the fifth year of Unshelved includes dozens of full-colour Unshelved Book Clubs, a convention guide and much more

Owly : Tiny Tales by Andy Runton

The fifth graphic novel in the amazing all-ages Owly series, "Tiny Tales" kicks off with a brand-new Owly adventure, and also collects the very first, out-of-print Owly stories from the original mini-comics, as well as the out-of-print "Free Comic Book Day" stories "Splashin' Around," "Breakin' the Ice," and "Helping Hands." Other bonus material includes a Sketchbook and 'How To Draw Owly' sections.

The Plain Janes by Cecil Castellucci and Jim Rugg

Young adult author Castellucci makes her graphic-novel debut with this quirky comic. Jane's parents relocate to the suburbs when she's caught in a bomb attack in Metro City. Bored and lonely in her new town and school, the teen is thrilled when she meets three other girls named Jane, all of them as out of place as she is. They form a secret club, the Plain Janes, and decide to liven up the town with art. From School Library Journal Review.

Re-Gifters by Mike Carey, Sonny Liew and Marc Hempei

Meet Jen Dik Seong -- or "Dixie" as she's known to her friends. She's living on the ragged edge of LA's Koreatown, and her only outlet is the ancient martial art of hapkido. In fact, she's on the verge of winning a championship -- until she falls for fellow hapkido fan/California surfer boy Adam and gets thrown spectacularly off her game. As she struggles to win the tournament -- not to mention Adam's affections -- Dixie learns that in love and in gift-giving, what goes around comes around.

Requiem for a Beast by Matt Ottley

A boy goes on a journey of self discovery as a stockman in Far North Queensland. In an exquisitely illustrated collage of memory and dreamscape, the boy confronts a huge, rogue bull and realises he must acknowledge the errors of the past before he can fully embrace the future. A collage of memory, dream, nightmare and cold reality.

Skim by Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki

"Skim" (Kimberly Keiko Cameron) is a not-slim would-be Wiccan goth who goes to a private girls' school. When her classmate Katie is dumped by her boyfriend, who then kills himself, the entire school goes into mourning overdrive. The popular clique starts a club to boost school spirit, but Skim sinks into an ever-deepening depression.

The Snowman by Raymond Briggs

When his snowman comes to life, a little boy invites him home and in return is taken on a flight high above the countryside.

Thunderhead Underground Falls by Joel Orff

Tells the story of Jack, a young army reservist who has one weekend left before shipping out for combat in the Middle East. He and a friend find themselves behind the wheel of his parent's car, driving farther and farther west into a snowy landscape. This novel is an impressionistic exploration of Jack's flight from his future.

The Vampires Ball by Clarke and Gilson

Take out your nicest shrouds, dust off your coffins, and slick your spider webs: Melusine invites you to the great vampire ball. The little witch is back in a new series of gags, dreadfully funny as always. All her family is there: the witches Adrazelle and CANCELRune, of course, but also Mister and Madam, the owners of the haunted castle.

Way Home by Libby Hathorn and Gregory Rogers

Shane finds a no-name stray cat and takes it through the dangers of the city to his home, a corner of an alley.

Western Circus by Morris and Gosciny

Mulligan's Western circus - his troop, lion and elephant - arrive in town under the escort of Lucky Luke. Zilch, a rich businessman and organizer of the annual grand rodeo, thinks the circus is going to compete with his business and does everything to prevent it from putting on a show. He even engages killer-for-hire Rattlesnake Joe, but in the end his attempts will provide unexpected publicity for the circus. On with the show!.

Why Things Don't Work : Helicopter by David West

As anyone who has faced major delays at the airport or had to sit for hours on a hot, crowded train can tell you, things break down from time to time. This series looks at six familiar machines and uses illustrations to explore what can go wrong with them. It features cartoon-style illustrations and focuses on core technology and science concepts.

The Wind in the Willows : Volume 1 by Michel Plessix

Kenneth Grahame's beloved classic finds its first adaptation into sumptuous comic art.

Research and Articles Cited

On Language by Roman Jakobson

The International Encyclopaedia of Communications edited by Eric Barnouw, 1989

The Truth About Graphic Novels : A Format, Not A Genre" published in the ALAN Review, Winter 2005 by Kirstin Fletcher-Spear, Merideth Jenson-Benjamin and Teresa Copeland

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa4063/is_200501/ai_n13486860/

Die a Graphic Death: Revisiting the Death of Genre with Graphic Novels, or "Why won't you just die already?" published in the ALAN Review, Fall 2008 by James Bucky Carter

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The Genius of Jimmy published in The Guardian, Saturday 8 December, 2001 by Raymond Briggs

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2001/dec/08/guardianfirstbookaward2001.gurardianfirstbookaward>

5 Great Draftsmen published on Fuel Your Illustration, September 18th, 2009 by Peter Kimmins

<http://www.fuelyourillustration.com/5-great-draftsmen-chris-van-allsburg-bill-sienkiewicz-james-jean/>

Magna Carta in Carousel Magazine, March 2009 by Nicholas Tucker

Recomended Furthur Reading

No Flying, No Tights - <http://www.noflyingnotights.com>

Reviewing site for Graphic Novels aimed at Children and Teens

Your local comic store, in Christchurch this is Comics Compulsion and they are GREAT, in other centres you might have to do a bit of research...

A Brief History of the Graphic Novel by Stan Tychinski -

<http://www.graphicnovels.brodart.com/history.htm>

Graphic Novels 101 : FAQ by Robin Brenner

http://www.hbook.com/magazine/articles/2006/mar06_brenner.asp

Patrons of your Library - start up a youth advisory council or solicit suggestions about what Graphic Novels people want.