

A SIMON & SCHUSTER GUIDE TO USING GRAPHIC NOVELS IN THE CLASSROOM: Using Graphic Novels to Enrich Your Students' Learning Experience



© 2015 by Rachel Renee Russell

Why Graphic Novels Belong in Classrooms and Libraries:

- ★ Graphic novels offer fast-paced action, conflict, and heroic endeavors—all things young readers embrace.
- ★ Children learn in different ways; visual learners are able to connect with graphic novels in a way that they cannot with text-only books.
- ★ Graphic novels require readers to be active participants in the reading process, using their imaginations to fill in the blanks between panels.
- ★ Graphic novels help young readers develop strong language arts skills, including reading comprehension and vocabulary development.
- ★ Graphic novels contribute to literacy by ensuring that kids continue to read for fun outside of the classroom.
- ★ Graphic novels often address important developmental assets like being true to yourself, the power of imagination, and teamwork. They also address current, relevant social issues for young readers like divorce, bullying, and confronting monsters in the closet.
- ★ Graphic novels provide a perfect bridge for young readers transitioning from picture books to text-only books.
- ★ Graphic novels often stimulate young readers to branch out and explore other genres of literature including fantasy, science fiction, and realistic fiction as well as nonfiction and myths and legends.
- ★ Graphic novels are good for English as a Second Language students and students who read below grade level because the simple sentences and visual clues allow readers to comprehend some, if not all, of the story.

Definition of a Graphic Novel:

Traditionally, the term “comic book” has been used to describe any book created in a comic style format. Today, the term is used specifically to describe a staple-bound, serialized, thirty-two-page pamphlet or periodical. The term “graphic novel” has been around for decades, but in the last ten years it has been adopted by mainstream media as more of a catch-all phrase for full-length stories written and illustrated in a comic book style or format. This format generally utilizes panels, or framed illustrations, and speech balloons. A graphic novel can be an original, self-contained story or it can be a collection of previously published comic books that together tell one story.



© Rachel Renée Russell

The DORK DIARIES SERIES written and illustrated by Rachel Renée Russell

Grades 4–8 • Ages 9–13



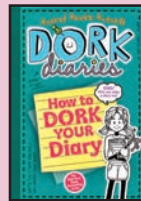
#1 Tales from a Not-So-Fabulous Life
 POB: 9781416980063
 UAB CD: 9781442338968
 UAB EA: 9781442338975
 EB: 9781416986553
 Aladdin
Awards and Nominations:
 IRA/CBC Children's Choices
 Lexile® 890L
 F&P Text Level Gradient™ W



#2 Tales from a Not-So-Popular Party Girl
 POB: 9781416980087
 UAB CD: 9781442338999
 UAB EA: 9781442339002
 EB: 9781416986560
 Aladdin
 Lexile® 840L
 F&P Text Level Gradient™ W



#3 Tales from a Not-So-Talented Pop Star
 POB: 9781442411906
 UAB CD: 9781442340466
 UAB EA: 9781442340473
 EB: 9781442411913
 Aladdin
 Lexile® 770L
 F&P Text Level Gradient™ W



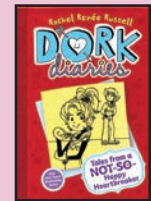
#3 1/2: How to Dork Your Diary
 POB: 9781442422339
 EB: 9781442422346
 Aladdin
 Lexile® 710L



#4 Tales from a Not-So-Graceful Ice Princess
 POB: 9781442411920
 UAB CD: 9781442345041
 UAB EA: 9781442345058
 EB: 9781442411937
 Aladdin
 Lexile® 750L
 F&P Text Level Gradient™ W



#5 Tales from a Not-So-Smart Miss Know-It-All
 POB: 9781442449619
 UAB CD: 9781442355873
 UAB EA: 9781442355880
 EB: 9781442449626
 Aladdin
 Lexile® 750L



#6 Tales from a Not-So-Happy Heartbreaker
 POB: 9781442449633
 UAB CD: 9781442356009
 UAB EA: 9781442356016
 EB: 9781442449640
 Aladdin
 Lexile® HL690L



OMG! All About Me Diary!
 POB: 9781442487710
 EB: 9781442487727
 Aladdin
 Lexile® 610L



#7 Tales from a Not-So-Glam TV Star
 POB: 9781442487673
 UAB CD: 9781442370203
 UAB EA: 9781442370210
 EB: 9781442487680
 Aladdin
 Lexile® 710L



#8 Tales from a Not-So-Happily Ever After
 POB: 9781481421843
 UAB CD: 9781442372566
 UAB EA: 9781442372573
 EB: 9781481421850
 Aladdin
 Lexile® 660L



#9 Tales from a Not-So-Dorky Drama Queen
 POB: 9781442487697
 UAB CD: 9781442370234
 UAB EA: 9781442370241
 EB: 9781442487703
 Aladdin
 Lexile® 780L



#10 Tales from a Not-So-Perfect Pet Sitter
 POB: 9781481457040
 UAB CD: 9781442392069
 UAB EA: 9781442392076
 EB: 9781481457057
 Aladdin
 Lexile® 670L



#11 Tales from a Not-So-Friendly Frenemy
 POB: 9781481479202
 UAB CD: 9781508223252
 UAB EA: 9781508223269
 EB: 9781481479219
 Aladdin
 Lexile® 740L



#12 Tales from a Not-So-Secret Crush Catastrophe
 POB: 9781534405608
 UAB CD: 9781508237655
 UAB EA: 9781508237662
 EB: 9781534405615
 Aladdin
 Lexile® 680L



#13 Tales from a Not-So-Happy Birthday
 POB: 9781534426382
 UAB CD: 9781508254119
 UAB EA: 9781508254126
 EB: 9781534426429
 Aladdin



#14 Tales from a Not-So-Best Friend Forever
 POB: 9781534427204
 UAB CD: 9781508254140
 UAB EA: 9781508254157
 EB: 9781534427211
 Aladdin



#15 Tales from a Not-So-Posh Paris Adventure
 POB: 9781534480483
 EB: 9781534480490
 Aladdin

Coming Fall 2020!

DORK DIARIES COLLECTIONS



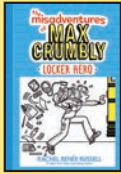
Dork Diaries Box Set 1
 Dork Diaries; Dork Diaries 2; Dork Diaries 3
 POB: 9781442426627
 Aladdin



The Dork Diaries Set
 Dork Diaries Books 1, 2, 3, 3 1/2, 4, and 5
 EB: 9781442466692
 Aladdin



Dork Diaries Box Set 2
 Dork Diaries 4; Dork Diaries 5; Dork Diaries 6
 POB: 9781442498594
 Aladdin



The Misadventures of Max Crumbly #1 Locker Hero

By Rachel Renée Russell
Grades 4–8 • Ages 9–13
POB: 9781481460019
UAB CD: 9781442393806
UAB EA: 9781442393813
EB: 9781481460026
Aladdin
Lexile © 660L • F&P Text
Level Gradient™ W



The Misadventures of Max Crumbly #2 Middle School Mayhem

By Rachel Renée Russell
Grades 4–8 • Ages 9–13
POB: 9781481460033
UAB CD: 9781508232209
UAB EA: 9781508232216
EB: 9781481460040
Aladdin
Lexile © 670L • F&P Text Level
Gradient™ W



The Misadventures of Max Crumbly #3 Masters of Mischief

By Rachel Renée Russell
Grades 4–7 • Ages 9–13
POB: 9781534453494
UAB CD: 9781508295358
UAB EA: 9781508295365
EB: 9781534453500
Aladdin
Lexile © 640L • F&P Text Level
Gradient™ W

From #1 bestselling Dork Diaries author Rachel Renée Russell comes a new series starring Max Crumbly!

Max is about to face the scariest place he's ever been—South Ridge Middle School! He has been home-schooled by his grandmother until now, and he's begged his parents to finally let him start attending public middle school. With bullies like Thomas Silver, he's starting to question that choice.

If only Max could be like the hero in all the comics he likes to read or the ones he draws and magically escape the locker and defeat Tommy.

More Graphic Picture Books/Novels



Kapow!

Written and illustrated by George O'Connor
Grade P–3 • Ages 4–8
PB: 9781416968474
Aladdin



To Dance

Written by Siena Cherson Siegel
Illustrated by Mark Siegel
Grade 3–9 • Ages 8–14
HC: 9781481486637
TP: 9781481486644
EB: 9781481486651
Atheneum

Awards and Nominations:

ALA Notable Children's Books
ALA Robert F. Sibert Award Honor Book
Beehive Award Master List (UT)
Garden State Children's Book Award Nominee (NJ)
Garden State Teen Book Award Nominee (NJ)
IRA/CBC Children's Choices
Keystone to Reading Book Award Master List (PA)
NCTE Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts
School Library Journal Best Books of the Year



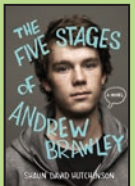
The Awesome, Almost 100% True Adventures of Matt & Craz

Written and illustrated by Alan Silberberg
Grades: 4–8 • Ages: 9–13
TP: 9781416994336
EB: 9781442451834
Aladdin
Lexile © 830L



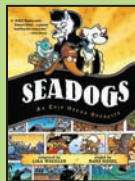
Zebrafish: SPF 40

Written by FableVision
Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds
Grades: 5–9 • Ages: 10–14
HC: 9781416997085
TP: 9781416997092
EB: 9781442450349
Atheneum
Lexile © GN470L



The Five Stages of Andrew Brawley

Written by Shaun David Hutchinson
Illustrated by Christine Larsen
Grades: 7 and up • Ages: 14 and up
HC: 9781481403108
TP: 9781481403115
EB: 9781481403122
Simon Pulse
Lexile © HL700L



Seadogs: An Epic Ocean Operetta

Written by Lisa Wheeler
Illustrated by Mark Siegel
Grade 2–5 • Ages 7–10
TP: 9781416941033
Atheneum

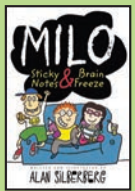
Awards and Nominations:

CCBC Choices (Cooperative Children's Book Council)
NYPL 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing
Texas Bluebonnet Award



Peanuts: Meet the Peanuts Gang!

Written and illustrated by Charles M. Schulz
Grades 1 and up • Ages 6 and up
TP: 9781416994312
EB: 9781481437226
Simon Spotlight



Milo

Written and illustrated by Alan Silberberg
Grades: 4–8 • Ages: 9–13
HC: 9781416994305
TP: 9781416994312
EB: 9781442409422
Aladdin

Awards and Nominations:

Cybilis Award Finalist
Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award Master List (VT)
NYPL "100 Titles for Reading and Sharing"



Draw the Line

Written and illustrated by Laurent Linn
Grades: 7 and up • Ages: 12 and up
HC: 9781481452809
TP: 9781481452816
EB: 9781481452823
Margaret K. McElderry Books
Lexile © HLS90L



Through the Woods

Written and illustrated by Emily Carroll
Grades: 9 and up • Ages: 14 and up
HC: 9781442465954
TP: 9781442465961
EB: 9781442465978
Margaret K. McElderry Books
Lexile © GN550L

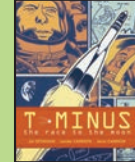


Middle School Is Worse Than Meatloaf

Written by Jennifer L. Holm
Illustrated by Elicia Castaldi
Grade 3–7 • Ages 8–12
POB: 9780689852817
TP: 9781442436633
EB: 9781442436701
Atheneum

Awards and Nominations:

ALA Notable Children's Books
Beehive Award Master List (UT)
Charlotte Award Ballot (NY)
Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award Master List (VT)
NAPPA Gold Award Winner
NYPL 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing
South Carolina Book Award Nominee
West Virginia Children's Book Award Master List



T-Minus

Written by Jim Ottaviani
Illustrated by Kevin Cannon and Zander Cannon
Grades: 3–7 • Ages: 8–12
TP: 9781416949602
Aladdin
ALA Best Graphic Novel for Teens
NYTBR Editors Choice



Zebrafish

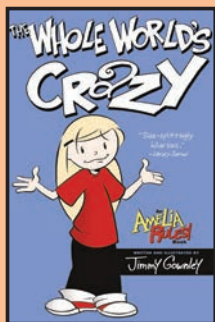
Written by FableVision
Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds
Grades: 5–9 • Ages: 10–14
TP: 9781416997078
EB: 9781442406094
Atheneum
Lexile © GN470L



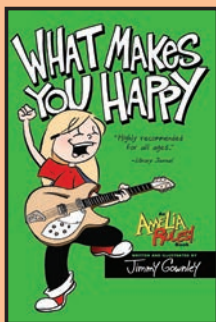
Camilla d'Errico's Burn

Written and illustrated by Camilla d'Errico
Grades: 7 and up • Ages: 12 and up
TP: 9781416978732
Simon Pulse

The AMELIA RULES! SERIES
 written and illustrated by Jimmy Gownley
 Grades 2-7 • Ages 7-12



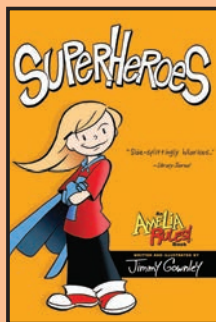
The Whole World's Crazy
 HC: 9781442445383
 TP: 9781416986041
 EB: 9781534402645
 Atheneum



What Makes You Happy
 HC: 9781442445390
 TP: 9781416986058
 Atheneum



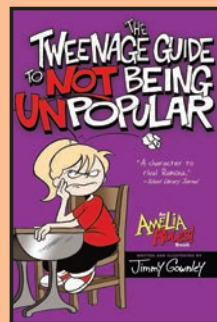
A Very Ninja Christmas
 TP: 9781416989592
 Atheneum



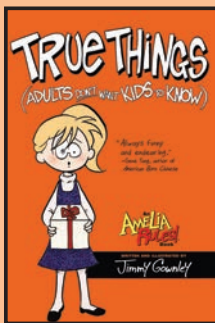
Superheroes
 TP: 9781416986065
 Atheneum



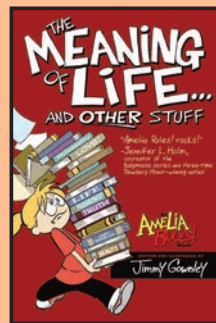
When the Past is a Present
 HC: 9781442445413
 TP: 9781416986072
 Atheneum



The Tweenage Guide to Not Being Unpopular
 TP: 9781416986089
 Atheneum



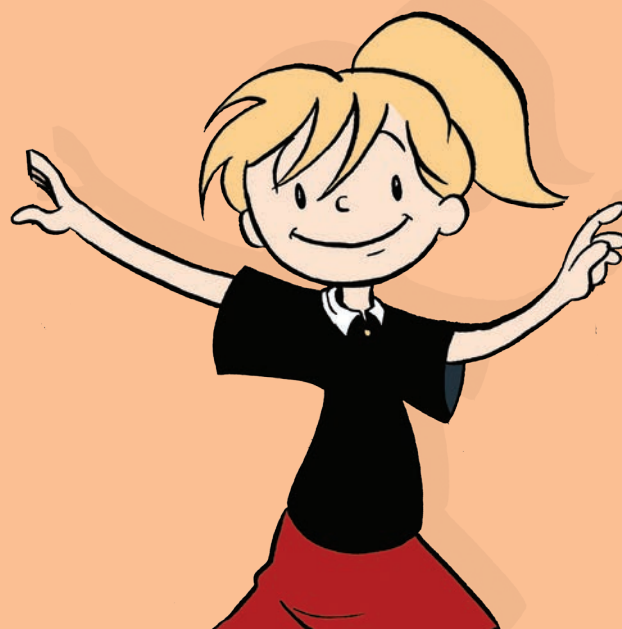
True Things (Adults Don't Want Kids to Know)
 HC: 9781416986119
 TP: 9781416986096
 Atheneum



The Meaning of Life... and Other Stuff
 HC: 9781416986133
 TP: 9781416986126
 Atheneum
Awards and Nominations:
 Washington Children's Choice
 Picture Book Award



Her Permanent Record
 HC: 9781416986157
 TP: 9781416986140
 Atheneum



Graphic Novels from Hope Larson



Mercury
 Written and illustrated by Hope Larson
 Grade 7 & up • Ages 12 & up
 TP: 9781416935889
 EB: 9781481416511
 Atheneum
 Lexile® GN370L
Awards and Nominations:
 ALA Great Graphic Novels for Teens
 Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book



chiggers
 Written and illustrated by Hope Larson
 Grade 5-9 • Ages 10-14
 PB: 9781416935872
 Atheneum
Awards and Nominations:
 ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Nominee



Who is AC?
 Written and illustrated by Hope Larson
 Grade 7 & up • Ages 12 & up
 HC: 9781442465404
 TP: 9781442465404
 Atheneum
 Lexile® GN180L

GALACTIC HOT DOGS SERIES

written by
Max Brallier;
illustrated by
Nichole Kelley and
Rachel Maguire

Grades 3–7 • Ages 8–12



Cosmo's Wiener Getaway
PB: 9781534477964
POB: 9781481480987
HC: 9781534477971
UAB CD: 9781442385221
UAB EA: 9781442385214
EB: 9781481424950
Aladdin
Lexile © 570L



The Wiener Strikes Back
PB: 9781534477995
POB: 9781481424967
HC: 9781534478008
UAB EA: 9781508214182
EB: 9781481424974
Aladdin
Lexile © 570L



Revenge of the Space Pirates
PB: 9781534478022
POB: 9781481424981
HC: 9781534478039
EB: 9781481424998
Aladdin
Lexile © 540L



Galactic Hot Dogs Collection
POB: 9781481498029
TP: 9781534478121
Aladdin



ILLUSTRATED EARLY CHAPTER BOOKS

The GALAXY ZACK SERIES

written by Ray O'Ryan; illustrated by Colin Jack and Jason Kraft

Grades K–2 • Ages 5–7

These heavily illustrated early chapter books have the same appeal as a graphic novel to emerging readers.



Hello, Nebulon!
HC: 9781442453876
TP: 9781442453869
EB: 9781442453883
Little Simon
Lexile © 580L
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



Journey to Juno
HC: 9781442453913
TP: 9781442453906
EB: 9781442453920
Little Simon
Lexile © 520L
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



The Prehistoric Planet
HC: 9781442467163
TP: 9781442467156
EB: 9781442467170
Little Simon
Lexile © 540L
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



Monsters in Space!
HC: 9781442467217
TP: 9781442467187
EB: 9781442467224
Little Simon
Lexile © 590L
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



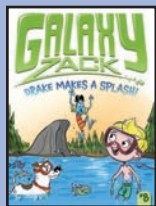
Three's a Crowd!
HC: 9781442482227
PB: 9781442482210
EB: 9781442482234
Little Simon
Lexile © 500L
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



A Green Christmas!
HC: 9781442482258
TP: 9781442482241
EB: 9781442482265
Little Simon
Lexile © 530L
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



A Galactic Easter!
HC: 9781442493582
TP: 9781442493575
EB: 9781442493599
Little Simon
Lexile © 680L
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



Drake Makes a Splash!
HC: 9781442493612
TP: 9781442493605
EB: 9781442493629
Little Simon
Lexile © 620L
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



The Annoying Crush
HC: 9781442493643
TP: 9781442493636
EB: 9781442493650
Little Simon
Lexile © 530L
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



Return to Earth!
HC: 9781481421829
TP: 9781481421812
EB: 9781481421836
Little Simon
Lexile © 600L



A Haunted Halloween
HC: 9781481434911
TP: 9781481434904
EB: 9781481434928
Little Simon
Lexile © 640L
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



Operation Twin Trouble
HC: 9781481444002
TP: 9781481443999
EB: 9781481444019
Little Simon
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



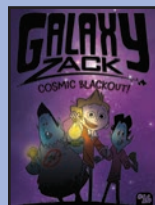
Science Fair Disaster!
HC: 9781481458771
TP: 9781481458764
EB: 9781481458788
Little Simon
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



Space Camp
HC: 9781481463010
TP: 9781481463003
EB: 9781481463027
Little Simon
Lexile © 620L
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



Ready, Set, Blast Off!
HC: 9781481485968
TP: 9781481485951
EB: 9781481485975
Little Simon
Lexile © 610L
F&P Text Level Gradient™ M



Cosmic Blackout!
HC: 9781481499903
TP: 9781481499897
EB: 9781481499910
Little Simon



Snow Place Like Home
HC: 9781534429062
TP: 9781534429055
EB: 9781534429079
Little Simon



**Galaxy Zack 3-pack:
Hello, Nebulon!;
Journey to Juno;
The Prehistoric Planet**
TP: 9781481428446
Little Simon



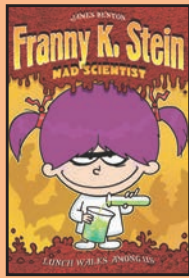
**Galaxy Zack:
The Galaxy Zack
Collection**
TP: 9781481406659
Little Simon



**Galaxy Zack 4
Books in 1!**
POB: 9781481475990
Little Simon

The FRANNY K. STEIN, MAD SCIENTIST SERIES written and illustrated by Jim Benton

Grades 2–5 • Ages 7–10



Lunch Walks Among Us
HC: 9780689862915
TP: 9780689862953
EB: 9781442495166
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
Lexile © 780L • F&P Text Level
Gradient™ N



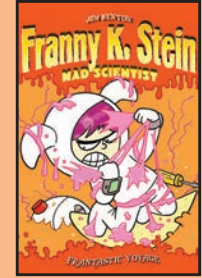
Attack of the 50-Ft. Cupid
HC: 9780689862922
TP: 9780689862960
EB: 9781442495173
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
Lexile © 740L • F&P Text Level
Gradient™ N



The Invisible Fran
HC: 9780689862939
TP: 9780689862977
EB: 9781442495180
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
Lexile © 840L • F&P Text Level
Gradient™ N



The Fran That Time Forgot
HC: 9780689862946
TP: 9780689862984
EB: 9781442495197
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
Lexile © 780L • F&P Text Level
Gradient™ N



Frantastic Voyage
HC: 9781416902294
TP: 9781416902300
EB: 9781442495203
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
Lexile © 850L • F&P Text Level
Gradient™ N



The Fran with Four Brains
HC: 9781416902317
TP: 9781416902324
EB: 9781442495210
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
Lexile © 830L • F&P Text Level
Gradient™ N



The Franditate
HC: 9781416902331
TP: 9781416902348
EB: 9781416996644
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
Lexile © 840L • F&P Text Level
Gradient™ N



Bad Hair Day
HC: 9781534413375
TP: 9781534413382
EB: 9781534413399
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
Lexile © 700L • F&P Text Level
Gradient™ N



Recipe for Disaster
HC: 9781534413405
EB: 9781534413429
Ages 6–10 • Grades 1–5
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers



The Complete Franny K. Stein, Mad Scientist
Lunch Walks Among Us; Attack of the 50-Ft. Cupid; The Invisible Fran; The Fran That Time Forgot; Frantastic Voyage; The Fran with Four Brains; The Franditate
TP: 9781442474246

PIX

Chuckle your way through easy-to-read illustrated chapter books that are filled with simple text, speech balloons, and engaging illustrations with the hilarious PIX series.

Grades 1–4 • Ages 6–9



This Little Piggy
Written and illustrated by Cyndi Marko
POB: 9781481468268
EB: 9781481468275
Aladdin
Lexile © 570L



Extraordinary Warren: A Super Chicken
Written and illustrated by Sarah Dillard
POB: 9781442453401
EB: 9781442453418
Aladdin
Lexile © GN510L



Extraordinary Warren Saves the Day
Written and illustrated by Sarah Dillard
POB: 9781481403528
EB: 9781481403535
Aladdin
Lexile © 510L



Buck's Tooth
Written and illustrated by Diane Kredensor
POB: 9781481423823
EB: 9781481423830
Aladdin
Lexile © 510L



Snail Has Lunch
Written and illustrated by Mary Peterson
POB: 9781481453028
EB: 9781481453035
Aladdin
Lexile © 500L



Snail Finds a Home
Written & Illustrated by Mary Peterson
POB: 9781534431850
EB: 9781534431867
Aladdin

Graphic Novel Chapter Books!

Grades 1–4 • Ages 6–9



Extraordinary Warren's World
PB: 9781534463462
EB: 9781534463479
EB: 9781534475632
Aladdin



Snail's Silly Adventures
PB: 9781534463448
HC: 9781534463455
EB: 9781534475625
Aladdin

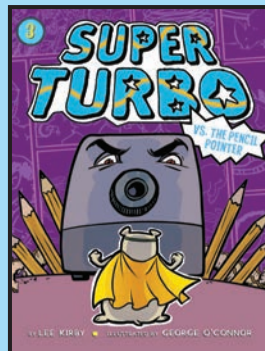
The **SUPER TURBO SERIES**
 written by Lee Kirby;
 illustrated by George O'Connor
 Grades K-4 • Ages 5-9



Super Turbo Saves the Day!
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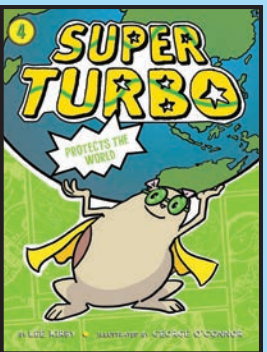
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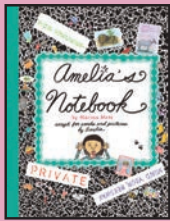


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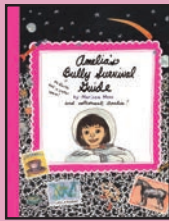
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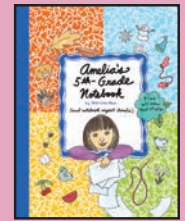
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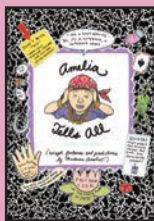
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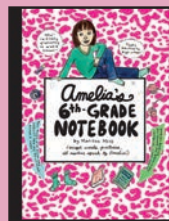
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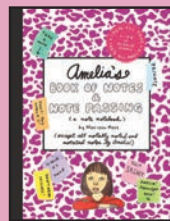
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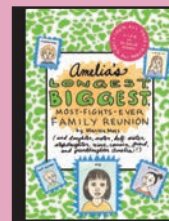
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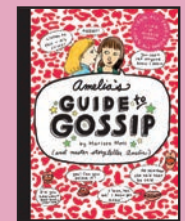
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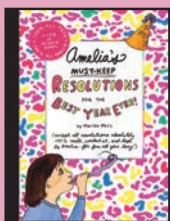
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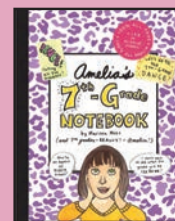
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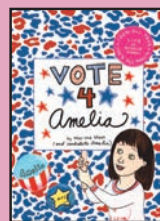
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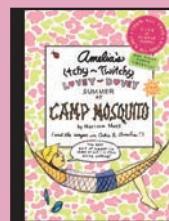
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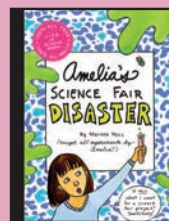
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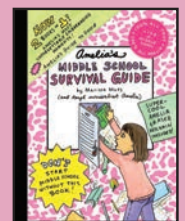
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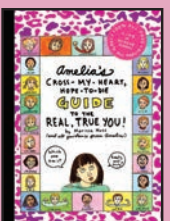
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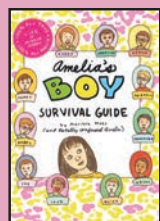
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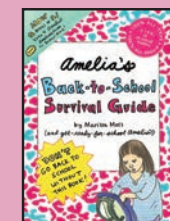
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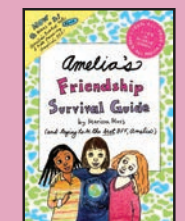
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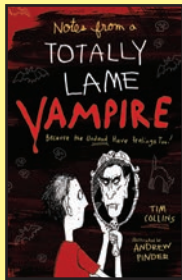
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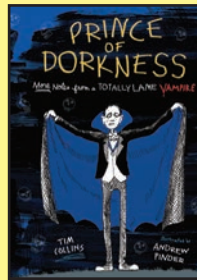
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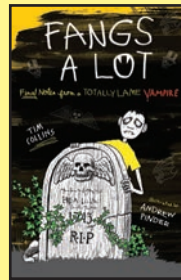
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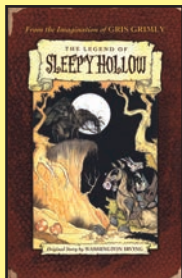


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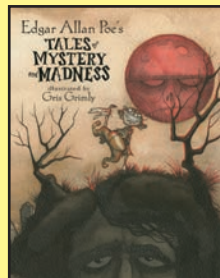
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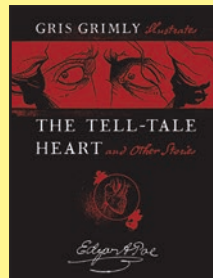
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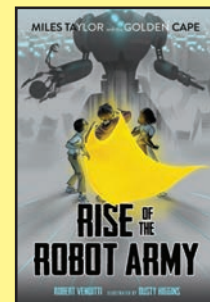
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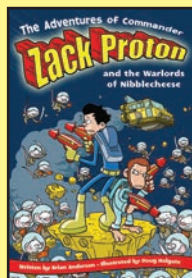
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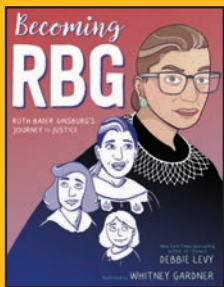


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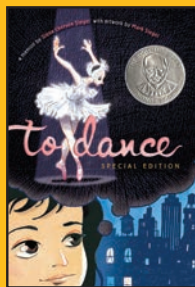
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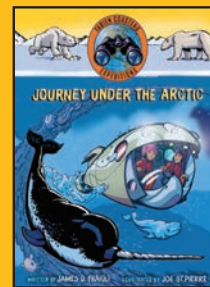
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Illustrated by Leeza Hernandez
Ages 5–9 • Grades K–4
HC: 9781534444744
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EB: 9781534444751
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Little Simon



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HC: 9781534449466
PB: 9781534449459
EB: 9781534449473
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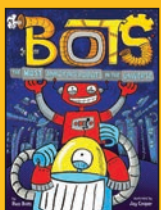
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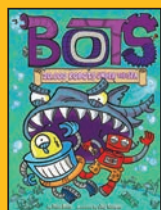
The Most Annoying Robots in the Universe

By Russ Bolts
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Ages 5–9 • Grades K–4
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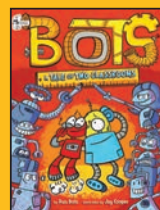
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By Russ Bolts
Illustrated by Jay Cooper
Ages 5–9 • Grades K–4
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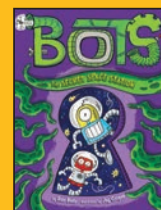
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By Russ Bolts
Illustrated by Jay Cooper
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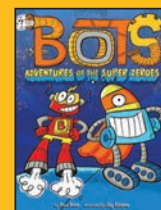
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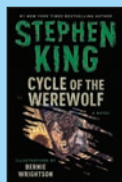
The Way Station: Book #4 of Stephen King's The Dark Tower: The Gunslinger
By Stephen King, Robin Furth, and Peter David
Illustrated by Richard Isanove and Laurence Campbell
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EB: 9781982109912
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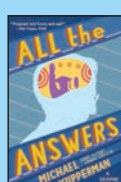
The Man in Black: Book #5 of Stephen King's The Dark Tower: The Gunslinger
By Stephen King, Robin Furth, and Peter David
Illustrated by Richard Isanove and Alex Maleev
HC: 9781982109929
EB: 9781982109936
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By Stephen King, Robin Furth, and Peter David
Illustrated by Richard Isanove and Dean White
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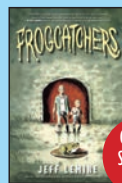
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YA-Crossover Graphic Novels



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By F. Scott Fitzgerald
Illustrated by Aya Morton
HC: 9781982144524
TP: 9781982144548
EB: 9781982144531
Scribner



The Times I Knew I Was Gay
By Eleanor Crewes
POB: 9781982147105
EB: 9781982147129
Scribner

Graphic Novels and the Literacy Connection:

The traditional definition of literacy is the ability to read and comprehend. As we move into a more visual world, the definition of literacy continues to change and evolve. The new definition of literacy is to be able to read, to listen, and to view, and then to comprehend. With regard to reading and comprehending graphic novels, there are two types of literacy to take into consideration: visual literacy and critical literacy.

Visual literacy is defined as the ability to view and then interpret, or make meaning, from what you are viewing. To be visually literate, a person must be able to process both words and pictures, or "read" images by decoding and comprehending meaning from pictures and words together. Critical literacy is the role of the reader when it comes to the transaction between the reader and the text. To be critically literate, a reader must be an active consumer of the story. This is more than just sitting down and reading a book full of words. Critical literacy is about having an actual interaction with the text and therefore being actively engaged in the reading process. Young readers who are active consumers of the story are more likely to be actively engaged.



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