

Graphic Novels

Plainfield Public Library Pathfinder

May 2010

Graphic novels have been around for long time. True, they're actually comic books in disguise, but graphic novels have risen beyond superhero comic books. Graphic novels touch every subject and appeal to all age groups (FYI, the word 'graphic' refers to the use of pictures).



First, it's good to read up on the controversial history of comic books

with **The Ten Cent Plague** by David Hajdu (302.232 HAJ D).

Will Eisner was a comic legend and someone you should read first. Try the **Will Eisner Reader** by Will Eisner (COMIC EISNER W), which contains seven short stories. Graphic novels are not just for kids.

Adults and older teens should try out **Watchmen** or **V for Vendetta** by Alan Moore (GRAPHIC MOORE A) and **The Sandman: Nightmares and Nocturnes** by Neil Gaiman (GRAPHIC GAIMAN N), the first in the award winning **Sandman** series. **Y: The Last Man** by Brian Vaughan (COMIC VAUGHAN B) is a long series about a plague that kills every man and male animal on Earth, except for one man and his pet monkey. Zombie lovers should check out **The Walking Dead** by Robert Kirkman (COMIC WALK-ING).

Graphic novels can also take on historical events, like the Pulitzer Award winning **Maus** by Art Spiegelman (940.531 SP43) a semi-autobiographical account of the Holocaust.

The library also has Japanese manga (manga being the term Japanese style graphic novels). Girls should try out New York Times bestseller **Fruit's Basket** by Natsuki Takaya (GRAPHIC TAKAYA N) or **Vampire Knight** by Matsuri Hino (GRAPHIC VAMPIRE). Boys should check out **Bleach** by Tite Kubo (GRAPHIC KUBO). Remember, manga reads right to left. There is also a manga version of **Maximum Ride** by NaRae Lee (GRAPHIC LEE N) that's based off of the James Patterson novel. **Girl Genius** by Phil and Kaja Foglio (GRAPHIC FOGLIO P).