Graphic Novels

Innovative Guidelines for Developing Your Collection

North Carolina School Library Media Association Conference

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Background
July 2008 – NCSLMA and DPI

- Developed criteria

- Curriculum support

- Resources for collection development

- FAQs

Definition

". . . an original book-length story, either fiction or nonfiction, published in comic book style . . . or a collection of stories that have been published previously as individual comic books . . . "

Gorman, Michele. <u>Getting Graphic! Using Graphic Novels to Promote Literacy with Pre-Teens and Teens.</u> Worthington, OH: Linworth Publishing Inc, 2003.

Graphic Novels Can Include:

- Stand-alone titles
- Ongoing Series
- Periodicals
- Old favorites in a new format

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Vocabulary

- **Manga** – (mawn-guh) – Japanese word for comic book
  - Comics originally published in Japan.
  - Read right to left
  - Serials

- **Manga** sub-categories
  - Shojo – young teenage girls
  - Shonen – young teenage boys
  - Kodomo – children

Vocabulary

- **Anime** (ah-nee-may)
  - Animated films produced in Japan
  - Includes feature films, TV shows, and video animation (OVA)

Comics and graphic novels are a FORMAT not a GENRE!

Any genre may appear in the comic format.

Gaining Popularity
"faster than a speeding bullet"

- 2007 overall estimated GN sales - $375 million (Reed Bus. Information, 2007) – 12% +

- Scholastic Book Fair GN sales since 2004 – 4 million (Reed Bus. Information, 2007)

- Public libraries - 25% increase in overall circulation after adding graphic novels to their collections (Miller, 2005)

Awards and Recognition

- New **YALSA Award** for graphic novels

- *Maus* (Spiegelman) – Pulitzer Prize

- *American Born Chinese* (Yang)– Printz Award, National Book Award Finalist, 2007 Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults (YALSA)

- *To Dance* (Siegel)– Sibert Honor, ALA's Best Books for Young Readers

What Does Krashen Say?

- 20% more rare vocabulary than a typical chapter book (Krashen, 1993).

- Beneficial to ELL and low-level readers (Krashen, 1996)

- Help develop a taste for reading/bridge to other literature (Krashen, 1994, 2004)

- Appeal to adolescent males (Krashen, 2004)

What Does other Research Say?

- Effective in language arts classes
  - popularity
  - aid to content learning
  - students still read other materials (Swain, 1978)

- Boosted reading interests among students with disabilities (Young, 2005).

Appropriate for My Collection?

- Review/update your district's selection policy

- Update your school's collection development plan

- Use reviews

- Refer to ALA and YALSA sites

Appropriate for My Collection?

- Consider ratings (when available)

- Examine titles hands on

- Consult with student advisory committee

- And….

DPI Selection Criteria

- <u>3 versions</u> (novels, non-fiction, multimedia)

- Based on earlier criteria
  - Content
  - Art
  - Features
  - Technical Aspects
  - Instructional Uses

Using Graphic Novels Across the Curriculum

Questions?

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