



Graphic Novels in the Classroom K-5

Recommended Graphic Novels (Gr. K-2)

TOON books publishes high quality graphic novels with leveled vocabulary for beginning readers. Excellent website with lesson support, Audio-visual links, and complete lists by level. <http://www.toon-books.com>

Adopt a Glurb. Gravel, Elise. An off-beat “pet manual” about an imaginary pet called a glurb. Follows a non-fiction style, but kids will be drawn to this humorous parody of a subject many are interested in. (Blue Apple Balloon Toons, 2010)

BabyMouse (Series). Holm, Jennifer L. & Matthew Holm. A small Klutzy mouse imagines herself in exciting situations while dealing with the daily challenges of school and friends. Popular with gr. 2-5 **F Hol**

Benny and Penny in the Big No-No. Hayes, Geoffrey. *A young brother and sister know it is wrong to sneak into their new neighbour's yard, but they wonder who it can be and their imaginations run wild.* (Toon Books, 2010)

Benjamin Bear in Fuzzy Thinking. Coudray, Philippe. *Benjamin Bear has a rather unconventional approach to problem solving* (Toon Books, 2011)

Benny and Penny in Just Pretend. Hayes, Geoffrey. *Benny wants to play pirate but Penny keeps bugging him. When he tries to hide from her he realizes she is braver than he thinks.* (Toon Books, 2010)

Chicken and Cat. Varon, Sara. A wordless graphic picture book about friendship. Cat comes the city to stay, and Chicken finds a way to help when cat misses the country. (Scholastic Press, 2006)

Hiccup, by Mike Herrod. A bunny gets a bad case of the hiccups right before the school play and tries every possible cure to get rid of them. A fun read with great visuals. (Blue Apple Balloon Toons, 2012)

Little Mouse Gets Ready. Smith, Jeff. *A delightful and humorous story of a mouse who keeps his mother waiting while he carefully puts on each piece of clothing.* (Toon Books, 2009)

Luke on the Loose. Bliss, Harry. Luke chases after a flock of pigeons while his distracted father chats in the park. His newfound freedom takes him on a whirlwind adventure of New York City (Toon Books 2009).

Mo and Jo: Fighting Together Forever. Haspiel, Dean & Jay Lynch. *iblings Mo and Jo fight about everything, but have to learn to cooperate when a treasured superhero costume is torn in half* (Toon Books, 2008)

Otto's Orange Day. Cammuso, Frank *After a genie fulfills Otto the cat's wish by turning the whole world orange, Otto realizes that his favorite color is not the best color for everything* (Toon Books, 2008)

Pooltime. Long, Ethan. *Elephant, Alligator, and Stork share poolside high jinks as they mix up their towels, tussle over ice cream, and compare diving styles in this story of poolside fun and summertime friendship.* (Balloon Toon Series: Blue Alpple Books, 2012)

Stinky. Davis, Eleanor. *A little monster named Stinky is determined to keep kids away from his swamp, knowing that they don't like smelly, slimy things like him. When a boy wanders into his swamp, Stinky's efforts to scare him away end up in a new friend. Warm and entertaining.* (Toon Books, 2008)

Zig and Wikki in Something Ate my Homework. Spiegelman, Nadja. *Two extraterrestrial friends arrive on earth to search for a pet as part of a class project.* (Toon Books, 2010)

A Trip to the Bottom of the World with Mouse. Based on the author's experiences while traveling to Antarctica. A charming story of the sights Mouse sees. (Toon Books, 2012)

The Three Pigs. Weisner, David. This Caldecott-winning picture book contains elements of a graphic novel that will appeal to fans of the format. The pigs jump out of the story before the wolf can eat them up. (Clarion Books, 2001)

Recommended Graphic Novels (Gr. 3-5)

Amulet (Series). Kibuishi, Kazu. A monster in the basement lures a family into another world. Hooks readers with a blend of fantasy, mystery and high adventure with good action scenes. Characters and setting well developed. Fans of Bone enjoy this series. (Graphix, 2008) Three volumes.

Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel (Series). Adapted by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin. The bestselling 2001 series about a criminal mastermind reappears as a graphic novel. (Hyperion, 2007).

The Babysitter's Club: Kristy's Big Idea. Telgemeier, Raina. A well-reviewed adaptation of the very first novel that started the popular series boasting 100+ titles. The girls keep their friendship strong while dealing with secrets, parents, and out-of-control toddlers. (GRAPHIX 2006)

Bumperboy and the Loud Loud Mountain. Huey, Debbie. Humour and a suspenseful adventure that will keep children in grades 2-4 and even older engaged. Bumperboy's mission to save a lonely, talking mountain includes a nod to Seuss' Lorax with creatures who protect the trees.

Binky the Space Cat. Spires, Ashley. Binky orders a space manual and builds a rocket ship out of household items, then sets off to protect the world from space aliens. Grades 2 to 5 will be especially drawn to the adventure and charming illustrations. **F Spi**

Bluffton. Phelan, Matt. Historical fiction set in 1908. Henry befriends a performing troupe and develops a friendship with a young performer called Buster Keaton. Rich historical detail (Candlewick Press, 2012).

Lunch Lady and the League of Librarians. Krosoczka, Jarrett. When she is not serving lunch in the school cafeteria, this intrepid heroine is battling villains and foiling dark plots. Full of action and humour, the Lunch Lady series is very popular. (Knopf, 2009)

The Adventures of TinTin. Herge. Translated from French by Leslie Lonsdale-Cooper & Michael Turner. A young reporter and his dog visit a different international location in each volume, with plenty of action and a rich experience of exotic locales.

Flight Explorer. Kibuishi, Kazu, editor. Short Stories by ten notable graphic novel artists. Excellent intro. to graphic novels for any age. Villard Books, 2008.

Hilda and the Bird Parade. Pearson, Luke. Hilda wonders if she'll ever get used to living in the bustling yet plain city of Trolberg after growing up in the rural Fjords, but the annual bird parade promises to reveal an exciting and mysterious side of the city to her. Flying Eye Books, 2012.

Amelia Rules! The Whole World's Crazy. Gownley, Jimmy (2 v.). A friendship story featuring a girl who has moved to a new town with her recently divorced mother. Focuses on the hilarious mishaps with her new band of quirky, local friends and explores the subject of divorce sensitively. **F Gow**

Spiral Bound: Top Secret Summer. Renier, Aaron. A cast of endearing young animals busy themselves with individual projects over the summer, shadowed by the town's dark secret about the monster in the lake. Fun adventure. **F Ren.**

To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel. Siegel, Siena Cherson. Siegel's memoir tells the story of her first fascination with ballet to her experiences with the New York Ballet. Appeal for dancers, dreamers and older readers as well. **708.2 Sie**

That Darn Yarn! Millionaire, Tony. Two different stories told side by side eventually merge. Story one: a sock money starts to unravel as he rambles around a big house. Story two: a girl sits in her big house and knits a sock monkey. Simple, clever with gorgeous illustrations. **F Mil**

Jellaby (multi-volume). Soo, Kean. A young misfit discovers an adorable dragon-like creature and becomes friends. When she stands up to bullies they gain one more friend, and begin a journey to return the creature home. Strong themes around bullying and loss of a parent. **F Soo**

Bone: Out From Boneville. Smith, Jeff (Series: Bone). The Bone Cousins leave their home in search of adventure. A humorous, warm fantasy sprinkled with suspense and mystery. **F Smi**

Squish #1: Super Amoeba. Holm, Jennifer & Matthew. *The escapades of an amoeba as he navigates school, bullies, siblings and parents. Highly comic, with mild gross-out humour that many kids love* (Random House, 2011)

Tower of Treasure. Chantler, Scott (Series: The Three Thieves). An orphaned acrobat joins two troupe-mates in a plot to steal the Queen's jewels...and find her missing brother. Engaging action and strong characterization. Canadian. **F Cha**

The Mystery Boxes. Kibuishi, Kazu. 10 short stories that connect thematically to the mysterious boxes. Tone ranges from light horror to delightful humour. (Amulet Books, 2012)

Odd Duck. Castelluci, Cecil. Theodora the duck sets a good example for her friend Chad, but who is the odd duck? (First Second, 2013)

Robot Dreams. Varon, Sarah. When Dog takes his Robot swimming, the Robot rusts and can't move. Dog reluctantly leaves him lying on the beach. The wordless story shows how each friend experiences the loss: dog through guilt and failed new friendships, and Robot through lying on the beach dreaming. Deep and moving, with a satisfying yet through-provoking conclusion. **F Var**

Wild Ride: A Graphic Guide Adventure (Series: Graphic Guide Adventure) O'Donnell, Liam. Part adventure story, part survival manual. Two kids are on a small plane in B.C. when it crashes. They use their survival know-how to deal with many situations and are also immersed in a conflict with the logging company. Canadian. **F ODo**

Strongest Man in the World. Debon, Nicholas. Louis Cyr astounded audiences throughout North America and Europe with his amazing feats and mammoth proportions. Discover the life and times of this extraordinary hero in this picture book biography. Groundwood Books, 2007.

Zita the Spacegirl .Ben Hatke. Zita discovers a device that opens a portal to another place and journeys from star to star to get back home (First Second, 2010).

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