



## WHAT IS A GRAPHIC NOVEL?

A graphic novel is a book made up of words and pictures: typically, in a graphic novel, the pictures are arranged on the page in sequential panels, while the words are presented in speech bubbles (for dialogue) or text boxes (for narration), though this may not always be the case. 'Graphic novel' is a word that describes a medium, not a genre: graphic novels can be histories (like George O'Connor's *Journey Into Mohawk Country*); fantasies (like Joann Sfar's *Vampire Loves*) or anything in between.

## WHO READS GRAPHIC NOVELS?

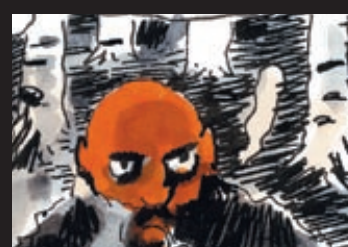
Everyone! The term 'graphic' in 'graphic novel' denotes the pictorial nature of the medium: it's not an age rating. There are graphic novels for every age group, and they're not just about superheroes—graphic novels have addressed such diverse topics as falling in love for the first time, baking bread, Shakespeare, ballet, AIDS, and paleontology. Though there may not be as many graphic novels for eighty year-old women as there are for teenagers and college-age readers, the medium has produced incredible, critically acclaimed works that span every age group.

## WHY GRAPHIC NOVELS?

Graphic novels are astoundingly popular with kids and young adults. Not only are they great for increasing the reading comprehension and vocabulary of reluctant readers—and everyone else—but they also provide an approach to reading that reflects the multimedia nature of today's technology-centric culture. Graphic novels integrate images and text to tell a different kind of story than would be possible with only a single medium: they're a whole new way to read.

## HOW DO I KNOW THAT INVESTING IN GRAPHIC NOVELS WILL BE WORTH IT?

You just have to look at the numbers: about seven million graphic novels changed hands last year, making over 245 million dollars—and that number is up 18% from sales the year before. Graphic novels are hot properties in publishing: there's not a major publishing house without a graphic novel project in the works. On top of that, there's been an explosion of creative talent. With universities giving courses and even degrees in comic book writing and illustration, there's a large pool of talented kids and seasoned veterans in the graphic novel industry who are creating wonderful books.





# First Second Books picks: Graphic Novels You Should Know

## Ages 5 and Up

- ✧ *The Adventures of Polo* by Regis Fallon
- ✧ *The Boy, The Bear, The Baron, and The Bard* by Gregory Rogers
- ✧ *The Clouds Above* by Jordan Crane
- Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* by Mo Willems
- Gon* by Masashi Tanaka
- In the Night Kitchen* by Maurice Sendak
- Jetcat Clubhouse* by Jay Stephens
- ✧ *The Life and Times of Uncle Scrooge* by Don Rosa
- ✧ *Owly* by Andy Runton
- ✧ *Seadogs* by Lisa Wheeler and Mark Siegel
- Uncle Scrooge* by Carl Barks

## Ages Eight and Up

- Asterix* series by Rene Goscinny and Albert Uderzo
- Astroboy* by Osamu Tezuka
- ✧ *Bone* by Jeff Smith
- Bumberboy* by Debbie Huey
- Cave In and Climbing Out* by Brian Ralph
- Clan Apis* by Jay Hosler
- Lions, Tigers and Bears* by Mike Bullock and Jack Lawrence
- Little Lit: Strange Stories for Strange Children* edited by Art Spiegelman
- Little Vampire* series by Joann Sfar
- Leave It to Chance* by James Robinson and Paul Smith
- ✧ ***Sardine in Outer Space* by Joann Sfar and Emmanuel Guibert**
- ✧ *Spiral Bound* by Aaron Renier
- ✧ *Sweaterweather* by Sara Varon
- ✧ *Tin-Tin* series by Hergé
- Usagi Yojimbo* by Stan Sakai
- ✧ *Yotsuba&!* by Azuma Kiyohiko



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## First Second Books picks: Graphic Novels You Should Know

### Teens

***A.L.I.E.E.E.N.* by Lewis Trondheim**

☆ ***American Born Chinese* by Gene Yang**

*Batman: Year One* by Frank Miller and David Mazzucchelli

*Black Jack* by Osamu Tezuka

*Blue Monday* by Chynna Clugston-Major

☆ ***The Books of Magic* by Neil Gaiman and John Ney Rieber**

*Castle Waiting* by Linda Medley

*Creature Tech* by Doug TenNapel

☆ ***Courtney Crumrin* by Ted Naifeh**

☆ ***Daisy Cutter and the Last Train* by Kazu Kibuishi**

☆ ***DEMO* by Brian Wood and Becky Cloonan**

*Fruits Basket* by Natsuki Takaya

*Full Metal Alchemist* by Hiromu Arakawa

*Hey Wait...* by Jason

*Hopeless Savages* by Jen Van Meter

☆ ***Journey Into Mohawk Country* by George O'Connor**

***Kampung Boy* by Lat**

*The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* by Alan Moore

***The Lost Colony* by Grady Klein**

☆ ***Marvels* by Kurt Busiek**

*Naruto* by Masashi Kishimoto

*Nausicaa of the Valley of the Winds* by Hayao Miyazaki

*One! Hundred! Demons!* by Lynda Barry

*Ranma 1/2* by Rumiko Takahashi

☆ ***Runaways* by Brian K. Vaughn**

*Sorcerors and Secretaries* by Amy Kim Ganter

*The Summer of Love* by Debbie Drechsler

☆ ***The Tale of One Bad Rat* by Bryan Talbot**

*To Dance* by Siena and Mark Siegel

☆ ***Understanding Comics* by Scott McCloud**

*Visitations* by C. Scott Morse

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## First Second Books picks: Graphic Novels You Should Know

### Young Adults/Adults

*100%* by Paul Pope

*Adolf* by Osamu Tezuka

*Berlin, City of Stones* by Jason Lutes

*Black Hole* by Charles Burns

*Blankets* by Craig Thompson

*Bone Sharps, Cowboys, and Thunder Lizards* by Jim Ottaviani

★ ***Deogratias* by J. P. Stassen**

*Epileptic* by David B.

★ ***The Fate of the Artist* by Eddie Campbell**

★ *From Hell* by Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell

★ *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel

*Ghost World* by Daniel Clowes

*I Never Liked You* by Chester Brown

*The Invisibles* by Grant Morrison

*Issac the Pirate* by Christophe Blain

*Jimmy Corrigan* by Chris Ware

★ ***Klezmer* by Joann Sfar**

*Kinderbook* by Kan Takahama

★ *Late Bloomer* by Carol Tyler

*Lone Wolf and Cub* by Kazuo Koike

★ *Louis Riel* by Chester Brown

*La Perdida* by Jessica Abel

*Maus* by Art Spiegelman

***Missouri Boy* by Leland Myrick**

*Nana* by Ai Yazawa

*Optic Nerve* by Adrian Tomine

*Or Else* series by Kevin Huizenga

★ *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi

*Pedro and Me* by Judd Winick

*Pyongyang* by Guy Delisle

★ *The Rabbi's Cat* by Joann Sfar

*Same Difference and Other Stories* by Derek Kirk Kim

*Slow News Day* by Andi Watson

*The Sandman* by Neil Gaiman

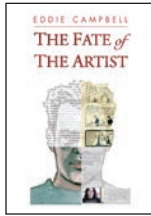
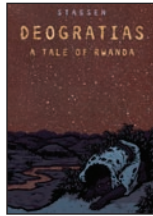
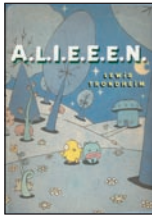
★ ***Vampire Loves* by Joann Sfar**

*Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons

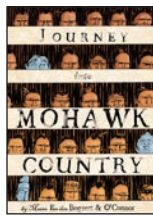
*Y the Last Man* by Brian Vaughan

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# First Second Books



The graphic novel—slowly, steadily, surely, sometimes quietly, and often noisily—has entered the mainstream. It does so with a remarkable freedom to dare, to innovate, to entertain, and to reach people in ways that traditional books do not. “Like picture books for children, graphic novels offer their readers a wonderfully enriching and stimulating ‘twofer’ experience, because they contain both text and images,” says Booklist columnist Michael Cart. “[In the best graphic novels], words and pictures work together in a kind of harmonious fusion that makes the whole greater than the sum of its individual parts.” **First Second Books** is dedicated to publishing graphic novels that do just that.



**First Second Books** is about creators and their unique visions and voices. Our creators—new and well known writers and artists from around the globe—use graphic novels to tell stories that touch us all, because they are simultaneously universal and deeply personal. Our books are meant to last in peoples’ hearts and minds, as well as on their bookshelves. They cover a wide range—fiction, non-fiction, poetry—but they all share a commitment to the highest standards of quality in every aspect: editorial, design, and production. Graphic novels may be the latest hot thing, but though trends come and go, good writers and artists—and good books—stay.



[www.firstsecondbooks.com](http://www.firstsecondbooks.com)

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# First Second **Buzz**

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## The Industry

First Second represents a new and impressive step by a traditional book publisher to seek out and publish significant comics works for a broad readership.

- Calvin Reid, PW Comics Week

First Second Books... is launching an impressive list of six full-color graphic novels this spring. Editor Mark Siegel wants to publish a line of literate graphic novels that includes books for all age groups from eight year-olds to adults – and his list displays an impressive international flavor.

- ICv2

## The Press

There may be no better way to put yourself in a good mood about the future of the comics industry than to have a conversation with Mark Siegel about First Second.

- The Comics Journal #277

First Second has an ambitious and smart lineup of books scheduled for the next three years.

- time.com

[First Second is] an inspired series featuring some of the world's most talented fiction and nonfiction comic book writers and illustrators.

- Detroit Metro Times

Aimed at a variety of ages and literary sensibilities, any of [the First Second books] would be strong enough to stand alone. Taken together, they reveal [Editorial Director Mark] Siegel's remarkable ambition and the high mark the company has set for itself.

- Harrisburg Patriot News

## The Retailers

I've read several of the First Second books and the first thing that grabs my attention is the design. The layout is eye-catching, certainly, but it's the size of the books that make them so much more convenient than many of the larger graphic novel formats. I look forward to the next seasons, confident they'll be just as gorgeous to behold.

- Chris Bolton, Powell's Books

The variety of genres and content from First Second is as diverse as any company publishing today; they exemplify how big the world of comics really is. First Second is a key part of the vanguard in a new generation of literate, lovely, soon-to-be classic comics.

- Alex Cox, Rocketship

## The Librarians

Reading a First Second book is like experiencing a perfect date with a beautiful, smart, and witty individual. There is a title to fit each and every taste – spine-tingling suspense, emotion bending drama, and hilarious hijinks! The best part is that purchasing a title is cheaper than dinner and a movie!

- Kevin King, Kalamazoo Public Library

## And Even The Blogs

This line is pretty much the thoughtful, high quality entry into the field by a mainstream publisher we've all been waiting for.

- Heidi MacDonald, The Beat

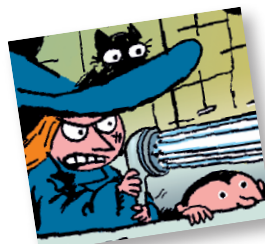
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# Praise for First Second Books



## **SARDINE IN OUTER SPACE** By Emmanuel Guibert and Joann Sfar

"Resistance is futile." – ☆ Starred Review, Kirkus Reviews



## **AMERICAN BORN CHINESE** By Gene Yang

"A well-crafted work that aptly explores issues of self-image, cultural identity, transformation, and self-acceptance." – ☆ Starred Review, School Library Journal

"The stories have a simple, engaging sweep to them, but their weighty subjects – shame, racism, and friendship – receive thoughtful, powerful examination." – Booklist



## **DEOGRATIAS** By J.P. Stassen

"Heartbreaking power" – ☆ Starred Review, Publisher's Weekly

"A masterful work with vibrant, confident art, this book will stay with and haunt its readers." – School Library Journal



## **THE FATE OF THE ARTIST** By Eddie Campbell

"Playful and wise, Campbell's latest report from the art front continues to demonstrate his mastery of the comics medium." – ☆ Starred Review, Booklist



## **KAMPUNG BOY** By Lat

"Filled with humor and affection, the book is a delight."  
– ☆ Starred Review, Booklist



## **MISSOURI BOY** By Leland Myrick

"The tenderness and intimacy of the spare words and pictures . . . set the book apart." – ☆ Starred Review, Booklist



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