

# ***Graphic Novels***

*Innovative Guidelines for Developing  
Your Collection*

*North Carolina School Library Media Association  
Conference*

*October 2008*

# ***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. Getting Graphic! Using Graphic Novels to Promote Literacy with Pre-Teens and Teens. Worthington, OH: Linworth Publishing Inc, 2003.**

## ***Graphic Novels Can Include:***

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

# ***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***

- 3 versions (novels, non-fiction, multimedia)
- Based on earlier criteria
  - Content
  - Art
  - Features
  - Technical Aspects
  - Instructional Uses

# ***Using Graphic Novels Across the Curriculum***



# Questions?

**Debbie Dupree, Salem Middle School**

**[ddupree@wcpss.net](mailto:ddupree@wcpss.net)**

**Karen Gavigan, Director of the Teaching Resources Center  
UNC at Greensboro**

**[karen\\_gavigan@uncg.edu](mailto:karen_gavigan@uncg.edu)**

**Gerry Solomon, NCDPI**

**[gsolomon@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:gsolomon@dpi.state.nc.us)**

**Mindy Tomasevich, Davis Drive Middle**

**[mtomasevich@wcpss.net](mailto:mtomasevich@wcpss.net)**