

Recommended Graphic Novels

Abouet, Marguerite. **Akissi: Tales of Mischief.** (JUV GN ABOUE)

The adventures of Akissi, a young West African girl who is always getting into trouble.

Brosgol, Vera. **Be Prepared.** (JUV GN BROSG)

A misfit girl and her brother attend summer camp, where they struggle with primitive plumbing, snobby tentmates, and boys-versus-girls competitions.

Cavallaro, Michael. **Nico Bravo and the Hounds of Hades.** (JUV GN CAVAL)

When Eowulf, the pint-sized descendant of monster slayer Beowulf, decides to slay Cerberus, young Nico, Lula the sphinx, and Buck the unicorn must stop her or face the zombie apocalypse.

Craft, Jerry. **New Kid.** (JUV GN)

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds--and not really fitting into either one.

Gardner, Whitney. **Fake Blood.** (JUV GN GARDN)

A middle schooler comes head-to-head with his vampire slayer crush in this laugh-out-loud funny graphic novel that's a perfect coming-of-age story for anyone who's ever felt too young, too small, or too average

Gigi, D.G. **Cucumber Quest: The Doughnut Kingdom.** (JUV GN GIGI)

The seven kingdoms of Dreamside need a legendary hero. Instead, they'll have to settle for Cucumber, a nerdy magician who just wants to go to school. As destiny would have it, he and his way more heroic sister, Almond, must now seek the Dream Sword, the only weapon powerful enough to defeat Queen Cordelia's Nightmare Knight. Can these bunny siblings save the world in its darkest hour...? Sure, why not?

Hale, Nathan. **One Dead Spy: the life, times, and last words of Nathan Hale, America's most famous spy.** (JUV GN HALE)

Nathan Hale, the author's historical namesake, was America's first spy, a Revolutionary War hero who famously said "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country" before being hanged by the British. In the Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series, author Nathan Hale channels his namesake to present history's roughest, toughest, and craziest stories in the graphic novel format.

Hatke, Ben. **Mighty Jack.** (JUV GN HATKE)

Jack might be the only kid in the world who's dreading summer. But he's got a good reason: summer is when his single mom takes a second job and leaves him at home to watch his autistic kid sister, Maddy. It's a lot of responsibility, and it's boring, too, because Maddy doesn't talk. Ever. But then, one day at the flea market, Maddy does talk -- to tell Jack to trade their mom's car for a box of mysterious seeds. It's the best mistake Jack has ever made. What starts as a normal little garden out back behind the house quickly grows up into a wild, magical jungle with tiny onion babies running amok, huge, pink pumpkins that bite, and, on one moonlit night that changes everything... a dragon.

Hatke, Ben. **Zita the Spacegirl.** (JUV GN HATKE)

When young Zita discovers a device that opens a portal to another place, and her best friend is abducted, she is compelled to set out on a strange journey from star to star in order to get back home.

Henry, Will. **Wallace the Brave.** (JUV GN HENRY)

Follows the adventures of Wallace, his best friend Spud, and new girl Amelia, as they explore their hometown of Snug Harbor.

Jamieson, Victoria. **Roller Girl.** (JUV GN JAMIE)

For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship.

Jamieson, Victoria. **When Stars are scattered.** (JUV GN JAMIE)

Heartbreak and hope exist together in this remarkable graphic novel about growing up in a refugee camp, as told by a Somali refugee to the Newbery Honor-winning creator of Roller Girl. Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day.

Johnson, Varian. **Twins.** (JUV GN JOHNS)

Maureen and Francine Carter are twins and best friends. They participate in the same clubs, enjoy the same foods, and are partners on all their school projects. But just before the girls start sixth grade, Francine becomes Fran -- a girl who wants to join the chorus, run for class president, and dress in fashionable outfits that set her apart from Maureen. A girl who seems happy to share only two classes with her sister! Maureen and Francine are growing apart and there's nothing Maureen can do to stop it. Are sisters really forever? Or will middle school change things for good?

Khor, Shing Yin. **The Legend of Auntie Po.** (JUV GN KHOR)

Aware of the racial tumult in the years after the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, Mei tries to remain blissfully focused on her job, her close friendship with the camp foreman's daughter, and telling stories about Paul Bunyan--reinvented as Po Pan Yin (Auntie Po), an elderly Chinese matriarch.

Konishi, Noriyuki. **Yo-Kai Watch: Nate's Lucky Day.** (JUV GN KONIS)

Nate Adams is just an average kid until the mysterious Whisper gives him the Yo-kai Watch, which allows him to see Yo-kai of all shapes and forms.

Leyh, Kat. **Snapdragon.** (JUV GN LEYH)

Kat Leyh's Snapdragon is a magical realist graphic novel about a young girl who befriends her town's witch and discovers the strange magic within herself.

Libenson, Terri. **Invisible Emmie.** (JUV GN LIBEN)

Crushes. Humiliation. Drama. MIDDLE SCHOOL. This is the story of two totally different girls--quiet, shy, artistic Emmie and popular, outgoing, athletic Katie--and how their lives unexpectedly intersect one day, when an embarrassing note falls into the wrong hands. . . . All the crushes, humiliation, boredom, and drama of middle school are compressed into one surprising day.

Mannaert, Wauter. **Chef Yasmina and the Potato Panic.** (JUV GN MANNA)

A young chef is the only one who can protect her town from an onslaught of scientifically enhanced, highly addictive potatoes. Yasmina isn't like the other kids in her city. She might be an oddball, but no one can deny that Yasmina has a flair for food. All she needs to whip up a gourmet meal is a recipe from her cookbook and fresh vegetable from the community garden. But everything changes when the garden is bulldozed and replaced with a strange new crop of potatoes.

Mercado, Yehudi. **Chunky.** (JUV GN MERCA)

In this full-color middle grade graphic memoir, Yehudi Mercado draws inspiration from his childhood struggle with his weight while finding friendship with his imaginary mascot, Chunky, as he navigates growing up in a working class Mexican-Jewish family.

O'Neill, Katie. **The Tea Dragon Society.** (JUV GN ONEIL)

After discovering a lost Tea Dragon in the marketplace, apprentice blacksmith Greta learns about the dying art form of Tea Dragon caretaking from the kind tea shop owners.

Palocio, R.J. **White Bird: a Wonder Story.** (JUV GN PALAC)

Tells the story of Julian's Grandmère's childhood as she, a Jewish girl, was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during World War II and how the boy she once shunned became her savior and best friend.

Petty, Kate Reed. **The Leak.** (JUV GN PETTY)

Ruth Keller is brash and precocious; she argues with her dentist, her parents, and her teachers. So, when she discovers a strange black slime in the man-made lake of her suburban neighborhood, she decides to investigate. Fortified by the encouragement of those around her, Ruth seeks the truth at all costs, even if it means taking on the rich local country club owner, who she believes is responsible for the pollution. Between the teasing of former friends, and a sudden viral spotlight, Ruth discovers how difficult it is for a journalist to take a stand for what's right in the face of critique and controversy.

Pico, Thom. **Aster and the Accidental Magic.** (JUV GN PICO)

Aster is bored at her new home in the mountains in the middle of nowhere--until she meets an odd old shepherdess and her woolly dogs, a sneaky trickster, and an angry fox.

Riess, Natalie. **Dungeon Critters.** (JUV GN RIESS)

Join the Dungeon Critters--a tight-knit squad of animal companions--on a wild adventure investigating a sinister botanical conspiracy among the furry nobility. As they risk their lives traveling through haunted dungeons, swamps, and high society balls--they also come closer together as friends.

Rodriguez, Fanny. **Fantastic Tales of Nothing.** (JUV GN RODRI)

This is the tale of Nathan, an ordinary human (or so he thinks) living an ordinary life (or so he wishes). Everything changes when he meets Haven, a mysterious creature who is neither human nor volken. Nathan soon learns he has mysterious powers, even though humans aren't supposed to have magic. But there's no time to dwell on that because this discovery sets the group on a perilous quest across windswept terrain, through haunted forests, and in ancient tombs. Nathan and his unlikely friends must prevent an impending war and defeat a dark evil to save their land.

Science Comics. **The Brain: The Ultimate Thinking Machine.** (JUV GN SCIEN)

In this volume, Fahama has been kidnapped by a mad scientist and his zombie assistant, and they are intent on stealing her brain! She'll need to learn about the brain as fast as possible in order to plan her escape! How did the brain evolve? How do our senses work in relation to the brain? How do we remember things? What makes you, YOU? Get an inside look at the human brain, the most advanced operating system in the world... if you have the nerve!

Sell, Chad. **The Cardboard kingdom.** (JUV GN SELL)

Follows the adventures of a group of neighborhood children who create costumes from cardboard and use their imagination in adventures with knights, robots, and monsters.

Siegel, Mark. **5 Worlds: The Sand Warrior.** (JUV GN SIEGE)

A story that explores new worlds packed with amazing adventures; ancient mysteries; the unlikely bond of a clumsy dancer, a boy from the poorest slums, and a superstar athlete--and their quest to save one small, distant galaxy from the forces of evil.

Simpson, Dana. **Phoebe and her unicorn: A Heavenly Nostrils Chronicle.** (JUV GN SIMPS)

Do you believe in unicorns? Phoebe does. She has no choice. One day she skipped a rock across a pond, and hit a unicorn in the face. Improbably, this resulted in a lasting friendship between Phoebe and the unicorn, one Marigold Heavenly Nostrils. Come along for the unicorn ride with Phoebe, as she deals with the usual burdens of childhood (cruel classmates, gym class, piano lessons) and also some unusual ones (magic hair, candy-breathing dragons, and the legendary Shield of Boringness).

Smith, Niki. **The Deep and Dark Blue.** (JUV GN SMITH)

After a terrible political coup usurps their noble house, Hawke and Grayson flee to stay alive and assume new identities, Hanna and Grayce. Desperation and chance lead them to the Communion of Blue, an order of magical women who spin the threads of reality to their will. As the twins learn more about the Communion, and themselves, they begin to hatch a plan to avenge their family and retake their royal home. While Hawke wants to return to his old life, Grayce struggles to keep the threads of her new life from unraveling, and realizes she wants to stay in the one place that will allow her to finally live as a girl.

Steinkellner, Emma. **The Okay Witch.** (JUV GN STEIN)

Thirteen-year-old Moth Hush loves all things witchy. But she's about to discover that witches aren't just the stuff of movies, books, and spooky stories. When some eighth-grade bullies try to ruin her Halloween, something really strange happens. It turns out that Founder's Bluff, Massachusetts, has a centuries-old history of witch drama. And, surprise: Moth's family is at the center of it all! When Moth's new powers show up, things get totally out-of-control.

Stevenson, Noelle. **Lumberjanes: Beware the Kitten Holy.** (JUV GN LUMBE)

Friendship to the max! At Miss Quinzella Thiskwin Penniquiquil Thistle Crumpet's camp for hardcore lady-types, things are not what they seem. Three-eyed foxes. Secret caves. Anagrams. Luckily, Jo, April, Mal, Molly and Ripley are five rad, butt-kicking best pals determined to have an awesome summer together-- and they're not gonna let a magical quest or an array of supernatural critters get in their way!

Walker, Landry Q. **Pepper Page Saves the Universe.** (JUV GN WALKE)

The year is 2421. Awkward and shy, Pepper buries herself in the universe of the classic fictional superhero Supernova to avoid dealing with the perils of the 9th grade. But then fate intervenes when Pepper encounters a strange cat named Mister McKittens and stumbles into a volatile science experiment run by a sinister substitute teacher named Doctor Killian.

Wang, Jen. **Stargazing.** (JUV GN WANG)

Moon is everything Christine isn't. She's confident, impulsive, artistic . . . and though they both grew up in the same Chinese-American suburb, Moon is somehow unlike anyone Christine has ever known. But after Moon moves in next door, these unlikely friends are soon best friends, sharing their favorite music videos and painting their toenails when Christine's strict parents aren't around.

Williams, Lily. **Go with the flow.** (JUV GN WILLI)

Sophomores Abby, Brit, Christine, and Sasha are fed up. Hazelton High never has enough tampons. Or pads. Or adults who will listen. Sick of an administration that puts football before female health, the girls confront a world that shrugs--or worse, squirms--at the thought of a menstruation revolution. They band together to make a change.

Winick, Judd. Hilo: **The Boy Who Fell to Earth.** (JUV GN WINIC)

When a mysterious boy falls from the sky, friends D.J. and Gina must discover the secrets of his identity and help him save the world