

# Bright Minds

Building a love of reading



## Graphic Novels

Graphic novels are books that combine panels of pictures and words to tell a story or teach something. Many children love graphic novels because they are fun and easy to read.

There are many reasons for parents, caregivers, and teachers to support and encourage children to read graphic novels.

### A gateway to reading for kids

For children who do not normally enjoy reading or find it difficult, graphic novels give them another way into books. The images in graphic novels help readers understand the words that appear with them. This supports children to comprehend the story and decode and understand the words. When children can understand what they are reading, they develop a positive connection to reading which helps them stay active readers.

### A visual aid for English Language Learners

Combining images and words is helpful for children learning English as an additional language. It gives them a chance to learn the meaning of words they wouldn't understand in a plain-text novel.

### Supporting autistic children with visual cues

Graphic novels can be a great resource for autistic children, as facial expressions and other visual cues help them better understand a character's mood or feelings.

### Enriching advanced readers with complexity and depth

Graphic novels often have a more complex range of vocabulary because authors have to carefully choose their words since they are at a minimum compared to a traditional book. As readers at a lower skill level can better comprehend the story, advanced

readers benefit from reading it at a deeper level, analysing how the text and images work together to build characters and the plot of the story.

### Teaching kids to read today's visual world

Having the skills to read a graphic novel prepares children to learn the visual literacy skills they need to "read" the modern world around them. We are surrounded by infographics, the visual navigation of websites, icons, digital games and even everyday signage. The popularity of graphic novels is in part due to the changing nature of how we communicate.

### Simplifying complex books and ideas for young readers

Graphic novels can introduce difficult books or ideas in an easier-to-understand format. For example, many classic books have been redone in a graphic novel format. It may be helpful for your child to read a graphic novel version before reading the traditional version. This will increase their understanding and help them feel more successful.



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# Libraries



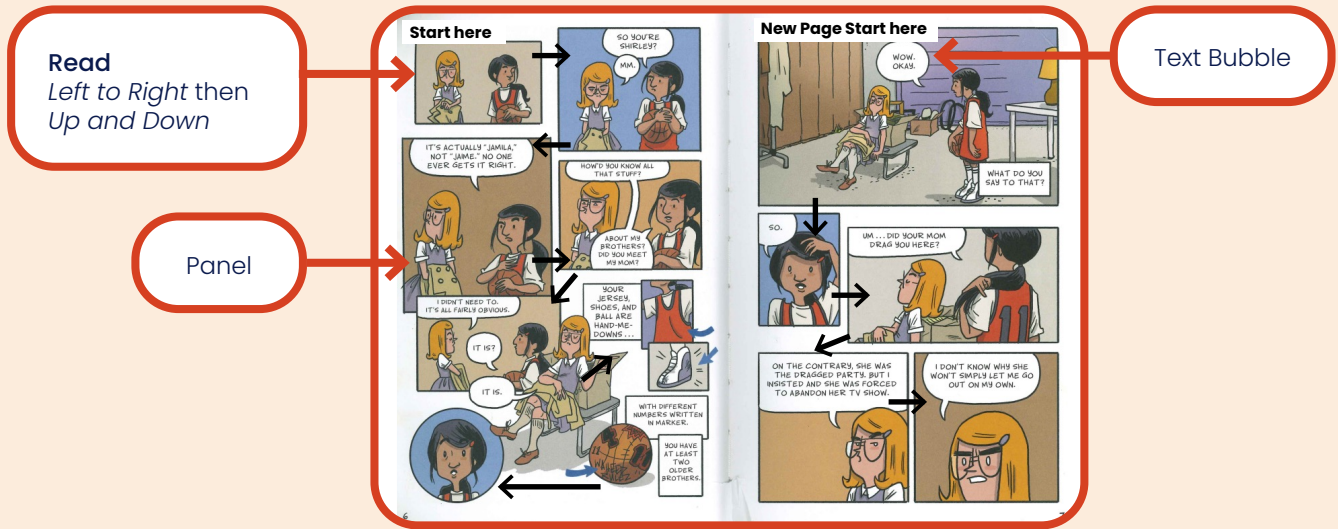
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# How to read a Graphic Novel

Example from *Shirley and Hamila Save their Summer* by Gillian Goetz



## New to Graphic Novels?

Each of our libraries has a selection of graphic novels available for borrowing, or you can explore our digital collection on the Libby app, which features over 2,000 digital comics and graphic books in the kids' and teens' collections.

### Where to find out more



5 Benefits Of  
Graphic Novels  
You Should Consider

Best Graphic  
Novels for Children  
Reading List  
2023–American  
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## Suggestions

from your Children's Librarian



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