

## Reading List: Graphic Novels

### The 9/11 Report

Jacobson, Sid & Colón, Ernie

Graphic Novel, Non-Fiction

Using every skill and storytelling method Jacobson and Colón have learned over the decades, they have produced the most accessible version of the 9/11 Report. Jacobson's text frequently follows word for word the original report, faithfully captures its investigative thoroughness, and covers its entire scope, even including the Commission's final report card. Colón's stunning artwork powerfully conveys the facts, insights, and urgency of the original. Published on the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, an event that has left no aspect of American foreign or domestic policy untouched, *The 9/11 Report* puts at every American's fingertips the most defining event of the century (Goodreads). [Tags: 9/11, Terrorism, War](#)

### Jedi Academy

Brown, Jeffrey

Graphic Novel, Fiction

Roan's one dream is to leave home and attend Pilot Academy like his older brother, father, and grandfather. But just as Roan is mysteriously denied entrance to Pilot School, he is invited to attend Jedi Academy--a school that he didn't apply to and only recruits children when they are just a few years old. That is, until now. This inventive novel follows Roan's first year at Jedi Academy where, under the tutelage of Master Yoda, he learns that he possesses more strength and potential than he could have ever dreamed. Oh, and he learns other important things too--like how to make a baking soda volcano, fence with a lightsaber, slow dance with a girl, and lift boulders with the Force (Goodreads). [Tags: Star Wars, Middle School](#)

### March: Book One

Lewis, John (Congressman)

Graphic Novel, Memoir

March is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement. Book One spans John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall (Goodreads). [Tags: Black History, MLK, Civil Rights, Civil Disobedience](#)

### Maus: A Survivor's Tale

Spiegelman, Art

Graphic Novel, Memoir

"The most affecting and successful narrative ever done about the Holocaust" ( Wall Street Journal ) and "the first masterpiece in comic book history" ( The New Yorker ). The Pulitzer Prize-winning Maus tells the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and his son, a cartoonist coming to terms with his father's story. Maus approaches the unspeakable through the diminutive. Its form, the cartoon (the Nazis are cats, the Jews mice), shocks us out of any lingering sense of familiarity and succeeds in "drawing us closer to the bleak heart of the Holocaust" (Chicago Public Library). [Tags: WWII, Holocaust](#)

### Persepolis

Satrapı, Marjane

Graphic Novel, Memoir

Wise, funny, and heartbreaking, *Persepolis* is Marjane Satrapı's memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapı tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating

effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.

[Tags: Iran, Islam, Gender](#)

Pride of Baghdad

Vaughan, Brian K.

Graphic Novel, Fiction

In the spring of 2003, a pride of lions escaped from the Baghdad zoo during an American bombing raid. Lost and confused, hungry but finally free, the four lions roamed the decimated streets of Baghdad in a desperate struggle for their lives. In documenting the plight of the lions, PRIDE OF BAGHDAD raises questions about the true meaning of liberation – can it be given or is it earned only through self-determination and sacrifice? And in the end, is it truly better to die free than to live life in captivity? Based on a true story, Vaughan and artist Niko Henrichon have created a unique and heartbreaking window into the nature of life during wartime, illuminating this struggle as only the graphic novel can (Goodreads). [Tags: Iraq War, Animals](#)

Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir

Prince, Liz

Graphic Novel, Memoir

Growing up, Liz Prince wasn't a girly girl, dressing in pink tutus or playing pretty princess like the other girls in her neighborhood. But she wasn't exactly one of the guys, either. She was somewhere in between. But with the forces of middle school, high school, parents, friendship, and romance pulling her this way and that, "the middle" wasn't exactly an easy place to be. *Tomboy* follows award-winning author and artist Liz Prince through her early years and explores--with humor, honesty, and poignancy--what it means to "be a girl" (Goodreads). [Tags: Gender, LGBT, Bullying](#)

The War Within These Walls

Sax, Aline

Graphic Novel, Non-fiction

It's World War II, and Misha's family, like the rest of the Jews living in Warsaw, has been moved by the Nazis into a single crowded ghetto. Conditions are appalling: every day more people die from disease, starvation, and deportations. Misha does his best to help his family survive, even crawling through the sewers to smuggle food. When conditions worsen, Misha joins a handful of other Jews who decide to make a final, desperate stand against the Nazis. Heavily illustrated with sober blue-and-white drawings, this powerful novel dramatically captures the brutal reality of a tragic historical event (Goodreads) [Tags: Holocaust, Judaism, WWII](#)

Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty

Neri, G.

Graphic Novel, Non-fiction

In August of 1994, 11-year-old Robert "Yummy" Sandifer – nicknamed for his love of sweets – fired a gun at a group of rival gangmembers, accidentally killing a neighborhood girl, Shavon Dean. Police searched Chicago's southside for three days before finding Yummy dead in a railway tunnel, killed by members of the drug gang he'd sought to impress. The story made such an impact that Yummy appeared on the cover of TIME magazine, drawing national attention to the problems of inner city youth in America. *Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty* relives the confusion of these traumatic days from the point of view of Roger, a neighborhood boy who struggles to understand the senseless violence swirling through the streets around him. Awakened by the tragedy, Roger seeks out answers to difficult questions – was Yummy a killer or a victim? Was he responsible for his actions or are others to blame? (Goodreads).

[Tags: Chicago, Gang violence, Bullying](#)