



Waves of YA, Episode 8: We Stan Graphic Novels

Transcript:

00;00;00;00 - 00;00;23;10

Cecilia

Hello and welcome to Waves of YA, a podcast focused on young adult literacy brought to you by The Ocean County Library Teen Literacy Workgroup. My name is Cecilia, I'm one of the teen services librarians at the Toms River branch. Joining me today, we have

00;00;23;17 - 00;00;26;19

Kristen

Kristen, teen librarian at the Little Egg Harbor Branch,

00;00;26;21 - 00;00;29;08

Rachel

Rachel, teen librarian at the Manchester Branch.

00;00;29;14 - 00;00;32;11

Sarah

And hi, my name is Sarah and I'm from the Waretown Branch.

00;00;32;13 - 00;00;58;21

Cecilia

In today's episode, we will be discussing graphic novels. Not all graphic novels are about superheroes. We will be discussing our favorite graphic novels, what makes a great graphic novel story, and why they are excellent ways tell stories. Our first question is about representation. What are some great ways that representation has been shown in recent releases?

00;00;58;24 - 00;01;07;24

Sarah

Recently, I've really seen a uptick in graphic novels showing a lot more of LGBTQ representation.

00;01;07;24 - 00;01;37;14

Sarah

I'm seeing a lot more recognizing how certain discriminations impact the lives of young people, and it's really nice to see all of those things acknowledged. In particular, I was reading Nubia: Real One, and it was nice to see her combating certain discrimination issues and going to protest marches. Also having LGBTQ representation and also having a discussion of feminism.

00;01;37;14 - 00;01;44;08

Sarah

That touched on a lot of topics in that book, but all in ways that were realistic to a true teen experience.

00;01;44;10 - 00;02;08;07

Rachel

I'm also finding in a lot of new releases that a lot of LGBTQ topics and also just diverse racially and ethnically are just being worked into books naturally. For example, a recent graphic novel I read is Pumpkin Heads by Rainbow Rowell and that has one of the main characters as black, or Mooncakes by Suzanne Walker, where

00;02;08;10 - 00;02;15;04

Rachel

one of the main characters is non-binary and they're just like, naturally working them into stories too.

00;02;15;07 - 00;02;36;05

Cecilia

Yeah, I know. I recently read Mooncakes and there is just one time when I think the grandmothers of the main character uses the wrong pronouns and it's just corrected, Then she goes, Oh, I'm so sorry and not a big deal, just correct pronouns are used throughout the book and I really like that one too, because the main character also has hearing aids,

00;02;36;07 - 00;02;39;14

Cecilia

so diversity and diverse ability.

00;02;39;17 - 00;03;05;00

Kristen

I think that it's way more natural, right? So in a lot of the newer graphic novels that I'm seeing, if it's LGBT characters, that's not the characters entire identity or like the book is not about this particular part of the identity. It's just natural because that's how people are. People have multiple things that are important and salient to who they are.

00;03;05;06 - 00;03;38;07

Kristen

And like I'm thinking right now about Heartstopper, it's just like, this is just like life and I appreciate that as a person who goes out and lives life also in like complex ways, that it's not the sole part of the story. All of those things are important. I just finished Other Boys by Damian Alexander, it's a biography, and at

the end of it he talks about, I didn't want this to only be about me being gay or only about me being bullied or only about my mother having died.

00;03;38;09 - 00;04;01;25

Kristen

All of those things were important to the story of my childhood. Right? So when I think about representation, it's not just having the identity represented, it's having multiple identities represented in a natural way. And I think that that's something that new graphic novels are really getting, right?

00;04;01;28 - 00;04;13;27

Sarah

Absolutely. I agree, because it can be sometimes a little bit painful to see that kind of tokenism or forced diversity when it really is just the focus of the story.

00;04;13;27 - 00;04;15;29

Sarah

And sometimes those stories are important.

00;04;16;01 - 00;04;17;07

Kristen

Absolutely.

00;04;17;09 - 00;04;36;13

Sarah

Yeah. So like I read *Cheer Up* and I really like I cried honestly, at the trans representation in that book, just because it was so nice to see trans girl representation. But that being said, I also like stories where a trans girl can just be a trans girl and the entire story doesn't have to be about that.

00;04;36;15 - 00;04;51;18

Cecilia

I'm glad you said that, Sarah, cause I also cried when I read that. And it's so short too, and says It's just like I read it in like, one sitting, too. It felt like very magazine-like. Like how thin it was, too. It was

00;04;51;20 - 00;05;01;21

Sarah

It was a fast read, but I think it was important because that's the one group that I still think where we're seeking more representation is with different gender identities.

00;05;01;21 - 00;05;08;05

Sarah

And I am seeing more of that and I'm so happy to see more of that. And I hope that we continue to see even more in more positive lights.

00;05;08;11 - 00;05;24;14

Cecilia

Yeah, I've been noticing a lot recently a lot of nonfiction graphic novels have been coming out like George Takei's, They Called Us Enemies is about his experience as a child in the Japanese internment camps.

00;05;24;15 - 00;05;36;05

Cecilia

So there's been a lot of like nonfiction. I think it's easier for kids to digest. I think nonfiction books as graphic novels and like biographies too.

00;05;36;05 - 00;05;40;03

Sarah

It's easier for me to digest. I love it.

00;05;40;05 - 00;05;43;04

Cecilia

Everyone to digest. Yeah.

00;05;43;06 - 00;05;51;00

Rachel

I've also been noticing that a lot of classic books are also getting republished as graphic novels now, too. And that's the same thing.

00;05;51;00 - 00;06;03;24

Rachel

It's a lot easier for teens to digest, like reading The Scarlet Letter or Frankenstein or Les Miserable when it's a graphic novel over a thick, wordy book.

00;06;03;27 - 00;06;16;05

Kristen

Me too. Like, that one, Definitely, me too. Because I was not the kind of person that was like, yay, classic novels. I'm still not that person, but give me it in a graphic novel format?

00;06;16;05 - 00;06;25;26

Kristen

And I was like, Okay, this is worth the read, and then I might be more interested in reading the actual classic novel, right?

00;06;25;26 - 00;06;37;12

Sarah

Right. I actually recently read The Kite Runner, the graphic novel form, because I heard such great things about it and people love it so much. And I was actually really glad that I read the graphic novel.

00;06;37;12 - 00;07;02;05

Sarah

It didn't take too much time for me to read it, but I honestly didn't like it that much. So now I'm like, I'm kind of glad I didn't spend the time reading the whole novel. It can give you a good grasp of the story in a quicker and easier to read. And I think also what would be useful for this, especially with when we're talking about classics, we're talking about books that sometimes have language use that we don't use.

00;07;02;07 - 00;07;30;28

Sarah

It is unfamiliar to modern language use. So whether that be Shakespearean or English or we're talking about 1800s writing regardless, it can be different and foreign. And I think the context clues of the drawings and everything like that can really bring that story to life and that can make it, as we said, much more digestible. But also it can increase the understanding of the material so much more.

00;07;31;01 - 00;07;40;01

Cecilia

Yeah, I think like not just classics a lot I have been redone. I know like Jason Reynolds, Long Way Down was adapted into a graphic novel.

00;07;40;03 - 00;07;49;20

Kristen

Gracelyn just came out as a graphic novel and Fan Girl, which is a different Rainbow Rowell, that one also turned into a graphic novel.

00;07;49;22 - 00;07;51;16

Sarah

And Speak, I think, too, right?

00;07;51;16 - 00;07;53;05

Kristen

Yeah. Speak. Absolutely. Yeah.

00;07;53;09 - 00;07;57;13

Cecilia

Those are like modern classics. I think I would call them.

00;07;57;15 - 00;08;18;04

Sarah

So we were talking about graphic novels and how they can make classics more digestible. And we're all such fans, but this is still a debate, unfortunately, decades later, but why do we think that graphic novels are a valid source for reading? I know that this is something we have to sometimes have discussion with other people about.

00;08;18;04 - 00;08;20;03

Sarah

So I want to hear what you ladies think.

00;08;20;05 - 00;08;46;02

Cecilia

I think they're really good for people who have trouble visualizing because you could see the expressions of the characters on the page and their body language, quote unquote. They're really good for people that are learning a language for the first time as well, because you can if you don't know the language, you can see like the expressions of the characters as well.

00;08;46;02 - 00;09;03;10

Cecilia

So I think they're excellent for those visual cues that they represent as well. You're getting more than the language you're getting like the visual representation of the characters and how they're experiencing everything and their emotions and their feelings.

00;09;03;12 - 00;09;05;29

Sarah

Yeah. So social, emotional learning.

00;09;06;01 - 00;09;07;20

Cecilia

Yeah, exactly.

00;09;07;22 - 00;09;15;22

Kristen

I don't know if anyone else feels this way, but I feel like my brain does something different when I'm reading a graphic novel.

00;09;15;24 - 00;09;51;25

Kristen

And I have no statistics to back this up. But like the experience of reading a graphic novel is different, and I feel like it's like a multi-sense experience. And so I can feel my brain working different ways and so engaging in the story in other ways. And I think that that's really powerful. So I 100% can believe that graphic novels are wonderful for people learning languages, wonderful people who engage more with visual than written.

00;09;51;25 - 00;10;07;03

Kristen

And I, I know that it, it does something different. So like, I can't understand how they wouldn't be valid. Like, I get the story and I get like, it's like story plus like I got the story, plus a little bit of bonus.

00;10;07;05 - 00;10;18;05

Cecilia

Yeah. Like you said, your brain is overworking because you're not just interpreting the dialog, you're interpreting the characters' like visual actions on the page too.

00;10;18;07 - 00;10;19;22

Kristen

It's like sometimes the way,

00;10;19;22 - 00;10;21;29

Cecilia

your brain is working overtime.

00;10;22;01 - 00;10;51;01

Kristen

Yes. Or even the way that the panels interact with each other or the pages interact with each other. Because if you're paying attention, when I'm reading a book, that's just words. My brain is reading words and comprehending words, and it's doing that work. But when I'm reading a graphic novel, my brain is comprehending words and understanding words, but it's also looking at the panel with the illustration, but it's also looking at the neighboring panels and how they relate together.

00;10;51;03 - 00;11;06;16

Kristen

And when you have the full book open, it's interacting with both pages together. You're doing a lot more. I don't know if it's analytical work or synthesizing. You're putting all these different pieces together and making one cohesive thing.

00;11;06;18 - 00;11;14;17

Cecilia

And I think it takes a lot to figure out the format of how you want to put the characters on the page.

00;11;14;19 - 00;11;34;00

Cecilia

The same thing as if you were watching a movie. Like, why is that character positioned over here? Why did they do a full spread page of this one scene as opposed to, you know, doing the single panels? There's just a lot more I think going on and I think it is valid like reading comprehension as well.

00;11;34;03 - 00;11;39;27

Sarah

It definitely is because the same factors are there that are in a novel, just a text novel.

00;11;40;05 - 00;12;07;13

Sarah

It helps increase vocabulary. There's still character development, there's still stories, there's still plot. And as you said, there's even more to analyze because you don't have to just analyze, you know, find where the climax is that's still there. Find the rising action that's still there. But what's also there, like

you said, in the way that the panels interact or something that I found interesting when I was reading Nubia recently was occasionally they would change the colors and the hues and the drawing styles.

00;12;07;14 - 00;12;30;08

Sarah

They would flip between different ones on the page, and I'd be thinking, What is this drawing style trying to communicate to me about, you know, this character's mental state or this situation? You know, there's red, there's things closing in on the sides. It feels frantic. It feels panicked. So there's so much more communicated there on top of just what's already in a story.

00;12;30;11 - 00;13;00;09

Kristen

I would just add that in the same way that we talked about graphic novels as like an in to some of the classic literate classics or modern classics for reluctant readers, graphic novels are an in to reading in general. I think that they are valuable for a number of reasons, but when I can see a child or a teen come in and be excited about a book, they're more likely to be excited about the next book, too.

00;13;00;11 - 00;13;20;05

Rachel

Yeah, I do agree with that too. I think graphic novels are great for reluctant readers. If there's, you know, you hand somebody a book with filled with colorful pictures, I think, you know, reluctant readers are much more likely to read that than a thick 700 page novel with tiny print that's going to take them a year to read.

00;13;20;11 - 00;13;30;22

Rachel

So I do think graphic novels are great for reluctant readers, and I think if they love reading graphic novels, then maybe they'll start reading, you know, regular novels, too.

00;13;30;27 - 00;13;41;04

Sarah

Absolutely. And I don't think anybody should close themselves off to one form of art or another. Obviously, you can have preferences, but art, such wonderful art, comes in so many different mediums.

00;13;41;04 - 00;13;46;19

Sarah

Some such wonderful stories come in so many different mediums, and I just want to be able to enjoy them all.

00;13;46;22 - 00;14;01;18

Cecilia

Sometimes graphic novels are worked on by the illustrator and the writer, and they're not always the same person, so you're getting them working together on the story. And then sometimes two different perspectives in the same story, like why was this color used here?

00;14;01;18 - 00;14;16;09

Cecilia

Why was this- why were these words used? Why was this, you know, part capitalized and this part like very small? So there's like we said, there's so much to analyze. And I always feel like I read graphic novels faster,

00;14;16;09 - 00;14;17;00

Kristen

yes,

00;14;17;00 - 00;14;29;02

Cecilia

than I read prose books. Speaking of like 700 plus words, Tillie Walden has a book called On a Sunbeam, which is a super meaty book.

00;14;29;02 - 00;14;47;24

Cecilia

I think it's, it's got to be at least 400 pages, But it's also a very, this sounds very strange, but it's a very quiet read because not a lot of the characters speak in it. And her illustrations and the way she uses colors in it is so interesting and fascinating.

00;14;47;29 - 00;14;55;08

Rachel

Art or story, which matters more in your graphic novel reads? I think I can start this one off.

00;14;55;14 - 00;15;11;22

Rachel

I kind of took that question in a direction with what initially attracts me to a graphic novel, and I say the art definitely does, because metaphorically you shouldn't judge a book by its cover. But when you're a librarian you definitely judge books by their cover.

00;15;11;22 - 00;15;14;06

Cecilia

100 percent.

00;15;14;06 - 00;15;22;24

Rachel

So, when I'm scanning the graphic novel shelves, the art I see on the front cover and then I open up and look at a few pages and I see beautiful artwork,

00;15;22;24 - 00;15;43;16

Rachel

That's initially what makes me open up to the front panel of the book and read what the book is about. So if I see art that just isn't appealing to me, then I do kind of assume that I'm not going to like the story either. So I might give it a chance and like start reading it. If it's not for me, then I'll put it down.

00;15;43;16 - 00;15;46;20

Rachel

But the art isn't usually what attracts me to the book.

00;15;46;22 - 00;16;06;14

Cecilia

Yeah, I've definitely read series and sometimes like the Runaways series and sometimes they'll have different artists that do certain arcs or story arcs. And sometimes if I don't like the artist, I'll be like, I'll skip this story arc, and wait till the pictures get better, like more my style.

00;16;06;17 - 00;16;36;02

Sarah

I would say definitely, same thing. I pick it by the artwork. Sometimes if I browse online, then I can pick by story, but definitely on the shelves it's pick by artwork. I would say. There are definitely stories out there though, that kind of exceed this. There are stories that speak so loud for themselves that they can carry themselves over what might be considered to be kind of very basic or very rough art, but it definitely is the eye catching ness of a cover.

00;16;36;02 - 00;16;43;22

Rachel

So if you're trying to make a name for yourself, then yeah, the art really does matter is what gets you off of the shelf in the first place.

00;16;43;24 - 00;17;00;14

Kristen

I would also agree. The story is important, so when I'm looking for a new book to read, I am going to look at the artwork first because that's right on the cover and I definitely judge books by their covers because sometimes they don't match up to the story

00;17;00;14 - 00;17;28;24

Kristen

and then I feel like I was tricked but, I guess it got me into the story, so that's still good. Even if the artwork is the style that I like, I like fully saturated, bold colors. I am I really like Reina Telgameier's artwork. I know that different people have their different kinds of artwork, but it also ends up lining up with the kinds of stories that I like.

00;17;28;27 - 00;17;44;16

Kristen

So I like stories that are about real people doing real things. So they're like contemporary fiction and those are what I gravitate towards, and it happens that the artistic style usually ends up lining up with that.

00;17;44;21 - 00;17;58;13

Cecilia

There is this one, is it Mariko Tamaki? I love the art, but every time I, so I keep picking up her stuff, but every time I'm like not really digging this story,

00;17;58;13 - 00;18;43;01

Cecilia

but I keep picking up her stuff because she always does really great artists for all her works, and I just I can't trick myself into not reading one of her things. Graphic novels have a very particular style to them, like, I know Tillie Walden books have a very particular style that's not very like, it's unusual. Umbrella Academy and the artist for that, Gabriel Bá, I'm not sure if I'm saying the last name right, but he has a very unusual, very angular style to his work, which I wasn't really a fan of, but I really enjoyed the storytelling in Umbrella Academy.

00;18;43;03 - 00;19;05;23

Cecilia

used to have a graphic novel club in Toms River, and this was just when the TV show was coming out and I was showing the teens the art, and they were like, we don't want to read this because, the art, they were saying like, the art was so ugly. I was like, just give it a second, and they like super got into the story and like, checked it all out on hoopla after the club.

00;19;05;23 - 00;19;11;02

Cecilia

So sometimes the art isn't the only thing you should be looking at, too.

00;19;11;02 - 00;19;28;28

Kristen

Right. It's not a deal breaker, but it might be something to reel you in. So if you like it, great, go with a story. But if you don't like it, it shouldn't necessarily be a deal breaker because the story in there might be more than meets the eye.

00;19;29;01 - 00;19;51;04

Rachel

Absolutely. Or, you know, sometimes it's the other way around. I read a book recently that I was really expecting to like, it was highly recommended, the art style, beautiful, gorgeous. I even thought it was an original idea. But, by the end, I really wasn't in love with the story. And it was such a shame because I still devoured the entire thing, because I love the art style and it was so engaging.

00;19;51;04 - 00;19;56;24

Rachel

But if they made like a second or follow up to it, it wasn't going to be worth it to me to read that.

00;19;56;26 - 00;20;02;19

Rachel

So while the art style might get you in, it's not going to keep you to stay. It's the story that's going to keep you to stay.

00;20;02;21 - 00;20;09;10

Kristen

So do any of you have a graphic novel that you've read recently that had a very unusual art style?

00;20;09;16 - 00;20;12;29

Kristen

And how did that impact the reading experience for you?

00;20;13;02 - 00;20;53;13

Cecilia

I don't know if it's, it's not one that I read recently. Strong Female Protagonist by Brennan Lee Mulligan and Molly Ostertag. It was a web comic. Brennan did the writing and Molly did the illustrations, and it was her first book, I believe that it was a web comic that they eventually got published. And from the first volume to the second volume and then going back and looking at all of her, like her most recent book, The Girl from the Sea, and just seeing how her art style has changed was really like, eye opening.

00;20;53;13 - 00;21;15;15

Cecilia

Like they started off doing black and white and like her lines weren't as dark and it felt a little bit grungy. The story was kind of a little bit grungy too. It's about basically if superheroes were real and retired superhero that retired a little bit too early in her career to like, go to college and be a philosophy major.

00;21;15;23 - 00;21;40;06

Cecilia

But yeah, it was really interesting seeing how her art style has changed and the similarities sort of in her art style and like picking up things of, well, this is definitely, you know, Molly Ostertag work because it has A, B and C in it. Stylized, like her faces are sort of similar. The eyes are sort of had a certain way to it.

00;21;40;08 - 00;21;48;07

Cecilia

Has anybody ever like read a book, particularly for an illustrator, just because you love them so much?

00;21;48;09 - 00;22;01;27

Rachel

I can't say that I have. Although I did read Ostertag's, The Girl from the Sea and loved it. And I know, Kristen, that you had said that you read that one as well, and she definitely does have that distinct style that you were referring to.

00;22;02;04 - 00;22;30;12

Rachel

You mentioned a web comic, and that made me think of, they're technically considered adult books, but they're the Lore Olympus web comic that's finally been published and bound and everything. So that was interesting because I also read it as a web comic and seeing it now in a book format, it's just different because you were reading it on your phone and certain things like her hair, for example, like cascade down the screen, and it was interesting to see how they transferred that to the print.

00;22;30;12 - 00;22;52;06

Rachel

And I can't honestly tell you if I like it better or not. I think honest for me at least because I originally read it in the web comic format, I feel like part of it is lost and that way I liked the unusualness. I liked the web comicness of it, and unfortunately I don't think that was, could be properly carried over into a print form.

00;22;52;08 - 00;23;09;08

Cecilia

Yeah, I think web comics are super popular now, especially, there's been a bunch that have been published. I know Check, Please! was on Tumblr before it was on our Y.A. shelves. There's lots of other ones that I can't think of off the top of my head.

00;23;09;11 - 00;23;24;00

Kristen

Hyperbole and a Half. That one I think started as a web comic. And it's Allie Brosh, that girl that's like, I want all of the things like with the little spiky blond hair.

00;23;24;02 - 00;23;30;27

Kristen

But that was web comic. I feel like that one did translate well to a printed book.

00;23;31;00 - 00;23;43;13

Cecilia

I think Heart Stopper was a web comic before it was a book book, and I think that's a great way for people to get noticed, too. Nimona by ND Stevenson.

00;23;43;16 - 00;23;48;25

Kristen

I like that artwork, yes, that one's good. Nimona. I like Nimona's story too, though.

00;23;48;27 - 00;23;50;24

Cecilia

Yes,

00;23;50;26 - 00;24;03;08

Rachel

it's like the SoundCloud, now. You know, if you're a SoundCloud artist? Now you can be a web comic artist and then like one day keep working hard, it'll happen.

00;24;03;08 - 00;24;13;26

Cecilia

Yeah. I'm looking at a list now of like all the web comics that are now and some of them are like that, that was a web comic, yeah, they're like, super accessible.

00;24;13;26 - 00;24;31;17

Cecilia

They're kind of with the app or the Webtoon. Mhm. Yeah, so they're super accessible. I know. I see the teens reading them all the time and talking about them and like some librarians even are like hooked in. Yeah.

00;24;31;17 - 00;24;31;27

Rachel

That's me.

00;24;31;27 - 00;24;36;13

Cecilia

Yeah. anybody else have anything that popped out to you recently?

00;24;36;15 - 00;24;42;05

Kristen

I read, My Body in Pieces. It's Marie-Noëlle Hébert.

00;24;42;07 - 00;25;11;04

Kristen

I believe it's translated. I think she's French and the artwork is not what I would want if I was picking a graphic novel. But it worked really well for the book. It's much more artistic, painterly. It's really dark and sketchy and some place like, not sketchy, like weird, but like sketchy like a sketch. And that one was definitely very striking.

00;25;11;06 - 00;25;23;14

Kristen

The artwork could have been artwork that you found in a museum or on someone's wall, but it was an entire book of artwork, which I think is incredible.

00;25;23;19 - 00;25;44;09

Rachel

One other thing that I wanted to mention, it's not necessarily unusual, but I wanted to mention a graphic novel I read called This One Summer, and the entire, the illustrations throughout the entire book

only use the colors purple and white and it does have to go along with the tone and the emotions of the book.

00;25;44;11 - 00;26;06;16

Rachel

And I do understand the illustrators reasonings for wanting to only use a couple colors, but that, only using a couple colors just doesn't appeal to me. And that's just it's just a personal preference to me. I just prefer artwork that's more colorful and like uses full color as opposed to something that only uses purple and white. It's not as fun for me to look at.

00;26;06;17 - 00;26;07;26

Cecilia

I don't know.

00;26;07;28 - 00;26;29;19

Sarah

I was going to say, I understand. I can't say that I am the same way. I think just because of my years reading Manga or something like that, like black and white color, it doesn't matter. I'm ready to eat it up. But, what does often discourage me is when I open up a graphic novel and it has a massive amount of text on every page. That really puts me off.

00;26;29;19 - 00;26;34;06

Sarah

But I know some people really don't mind that, or in fact, actually really like that.

00;26;34;12 - 00;26;54;05

Cecilia

Yeah, I think I feel the same way as you, Sarah, like when they're like text blocks of like lengthy conversations, sometimes that is off putting, but sometimes it works with the story depending on what the scene is or if they're like over analyzing something in the scene or explaining something.

00;26;54;07 - 00;27;34;27

Cecilia

It really depends on how the art is and the storyteller are formatting the book as well. You can format the different word bubbles to go into different places, and I think that does something with your mind, depending on where it is in the panel, if it's straight in the middle and it's a closeup on the character's face or if it's a wide shot and you know, you have it off to the side in one the corners, you know, or like, down at the bottom, I think your brain probably I don't know for sure I'm not a scientist or claim to be one, but I, I think that, you know, depending on where it is, your eyes, like

00;27;34;28 - 00;27;37;00

Cecilia

definitely do something.

00;27;37;02 - 00;28;11;15

Kristen

I don't know if anyone else is getting to a certain point in their eye health that sometimes, sometimes I'll get a graphic novel in print and I'm like, I don't know if I can do this. The writing is very small and sometimes I find myself really struggling to read them. And so I've really been appreciative of e-graphic novels because I can adjust the size and adjust where I am and not have to play that game of like, do I leave my glasses on and it's blurry or do I take my glasses off and I have to put it really close, I don't know.

00;28;11;17 - 00;28;39;26

Kristen

So definitely everything. It's weird because like type is still important in a traditional book, but like the style of the like, do they use type or is the illustrator illustrating the, the actual words? It ends up mattering every decision, including where those text bubbles are and how much is in them and how small it is. And does it have serifs or no serifs like all of those things end up being really important.

00;28;40;01 - 00;28;47;10

Kristen

And just thinking about that gives me a little bit of anxiety. So like, how many decisions did it take to make this book?

00;28;47;12 - 00;28;52;06

Cecilia

Yeah, we had a program a couple of years ago, is it a couple of years? I don't know anymore.

00;28;52;08 - 00;28;55;08

Kristen

Time doesn't exist.

00;28;55;11 - 00;28;57;08

Cecilia

Maybe it was, I don't know. Anyway.

00;28;57;08 - 00;28;58;28

Kristen

It's just a construct.

00;28;58;28 - 00;29;03;22

Cecilia

With Sam Maggs who was explaining because

00;29;03;23 - 00;29;30;08

Cecilia

she writes for video games and she writes for graphic novels and explaining, like the process behind writing for graphic novels versus writing for video games versus writing for books. And it definitely is a process. Like you have to think about more like, what do you want on this panel versus what you want on the next panel? And like the sequence of things and how you want,

00;29;30;13 - 00;29;52;15

Cecilia

I want this character to be wearing this color and this character to be standing this way and this one to be doing that. And if you're working with someone else, you just add like another person involved in the process and then you have you, have to send it to the editor. Their brains are working overtime as well as ours, reading everything, too. I believe it.

00;29;52;17 - 00;30;09;03

Cecilia

Alright. So the next question is, would the story in graphic novels be as meaningful if not written in this form, such as if it was written in prose? I know we talked a little bit about stories that have been adapted into graphic novels.

00;30;09;06 - 00;30;16;04

Sarah

I think that a lot is lost. The stories are always wonderful, but you would have to have a lot of prose.

00;30;16;07 - 00;30;39;12

Sarah

I don't think it's not manageable, but you would have to have a lot of prose to carry over the different emotions that are expressed by one character's facial expression. Or, like Rachel said about that one book she was reading with just you were saying the one or two colors, like the feeling, the mood that was set just by that artistic decision.

00;30;39;15 - 00;30;52;11

Sarah

So much more prose has to happen to get that same effect when it is so easily done in such a short period of time with a graphic novel. So I do feel like a lot would be lost.

00;30;52;13 - 00;31;00;21

Rachel

I do agree with that. I think a great example in a book I read, I think I mentioned before was Pumpkinheads by Rainbow Rowell.

00;31;00;23 - 00;31;36;00

Rachel

In that book, the two main characters are working in a pumpkin patch, and they're kind of spending the whole night running around the pumpkin patch. And, part of the artwork is like showing a map, showing where they're running around this pumpkin patch. So I do think in order to put that into prose, it

wouldn't be as funny or like as appealing because what was kind of funny and cute about the story is seeing the map of where they are in this place and just describing it in prose, it just wouldn't translate well, I don't think.

00;31;36;02 - 00;32;02;12

Cecilia

Yeah, I love that one. Yeah, sometimes I would flip back to the map. The map had places they didn't go to, as well, on there. So like the possibilities and whatnot. You get different things from a prose novel that you would get from a graphic novel, and vice versa. I think when you're reading a prose novel, if it's in first person or third person, you're getting their emotional standpoint.

00;32;02;12 - 00;32;34;27

Cecilia

It's kind of besides thought bubbles, you can't really get like the emotional aspect I feel sometimes beside, but you do get the body language in the facial expressions and the stance because you can't describe where every character is standing in a scene like sometimes you'll get background characters in a graphic novel that will show up later. I know some artists do little in-jokes and put their family and friends in the background or different characters or a little nods to different things.

00;32;34;27 - 00;33;01;28

Cecilia

So that's something you get in a graphic novel that you probably wouldn't get in a prose novel. And just like the art say on the visual representation that you get in graphic novels, but I definitely think you get more into the characters' minds set when you read a prose novel as opposed to the graphic novel. Graphic novels are more like you're watching the story unfold and comprehend them.

00;33;01;28 - 00;33;10;19

Cecilia

The prose is more of like, I feel like emotional resource. I don't know if anybody else feels that way.

00;33;10;21 - 00;33;26;09

Sarah

Yeah, absolutely. I think it's more immersive into their stream of consciousness into that the narrator's or if it's third person, the main protagonist stream of consciousness while you have to kind of discern that more with the graphic novel, it's much more top down.

00;33;26;11 - 00;33;53;12

Kristen

So you guys were talking about Pumpkinheads, and I feel like I had a totally different experience because I liked Pumpkinheads and I love Rainbow Rowell books in general, like all of them. And I finished it and I was like, I need more. Like, not having the internal monologues and like the feelings of the characters or like misinterpretations of what each other's deals were.

00;33;53;14 - 00;34;21;28

Kristen

I missed that and I was like, I kind of want this to be in prose. But then the opposite happens sometimes. So you have Laurie Halse Anderson's, *Speak*, was originally prose and then adapted to graphic novel, and maybe it's because I've read both that I felt like I already had all that emotional, I almost called it emotional baggage, all that emotional stuff, like I already had that.

00;34;22;04 - 00;34;46;18

Kristen

And then I go into the graphic novel and I'm like, Oh, this is so powerful to see it. But I guess that's not a fair comparison because I saw both and they had that context. But definitely when I sometimes, especially if it's a very fast read, I get at the end of a graphic novel and I'm like, I would like to know more.

00;34;46;20 - 00;34;51;19

Kristen

Please do not, yeah, like, please, more.

00;34;51;21 - 00;35;12;23

Kristen

Yeah. And I think also sometimes people get upset with the adaptations. They say, Oh, that's not how I imagined that character to be in head. The same thing you get when you turn something into a movie. People's imaginations of how certain things were are kind of then forced into what the original artist's expectations were.

00;35;12;23 - 00;35;34;23

Sarah

So, some people are less happy with that, sometimes people are pleasantly surprised. We talked about this a little bit before. If a story isn't great, can the art elevate it, be on that level, or vice versa? If the story is really, really good but the art isn't, does that do the book a disservice? And this is kind of more along the lines of the judging the book by the cover thing that we were touching upon.

00;35;34;25 - 00;35;44;17

Cecilia

Yeah, I think one example I can give that I recently read that I think, let me see if you can read it too, I think Sarah, you also read *Squad*.

00;35;44;19 - 00;35;56;22

Sarah

Yes, that was the book, I didn't want to like call it out, but I have the book I was talking about before when I was like, I read the whole thing, but I wasn't super stoked by the time I finished.

00;35;56;24 - 00;36;09;04

Cecilia

The artwork is beautiful, but the story is, the story has a beginning, middle and end. But I feel like it was missing something. I don't know what it is, but.

00:36:09:04 - 00:36:25:04

Sarah

It's so rushed and it definitely I think it had a cool premise, but yeah, that really rushed romance and none of the emotions, the characters felt genuine to me at the end because I just felt like we had barreled through everything.

00:36:25:04 - 00:36:35:24

Sarah

I just didn't feel any attachments or anything like that. But that being said, like you said, art style, wonderful. And that's what got me reading it. But I was disappointed.

00:36:35:26 - 00:36:49:18

Cecilia

Yeah, I think the art style definitely like if you're rating a book, I think it pushes it up a little bit. You're like, Well, that didn't really hit all the marks for me story wise.

00:36:49:18 - 00:36:59:01

Cecilia

But, you know, in this panel when this happened or, you know, seeing this visually happen, I think it can elevate it a little bit.

00:36:59:04 - 00:37:24:17

Cecilia

There's another one that I think I talked about it a little bit when we were preparing Grimoire Noir. The art in that is like mind bogglingly beautiful, but the story is very similar to Squad where it feels like a little bit like I want something more, like I feel like I needed more information, I wanted more from it, which I guess could be good in some regards.

00:37:24:17 - 00:37:33:22

Cecilia

Like the same thing with Squad. Certain things that happened. I was like, what? Why did that happen? I would like to know more about this.

00:37:33:24 - 00:37:46:15

Rachel

Yeah. On the other hand, there are things like this had a beautiful art style. Lifetime Passes by Terry Blas I love, I love that. But judging by the cover, I looked at it because I had ordered it based off of the story alone.

00:37:46:17 - 00:37:58:26

Rachel

I was doing some online browsing and when cover came in I was like, Oh, this looks really cartoonish. I don't think I'm going to like it, but I loved it. Absolutely. Story, art, everything beautiful, completely recommend. So.

00:37:58;27 - 00:38:00;26

Cecilia

That was another one I cried.

00:38:00;28 - 00:38:08;20

Rachel

Yeah, me too. Me too. If it doesn't make me cry, like, really? What is it doing?

00:38:08;22 - 00:38:38;16

Cecilia

Yeah, that one had a very interesting premise of this group of teens that are obsessed with this theme park that kind of reflects a certain popular theme park in California. And they find out that if someone dies at the park, they'll get lifetime passes. So the one character, her aunt works at a nursing home. So they decide to start for like nefarious purposes.

00:38:38;16 - 00:39:01;02

Cecilia

This program where they take seniors into the parks hoping that something will happen and then they will get lifetime passes to the park. But it turns into this like very like, heartwarming story of like the different characters that like, discusses toxic friendships and whatnot. It was just really good.

00:39:01;05 - 00:39:08;16

Kristen

I literally need that book. It's on hoopla, so. Like yesterday, that's funny.

00:39:08;19 - 00:39:10;07

Kristen

Love it.

00:39:10;10 - 00:39:21;09

Cecilia

It really has like a lot of dark humor in there. And like, as I was describing it to someone else, I was like, This sounds a little weird.

00:39:21;12 - 00:39:35;01

Kristen

I mean, it does, but it's like if you're the person that that speaks to you, I can see as your describing the graphic novel. And I'm like, Yeah, that's a little morbid.

00:39:35;01 - 00:39:39;08

Kristen

I'm like, I need it. Yesterday.

00;39;39;08 - 00;40;01;20

Rachel

Thinking of the things that, like the art style really changes things for me. I'm not generally a comic book type, graphic novel person, even though, like, I want to love the story, I love the stories that I really want to get into them, but a lot of them are very like that text heaviness that I mentioned before.

00;40;01;26 - 00;40;23;28

Rachel

That's a big turnoff for me. I find that a lot of the comic book style graphic novels and because of that, I have big difficulty getting through them, even though I'm interested in the story. What really turned that around for me was the Teen Titans by Kami Garcia and The Raven, The Beast Boy, and then the Beast Boy and Raven Books.

00;40;24;00 - 00;40;42;29

Rachel

So those graphic novels, his, the art style and the story, both of them were really compelling. But I think it really was the art style that got me into it and got me keep reading it, even though they are technically comic book characters. But it wasn't exactly in that traditional comic book style that you see.

00;40;43;03 - 00;40;50;15

Kristen

I feel very similarly like sometimes I'm not sure if I should talk about graphic novels because I'm not a superhero person.

00;40;50;17 - 00;41;05;01

Kristen

So your traditional DC and Marvel comic books are just like, not It doesn't speak to me, but Teen Titans, The Beast Boy and Raven, Kami Garcia and her illustrator, I don't remember what his name is,

00;41;05;03 - 00;41;06;00

Rachel

Gabriel Picolo.

00;41;06;06 - 00;41;16;15

Kristen

Yes, Yes. That was fabulous. And I was at Comic-Con and I did hear Kami talking about how they paired up and all of those things.

00;41;16;17 - 00;41;50;02

Kristen

And it doesn't always work as smoothly as it does, but I feel like Teen Titans did it. Also, same situation. DC Superhero, Whistle. I love that one. Yes, I loved it, but I don't usually like superhero origin stories or like any of those kinds of things. But, Whistle, It's a New Gotham Hero by E. Lockhart. And that one also did it for me, where the art and I thought that everything was not going to hit but put together,

00;41;50;03 - 00;41;56;02

Kristen

I was like, okay, maybe I should read some superhero comic book kind of stuff.

00;41;56;05 - 00;42;22;04

Cecilia

Well, that's so funny that you guys mentioned those. Those are all written by pre-established Y.A. authors, too. I wonder if that's the storytelling reason. And like pairing up because I know Rainbow Rowell has done a couple arts with the Runaways. We're doing a lot of Y.A. authors doing graphic like superhero graphic novels.

00;42;22;04 - 00;42;52;21

Cecilia

Maurene Goo just came out with one. I hope to have it done today, but I was reading it right before this Silk, which is like a Spiderman Asian-American hero, Cindy Moon, who was also bitten by a radioactive spider, the same one that Peter Parker was bitten with, but he was like locked in a bunker for like ten years. So he has like a new interpret location of the character that has already been pre-established.

00;42;52;21 - 00;43;16;05

Cecilia

And I think most of those that we've mentioned except for Whistle, I think Whistle is a new character, are reinterpretations of characters that already exist in the lexicon, but they're done through the lens of a Y.A. author as well. They have more of that graphic novel feel as opposed to like an issue by issue comic book feel.

00;43;16;05 - 00;43;23;18

Kristen

Right. And then we have Y.A. authors that are writing prose books based on comics.

00;43;23;18 - 00;43;31;24

Kristen

So you've got Julie Murphy doing Faith, and Marie Lu has a bunch, and I've never tried any of those,

00;43;31;26 - 00;43;34;10

Cecilia

but the DC icons ones.

00;43;34;11 - 00;43;35;09

Kristen

Yeah,

00;43;35;11 - 00;43;40;09

Cecilia

but then the DC icons, prose books get turned into graphic novel,

00;43;40;15 - 00;43;44;29

Kristen

Right. So then it comes full circle.

00;43;45;02 - 00;43;51;02

Cecilia

Yeah, because they did the Catwoman one and I think that one became graphic novels.

00;43;51;04 - 00;43;58;08

Cecilia

And I feel like maybe there is a Black Canary one somewhere out there in the world, but I can't remember the graphic novel.

00;43;58;10 - 00;44;15;12

Rachel

That is something that I have to say though, that I do love about comic books. It makes me wish that I could get into that more. That being the evolving nature of them. Like, there's no set story of Batman, there's no set story of Superman.

00;44;15;12 - 00;44;34;25

Rachel

There's no set story of Beast Boy. There's the general basic bones of the story that makes the story that makes the character. But anybody can take it and put their own twist on it. And, so you can have this version that you like better, this version that you like better, or you can like the beginning of this version and the ending of this version, or you can like all of them.

00;44;34;27 - 00;44;51;16

Rachel

And I really like that because that just gives a wide amount of adaptability and the ability for people to take these really familiar nostalgic characters and then make them into something new for this decade.

00;44;51;19 - 00;45;04;02

Kristen

Yeah, I love the playing with canon. It's really exciting to see something different from a character that you know. But now the back story is slightly different, but you know who it is.

00;45;04;05 - 00;45;08;16

Kristen

It's like fan fiction, but it's professional. Yes.

00;45;08;19 - 00;45;14;26

Cecilia

Well, I don't know if you caught this, Kristen, but Beast Boy does make an appearance in Whistle.

00;45;14;28 - 00;45;26;25

Kristen

I did. I did. It was so interesting because I had seen them both together talking about their graphic novels, and so, I'm immediately putting them on hold while I'm in the audience, and then I get them.

00;45;26;25 - 00;45;31;08

Kristen

And I was like, Oh, they're like, kind of related.

00;45;31;10 - 00;45;52;14

Cecilia

Yeah. And I always like when someone does like a different take or like, puts topics that have come up more in recent years, like before Beast Boy hit the shelves. I think I got an arc of it and I really liked, there was a lot of talk about body image and like male body image doesn't get talked a lot about in literature.

00;45;52;14 - 00;45;59;21

Cecilia

And I really like, you know, the shape shifting character, talking about body image. Who better than to do that?

00;45;59;23 - 00;46;14;03

Kristen

And I'm just looking at our list and the Oracle code is another one that I didn't think I'd like it. I read about what the story was right, and then I got the book and I was like, Oh, this is superhero stuff.

00;46;14;05 - 00;46;19;15

Kristen

And then I read it and I was like, Okay, yeah, this is actually really fabulous.

00;46;19;18 - 00;46;33;16

Rachel

I read The Oracle Code too, and the only reason I read it was because somebody recommended it to me and said that it was really good. And I think like, the main character is like he's in the Batman storyline, I think.

00;46;33;19 - 00;46;35;17

Cecilia

Yes.

00;46;35;19 - 00;47;01;00

Rachel

And. Okay good. And I like, know nothing about Batman. He's just a superhero that doesn't appeal to me at all. So I kind of read that book kind of with like a blank slate of mind, not knowing at all who this character is, what her backstory is. And I enjoyed it a lot. And I think, you know, I may not read more Batman comics, but I think if there was like a sequel to that book I would definitely read it.

00;47;01;00 - 00;47;02;24

Sarah

Yeah, that's one I got to put on my list.

00;47;02;24 - 00;47;04;14

Sarah

That sounds super interesting.

00;47;04;17 - 00;47;07;18

Cecilia

Another Y.A. author writing a...

00;47;07;21 - 00;47;11;00

Kristen

I looked at it and I was like, Oh, yes,

00;47;11;03 - 00;47;13;24

Rachel

Cecilia stop calling me out like this.

00;47;13;26 - 00;47;17;01

Kristen

We have a type, I think. Yeah,

00;47;17;04 - 00;47;28;03

Cecilia

well, I think the publishing industry has a type as of right now of just recruiting the Avengers of Y.A. authors to write all their like graphic novel series.

00;47;28;05 - 00;47;58;07

Cecilia

It's true, especially DC. I think DC has started it and I think Marvel is doing a little bit more with Maurine Goo writing the Silk series, Jason Reynolds wrote a Miles Morales book. Yes, I think the Y.A. authors have more of an insight in like the teen brain. Whereas I think, you know, the graphic novel writers are usually have the more action oriented brain.

00;47;58;07 - 00;48;27;27

Cecilia

So like bringing that emotional standpoint into the graphic novels, which is like a lot of the ones we talked about today have, you know, strong emotional builds to them. And I think superhero ones tend to be all about the action and the mystery, and they haven't really focused in on like, you know, what happens when you're a teen superhero and you have to like, do a homework assignment or, you know, you have to go on a date or whatever.

00;48;27;29 - 00;48;47;06

Cecilia

I think that's why not a Y.A. author that has written a comic book, I don't believe unless I'm wrong, the Ms. Marvel series was like super, super popular. And now she's getting her own show on Disney Plus because it had that emotional background.

00;48;47;08 - 00;48;58;08

Rachel

Yeah, absolutely. And if you're looking for that, definitely. I know I've said it like three times before, but, but Nubia: Real One I think really I think that's essentially what it's

00;48;58;10 - 00;49;01;28

Rachel

And that's McKinnie and Robin Smith and

00;49;02;01 - 00;49;08;27

Cecilia

another Y.A. author and I just keep calling them out

00;49;08;29 - 00;49;20;09

Rachel

and yeah, same thing though. She talks about, you know, having superhero powers and having to deal with real life teen problems in an intersectional light. So that's really what's really fascinating.

00;49;20;12 - 00;49;31;17

Cecilia

Yeah, I'm excited for like, I'm sure there is more plaited, you know, out there of different superheroes being reimaged by Y.A. authors or other people.

00;49;31;19 - 00;49;36;06

Kristen

What do you think the best genres to reading graphic form are?

00;49;36;08 - 00;49;42;23

Sarah

Cecilia, I want to hear about that mystery book you said was a graphic novel the other day because I don't think I've ever heard of that.

00;49;42;25 - 00;49;53;04

Cecilia

Yes. Tara O'Conner wrote, she's a New Jersey native. The graphic novel takes place in New Jersey. It's called Fly by Night.

00;49;53;04 - 00;50;18;29

Cecilia

I, I knew her. She had a book coming up, but like, this was like two years ago since I read her last one. Yes. So the last one I read from Tara O'Connor was The Altered History of Willow Sparks. And that was kind of like a magical realism one. So I knew she had another one coming out and I just really liked her art style.

00;50;18;29 - 00;50;41;22

Cecilia

And I really like the story of the other one. And I just found this. I wasn't waiting for it for anything because it takes a while for graphic novels and like most books to get published. So I just saw it on the cart. I recognized the name and just immediately took it out. It's called Fly by Night. The main character moves back home after her parents get divorced.

00;50;41;22 - 00;50;59;19

Cecilia

She ends up going to live with her father, and her twin sister lives with the mom, so she moves back to her mom's after her twin sister goes missing and she's moving back to the Pine Barrens in New Jersey. And if anybody knows anything about the Pine Barrens.

00;50;59;21 - 00;51;01;02

Sarah

Jersey Devil.

00;51;01;05 - 00;51;07;03

Cecilia

Yeah. The Jersey devil does make an appearance in the book, and it is kind of a twist on the character.

00;51;07;06 - 00;51;32;28

Cecilia

And I really enjoyed it because it had that mystery aspect. The main character is looking for her twin sister. What exactly happened? There's some weird New Jersey stuff that happens in the book, like some sites that they go to that I like recognize as weird New Jersey sites. And yeah, so has that mystery aspect and then it has the supernatural aspect.

00;51;32;28 - 00;52;03;17

Cecilia

I really like reading supernatural books in graphic novels or something that has a mystery element to it because I feel like it builds the suspense and you can really see the last few books I've read recently were werewolf books, so I've read Squad, and the last one I read was Artie in The Wolf Moon, which is the main character, realizes she comes from a family of werewolves.

00;52;03;20 - 00;52;29;15

Cecilia

The main character is also black, so it's a black werewolf character. And she finds out there is this whole town full of werewolves that her mom came from. And then she finds out all different things about werewolf society and the supernatural world and a little bit about her father, who has passed away and what his whole deal was and their backstory.

00;52;29;17 - 00;52;51;09

Cecilia

And I just I love seeing the transformation and like her eyes glowing red in the book and like all the other characters, you can get hints in the background. Like at one point she likes to do photography, so she's in like a dark room and then you see a shadow behind her, like creeping up because she doesn't know that it's there.

00;52;51;11 - 00;52;59;17

Cecilia

This does sound weird. That one was super cute for being about werewolves and it was like randomly gay, too, so I love when that happens.

00;52;59;19 - 00;53;14;16

Sarah

Love that. That's super funny because honestly, I love supernatural stories and you really have to kind of chain me down to get, to get to read anything that isn't supernatural or fantasy or sci fi when it comes to actual prose or text books.

00;53;14;16 - 00;53;34;20

Sarah

But when it comes to graphic novels, I don't think I was doing this on purpose at all. But I'm looking through what I've read recently just in the past four or five months, and there's a lot of contemplative real life stories, and I think I'm just more accessible and open to them because they are in graphic novel format.

00;53;34;22 - 00;53;57;14

Sarah

For example, I read Himawari House by Harmony Becker, and that was really quiet and contemplative and talked about diaspora and that feeling of being a stranger in two different places and other just real life modern day fiction that I generally avoid when it comes to prints. But for some reason I'm drawn to when it comes to graphic novels.

00:53:57;14 - 00:54:01;06

Sarah

So I do wonder why that is. I don't have an answer. I just wonder.

00:54:01;08 - 00:54:29;20

Cecilia

Yeah, that's super interesting because I'm more drawn to like the fantasy sci fi and the supernatural stuff, graphic novels, and then in prose I'm like, where's my romance? Where's my romantic comedies and realistic fiction? But yeah, I wonder if it's the draw of the colors and like visually seeing everything. One of my favorites, which was a webtoon

00:54:29;20 - 00:54:59;10

Cecilia

I forgot it was a webtoon until just now. Cosmoknights by I think it's Hannah Templer, which is very sci fi, very like strong female characters, and it's like mech fighting in space, rescuing princesses. There's a lot of women that are rescuing princesses in this mech fighting so they don't have to marry the people they're betrothed, whoever wins the fight.

00:54:59;10 - 00:55:07;20

Cecilia

So they win the fight so that princesses can be free. So it's like this rebellion sort of story. It's really awesome.

00:55:07;23 - 00:55:25;20

Kristen

I really like nonfiction in graphic novel format. When I look at the graphic novels that I choose, if it's a biography, if it's nonfiction, I'm all about it. Even if the subject is not something that I'm actually super interested in.

00:55:25;22 - 00:55:55;17

Kristen

One of the ones that I've read recently that is hefty, let me just emphasize that this is a hefty book because I guess the paper that they use to print graphic novel books is, is heavy, and this one's like 500 pages. Dragon Hoops by Gene Yang. I do not care about sports. If you said, Let's go watch a basketball game, action, adventure concession stands, I'd be like, can we do something different than that?

00:55:55;22 - 00:56:23;19

Kristen

This is history of basketball. There is information about how the game is played and things that I would never I would never necessarily seek out. But as a graphic novel, it worked. And it was really fun. I enjoyed that. So if I can find it in graphic novel format, I will read basically any nonfiction book as a graphic novel.

00;56;23;21 - 00;56;56;03

Rachel

I do agree that I do prefer to read nonfiction as graphic novels more than as regular novels. One nonfiction graphic novel that I read recently was called Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World. And it's just 29 really short comic biographies about different women who somehow they had an impact on society, whether they be doctors or politicians or scientists or actresses or musicians.

00;56;56;06 - 00;57;13;07

Rachel

They're just really short biographies and they're really easy to read. And some of them were funny and some of them were sad. And when you read the whole book and you had just met 29 new people, and I feel like now I have like really cool, fun facts to, like, give out to people.

00;57;13;09 - 00;57;21;10

Kristen

Yeah, like now I learned something in addition to getting to enjoy this book that is well illustrated and well told.

00;57;21;17 - 00;57;27;23

Kristen

But I also actually learn something and then I'm more likely to seek it out. Seek out more information.

00;57;27;25 - 00;57;44;08

Rachel

Yeah. When I read like a nonfiction book, I do find myself like going onto databases and on the Internet and trying to find like the full story or more information about it. And then if I can, like, work that into conversations, I'll be like, Oh, well, did you know this about this person?

00;57;44;08 - 00;57;46;08

Rachel

Yeah, I read that in a book once.

00;57;46;10 - 00;58;29;17

Cecilia

Yeah, I definitely think there's a trend, I forgot the word for trend for a hot second, going on about graphic novel memoirs. I think we've been seeing a lot of those recently, some of the ones we mentioned today too. I think it's just easier to sometimes tell a story with pictures and words as opposed to just this is what happened to me. Sometimes, you know, writing down exactly what happened and seeing it for yourselves, too, like the visual representation of this is happening or this person did this and seeing how they did it in a visual standpoint as opposed to just telling, show and tell, is basically graphic novel

00;58;29;17 - 00;58;57;02

Cecilia

nonfiction. Thanks for joining us today. Be sure to check out The Ocean County Library's website for more podcasts and events on our website's Calendar of Events Page. All titles mentioned in today's episode can be found through the Ocean County Library, free, with your library card. Until next time. Happy reading!