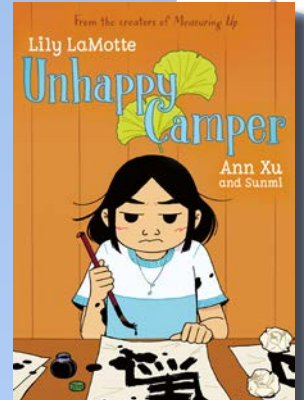
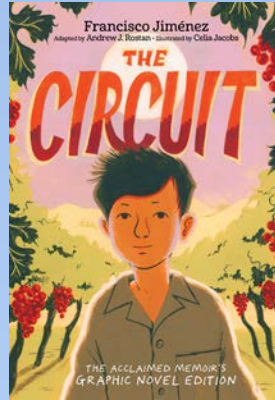
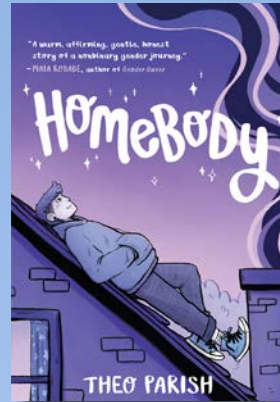
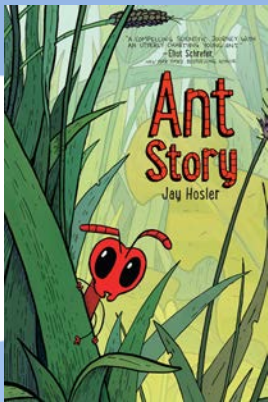


HARPER *alley*

GREAT GRAPHIC NOVELS

A Reader's Advisory Guide



WHY GRAPHIC NOVELS?

WHAT ARE GRAPHIC NOVELS?

Graphic novels are stories told through sequential art, a series of panels containing art and text that—when read in sequence—express narrative action. The purpose of this guide is to help you understand the power of visual literacy and how it can engage and grow your learners and readers through the use of graphic novel storytelling.

VISUAL LITERACY: As our world becomes more and more visually dependent, graphic novels offer young readers the tool of visual literacy. They ask readers to

decode visual cues and decide what they mean. On top of that, they offer reader engagement unlike any other format, and are the ideal medium to establish a lifelong love of reading.

CRITICAL-THINKING SKILLS:

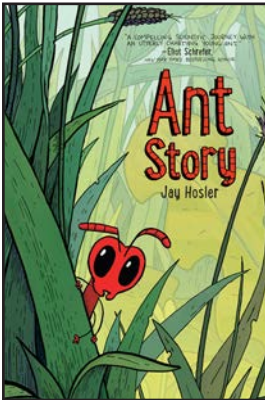
Graphic novels are highly engaging! They compel readers to use their critical-thinking skills by asking them to infer time and space from one panel to the next, and to interpret other details such as color, motion lines, and panel placement. Critical-thinking skills such as these can be applied beyond graphic novels in areas such as science, politics, history, and much, much more.



Frey, N., & Fisher, D. 2008. *Teaching Visual Literacy: Using Comic Books, Graphic Novels, Anime, Cartoons, and More to Develop Comprehension and Thinking Skills*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press

Krashen, S. 2005. "The 'Decline' of Reading in America, Poverty, and Access to Books, and the Use of Comics in Encouraging Reading." *Teachers College Record*, 14.

Miller, S. 2005. *Developing and Promoting Graphic Novel Collections*. New York: Neal-Schuman.



Ant Story by Jay Hosler

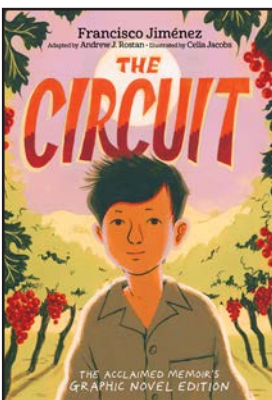
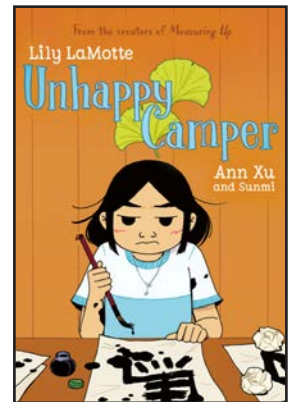
Meet Rubi, a tiny ant with a big personality and an even bigger love for stories. Who knew the small world of her colony could be full of unexpected friendships, epic adventures, and death-defying escapes?

Follow Rubi on the journey of a lifetime as she uncovers the mystery and wonder of one of the world's tiniest, mightiest insects. This blend of real-world biology facts with heartwarming storytelling examines how we seek to understand the natural world with the stories we tell one another.

Unhappy Camper by Lily LaMotte, Illustrated by Ann Xu and Sunmi

Claire and Michelle used to be best friends, but now the two sisters couldn't be more different. Michelle will do anything to fit in, even if it means denying her Taiwanese culture. Whereas Claire is proud of who she is. So much so that she decides to become a junior counselor at a Taiwanese American summer camp.

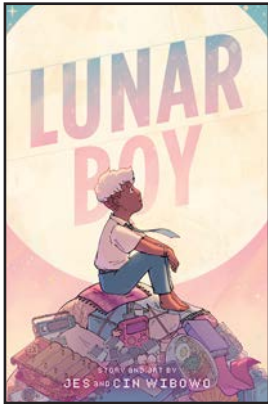
Sensing a rift between the two, their parents decide to send them both off to camp, much to Michelle's dismay. As summer continues, both sisters learn more about their heritage and each other. But Michelle must eventually decide to either embrace her culture and her family or assimilate into the popular group at school. Which will she choose?



The Circuit by Francisco Jiménez, Adapted by Andrew J. Rostan

An honest and evocative account of a family's journey from Mexico to the fields of California—and to a life of backbreaking work and constant household moves—as seen through the eyes of a boy who longs for education and the right to call one place home.

A popular choice for community reads, as well as school curricula and curriculum adoptions, Francisco Jiménez's award-winning memoir, now brought to life in Celia Jacob's beautiful and resonant artwork, is a powerful story of survival, faith, and hope.



Lunar Boy by Jes and Cin Wibowo

Indu, a boy from the moon, feels like he doesn't belong. He hasn't since he and his adoptive mom disembarked from their spaceship—their home—to live on New Earth with their new blended family. The kids at school think he's weird, he has a crush on his pen pal who might not like him back, and his stepfamily doesn't seem to know what to do with him. Worst of all, Indu can't even talk to his mom about how he's feeling because she's so busy.

A heartwarming coming-of-age graphic novel about a young boy from the moon who discovers a home in the most unlikely of places.

How It All Ends by Emma Hunsinger

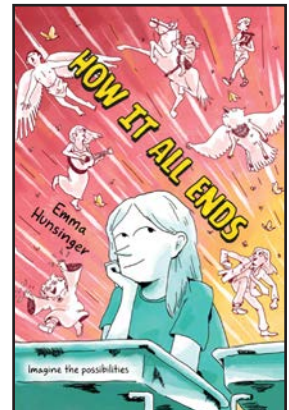
Thirteen-year-old Tara lives inside the nonstop adventure of her imagination. It's far more entertaining than dull, everyday life. But when she's bumped from seventh grade directly to high school, she gets a dramatic jolt to reality.

Now Tara is part of a future she doesn't feel at all ready for. She's not ready to watch the racy shows the high school kids like, or to listen to the angsty music, or to stop playing make-believe with her younger brother. She's not ready to change for PE in front of everyone, or for the chaos of the hallways, or for the anarchy of an English class that's overrun with fourteen-year-old boys.

But then there's Libby.

Tara doesn't know whether she's ready for Libby. She can't even explain who Libby is to her because she doesn't know yet. She just knows that everything's more fun when she and her new classmate are together. But what will happen next? How will it all end?

How It All Ends is a book about being overwhelmed by who you are and who you might be—and all the possibilities in between.





Brownstone by Samuel Teer & Mar Julia

Almudena has always wondered about the dad she never met.

Now, with her white mother headed on a once-in-a-lifetime trip without her, she's left alone with her Guatemalan father for an entire summer, navigating the language barrier of his rapid-fire Spanish—which she doesn't speak.

As Almudena tries to adjust to this new reality, she gets to know the residents of Xavier's Latin American neighborhood. Each member of the community has their own joys and heartbreaks as well as their own strong opinions on how this young Latina should talk, dress, and behave. Some can't understand why she doesn't know where she comes from. Others think she's "not brown enough" to fit in.

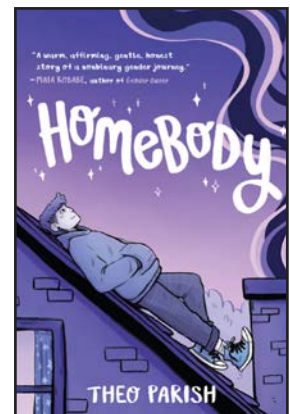
A vivid, sweeping, ultimately hopeful story about navigating your heritage, even when you feel like you don't quite fit in.



Homebody by Theo Parish

An intimate and defiantly hopeful memoir about the journey one nonbinary person takes to find a home within themselves. Combining traditional comics with organic journal-like interludes, Theo takes us through their experiences with the hundred arbitrary and unspoken gender binary rules of high school, from harrowing haircuts and finally the right haircut, to the intersection of gender identity and sexuality—and through tiny everyday moments that all led up to Theo finding the term "nonbinary."

"We are all just trying to find a place to call our own. We are all deserving of comfort and safety, a place to call home."

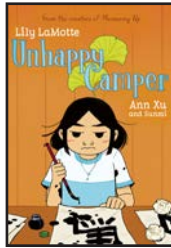




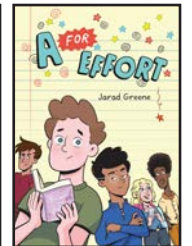
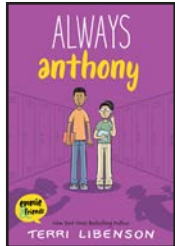
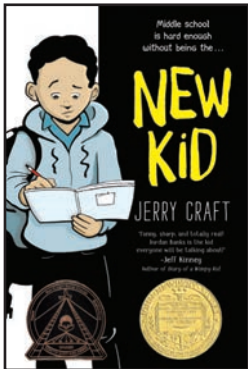
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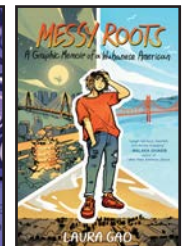
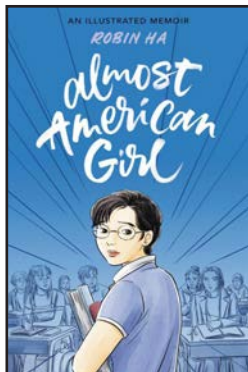
Navigating Identity



School Dynamics



Memoirs

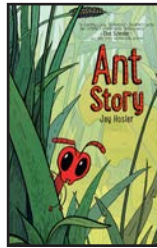
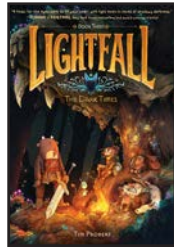




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