

Graphic novels

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Graphic novels are stories told using both pictures and words. They are a type of book, rather than a genre, and come in both fiction and non-fiction.

The history of graphic novels

People have been telling stories with pictures since ancient times. Before printed books people used cave drawings, hieroglyphics and tapestries to tell stories.

Stories told in graphic form have been published since before the 1800s. Comic strips were originally published in newspapers then republished in books.

Will Eisner is seen as the founder of modern graphic novels. He published 'A Contract with God' in 1978.

Recently there have been a lot of reprints of novels as graphic novels, especially Shakespeare and the classics, and some popular YA series.

Common themes

Because graphic novels come in all genres, as well as non-fiction, there are no common themes. However superhero stories and memoirs are common stories to be published as graphic novels.

What's the difference between a comic and a graphic novel?

There isn't one. They've been called graphic novels because 'comics' sounds too childish, but comics are graphic novels and graphic novels are comics.

Famous graphic novel authors

Alan Moore

Frank Miller

Neil Gaiman

Cece Bell

Art Spiegelman

Anthony Horowitz

Albert Uderzo and Rene Goscinny

Literature awards to watch in this genre...

Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards

How are graphic novels different to manga?

Manga are Japanese graphic novels. They use different storytelling techniques to Western graphic novels.