



2019 Maverick Graphic Novel Annotated Reading List



Grades 6-8

Breach, J., & Holgate, D. (2018). *Clem Hetherington and the Ironwood race*. New York: Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic.

ISBN: 9780545814461

Publisher's Summary:

“A dangerous rally race... and archaeology?! Clementine Hetherington and her robot brother, Digory, have run away from the orphanage they've been living in since their parents died. Clem and Dig want to follow in their famous archaeologist mother's footsteps, but no one will take them seriously. Their chance arrives when a man from their past saves Digory's life, and to repay the debt they enter a multi-day rally race... to recover stolen artifacts! Clem and Dig hope to win so they can give them to a museum, but their opponents want to sell them on the black market. The Ironwood Race has no rules, and Clem and Dig might be in over their heads!” Great story about orphaned girl and her robot brother. The siblings must repay a debt by competing in a race for archeological artifacts.”

Commentary:

Clem Hetherington and the Ironwood race is a fun adventure that will appeal to both middle grade and high school students.

Brosgol, V. B. (2018). *Be Prepared*. Place of publication not identified: First Second.

ISBN: 9781626724457

Publisher's Summary:

"In *Be Prepared*, all Vera wants to do is fit in—but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford to send them to the best summer camps. Vera's single mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range—Russian summer camp.

Vera is sure she's found the one place she can fit in, but camp is far from what she imagined. And nothing could prepare her for all the "cool girl" drama, endless Russian history lessons, and outhouses straight out of nightmares!"

Commentary:

Although in *Be Prepared* a female protagonist who doesn't fit in—culturally and socioeconomically—goes to camp, it is truly a story for **anyone** who has ever felt that they didn't belong.

Gardner, W. (2018). *Fake blood*. NY, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

ISBN: 9781481495561

Publisher's Summary:

"It's the beginning of the new school year and AJ feels like everyone is changing but him. He hasn't grown or had any exciting summer adventures like his best friends have. He even has the same crush he's harbored for years. So AJ decides to take matters into his own hands. But how could a girl like Nia Winters ever like plain vanilla AJ when she only has eyes for vampires?

When AJ and Nia are paired up for a group project on Transylvania, it may be AJ's chance to win over Nia's affection by dressing up like the vamp of her dreams. And soon enough he's got more of Nia's attention than he bargained for when he learns she's a slayer.

Now AJ has to worry about self-preservation while also trying to save everyone he cares about from a real-life threat lurking in the shadows of Spoons Middle School."

Commentary:

This funny coming-of-age story for middle grade hits on popular vampire lore with a surprising twist that brings fantasy and real world together. The story's vampire backdrop provides a lighthearted take on real-world issues, including friendship strain in newly acquired 6th grade status, beginning love interests, and finding a place.

Larson, H. (2018). *All summer long*. New York: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group, LLC.

ISBN: 9780374310714

Publisher's Summary:

"Thirteen-year-old Bina has a long summer ahead of her. She and her best friend, Austin, usually do everything together, but he's off to soccer camp for a month, and he's been acting kind of weird lately anyway. So it's up to Bina to see how much fun she can have on her own. At first it's a lot of guitar playing, boredom, and bad TV, but things look up when she finds an unlikely companion in Austin's older sister, who enjoys music just as much as Bina. But then Austin comes home from camp, and he's acting even weirder than when he left. How Bina and Austin rise above their growing pains and reestablish their friendship and respect for their differences makes for a touching and funny coming-of-age story."

Commentary:

All Summer Long is a sweet story of that awkward transition between childhood and adolescence that is largely defined by figuring out who you want to be and whether or not friendships will survive.

Libenson, T. (2018). *Positively Izzy*. New York, NY: Balzer Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins.

ISBN: 9780062484963

Publisher's Summary:

"Middle school is all about labels.

Izzy is the dreamer. There's nothing Izzy loves more than acting in skits and making up funny stories. The downside? She can never quite focus enough to get her schoolwork done.

Bri is the brain. But she wants people to see there's more to her than just a report card full of As. At the same time, she wishes her mom would accept her the way she is and stop bugging her to "break out of her shell" and join drama club.

The girls' lives converge in unexpected ways on the day of a school talent show, which turns out to be even more dramatic than either Bri or Izzy could have imagined."

Commentary:

Positively Izzy is a cute follow-up to last year's *Invisible Emmie* that is great for addressing the awkward years of middle school and changing dynamics of friendships.

Mercado, Y., Wheeler, D., Jones, J. L., Wilson, D., & Stone, K. Z. (2018). *Sci-fu*. Portland, OR: Oni Press.

ISBN: 9781620104729

Publisher's Summary:

“Hip-hop, sci-fi and kung fu all hit the turntables for the mash-up mix of the year! Cartoonist/force of nature Yehudi Mercado (Pantalones, TX, Rocket Salvage) sets his sights on 1980s Brooklyn and Wax, a young mix-master who scratches the perfect beat and accidentally summons a UFO that transports his family, best friend, and current crush to the robot-dominated planet of Discopia. Now Wax and his crew must master the intergalactic musical martial art of Sci-Fu to fight the power and save Earth. Word to your mother.”

Commentary:

Sci-fu features bold lines and colors, in a graffiti-esq style that does a fun mash-up of 80's urban youth culture, aliens, and robots. With a male protagonist who pushes through family strife so they can work together to beat the odds, this comedy that will appeal to middle grade boys. In short, *Sci-fu* is an engaging and exciting story with art to match.

Morino, K., Beck, A., MacFarlane, Y. R., & Sharupa, J. (2018). *Giant spider & me: A post-apocalyptic tale*. Los Angeles, CA: Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.

ISBN: 9781626927544

Summary:

“A young girl named Nagi and a giant spider make an unusual pair in this post-apocalyptic story, but living in the mountains is lonely, and they've managed to find each other. Join them in their strangely sweet domestic bliss as they spend their days sharing tea and throwing picnics, proving that love (and delicious food) can bring together even the most unlikely of friends.” —Amazon

Commentary:

This adorable manga will help readers to see others as someone who is different that can be learned from and cared for instead of being feared. It also features some delicious and simple recipes.

Pullman, P., & Fordham, F. (2017). *The adventures of John Blake: Mystery of the ghost ship*. Oxford: Graphix.

ISBN: 9781338149128

Publisher's Summary:

“Trapped in the mists of time by a terrible research experiment gone wrong, John Blake and his mysterious ship are doomed to sail between the centuries, searching for a way home. In the ocean of the modern day, John rescues a shipwrecked young girl his own age, Serena, and promises to help.

But returning Serena to her own time means traveling to the one place where the ship is in most danger of destruction. The all-powerful Dahlberg Corporation has an ambitious leader with plans far greater and more terrible than anyone has realized, and he is hot on their trail. For only John, Serena, and the crew know Dahlberg's true intentions, and only they have the power to stop him from bending the world to his will...”

Commentary:

In this tale where a team of diverse crewmates from different countries as well as time periods must work together to keep another crewmen alive and help get a girl home, the illustrations are breathtaking and the story is captivating.

Tomasi, P., Jiménez, J., Sanchez, A., Borges, A., & Leigh, R. (2017). *Super Sons, Vol. 1: When I grow up*. Burbank, CA: DC Comics.

ISBN: 9781401274016

Publisher's Summary:

“Superboy (aka Jonathan Kent) and Robin (aka Damian Wayne) make their super hero duo debut in this all-new series SUPER SONS, part of DC Rebirth. This debut series looks at the lives of Robin and Superboy and their destiny to follow in their fathers' footsteps, while we meet a new villain whose ascension parallels the boys' own understanding of their powers-except that he believes it's his right to rule over every being on the planet!Collects SUPER SONS #1-6.”

Commentary:

Super Sons, Vol. 1 is a fun story about Robin and Superboy.

Weigel, J. (2018). *Quantum mechanics*. St. Louis, MO: The Lion Forge, LLC.

ISBN: 9781941302668

Publisher's Summary:

“On a nowhere asteroid on the far rim of the galaxy, two young alien girls-Rox and Zam-spend their days tearing apart and repairing clunkers in a spaceship junkyard. These aspiring gearheads yearn for the chance to test their skills on something besides rusted old rockets and broken down planet-hoppers. Their big chance finally comes when the captain of a mysterious ship called the *Quasar Torrent* enlists the kids for some repair work. But what initially looks like a golden opportunity quickly becomes a nightmare when the young friends find they've been kidnapped by what turns out to be a band of space pirates! Rox and Zam find themselves swept up in the astrobucaneers' vendetta against a huge intergalactic corporation that's forced this motley band of working stiffs from across space into a life of crime. Now the girls must chose: do they want the comforts of home and family, or the glamorous adventure of a lifetime-to be part of a crew of colorful misfits intent on plunder, revenge, and excitement? Their lives, friendship . . . and maybe even the fate of a galaxy . . . hangs in the balance!”

Commentary:

Diverse female protagonists must make difficult choices in the course of their adventure.

Grades 6-12

Anderson, L. H. (2018). *Speak: The Graphic Novel*. Xx: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

ISBN: 9780374300289

Publisher's Summary:

“‘Speak up for yourself--we want to know what you have to say.’ From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless—an outcast—because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. Through her work on an art project, she is finally able to face what really happened that night: She was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. With powerful illustrations by Emily Carroll, Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak: The Graphic Novel* comes alive for new audiences and fans of the classic novel.”

Commentary:

This is an amazing graphic adaptation of Anderson's original young adult novel in which black and white illustrations are used to reflect the protagonists' mental landscape.

Bendis, B. M., Caselli, S., Gracia, M., & Cowles, C. (2018). *Invincible Iron Man*. New York, NY: Marvel Worldwide.

ISBN: 9781302906726

Publisher's Summary:

“A new Iron Age begins! From the violent streets of Chicago, a new armored hero rises! Clad in her very own Iron Man armor, Riri Williams is ready to show the world what she can do as the self-made hero of tomorrow. Her technology just might change the face of the Marvel Universe forever...if she survives the experience. But is she ready for all the problems that come with stepping into Iron Man's jet boots? Where's a genius billionaire playboy philanthropist when you need one?” COLLECTING: INVINCIBLE IRON MAN 1-6

Commentary:

Young genius Riri Williams dons her own version of Tony Stark's Iron Man suit to continue his legacy. As Riri's story not only features diverse characters but is also a well written and skillfully illustrated addition to the Marvel Universe, this title will appeal to a wide variety of readers.

Colfer, E., Donkin, A., & Rigano, G. (2018). *Illegal*. Sourcebooks.

ISBN: 9781492662143

Publisher's Summary:

“Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared, and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life—the same journey their sister set out on months ago. But Ebo refuses to be left behind in Ghana. He sets out after Kwame and joins him on the quest to reach Europe. Ebo's epic journey takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his family.”

Commentary:

Illegal brings light to human trafficking and is one that many Texas teens can identify with.

Dawson, D. S., Woods, A. A., Farrow, B., Nalty, R., & Campbell, J. (2017). *Ladycastle*. Los Angeles, CA: Boom! Studios.

ISBN: 9781684150328

Publisher's Summary:

"When all the men in Mancastle get eaten by a dragon, the women take over! Now the blacksmith's wife Merinor is King, Princess Aeve is the Captain, and the only remaining (and least capable) knight Sir Riddick is tasked with teaching the ladies of the castle how to defend against all manner of monsters! Novelist Delilah S. Dawson (*Star Wars: The Perfect Weapon*, *As Wicked as She Wants*, *Wake of Vultures*) brings her first original series to comics, and is joined by breakthrough illustrators Ashley A. Woods (*Niobe: She Is Life*) and Becca Farrow for a rollicking fantasy adventure featuring women reclaiming their lives on their terms."

Commentary:

Women power! In this fun and funny take on the traditional knight's tale, women take over the castle (and take on the patriarchy).

Giffen, K. (2017). *Blue beetle 1: The more things change - rebirth*. Burbank, CA: Dc Comics.

ISBN: 9781401268688

Publisher's Summary:

"Bonded to the Blue Beetle Scarab, teenager Jamie Reyes has no idea what he's doing with one of the most powerful weapons in the universe. But he's in luck, because his predecessor—Ted Kord—is back in the DC Universe and here to serve as the young hero's mentor! Alongside fellow teen hero Doctor Fate, this duo will have to learn how to be heroes on the fly! Written by the legendary Keith Giffen (*LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES*) and illustrated by Scott Kolins (*THE FLASH*), Blue Beetle is back for a new generation as a part of DC Rebirth!"

Commentary:

Blue Beetle, Vol. 1 : The More Things Change is a new rebirth collection which features a reluctant teen superhero caught up in an ancient magical—or possibly intergalactic—feud. The story is set in El Paso, Texas and has characters that adolescents can easily relate to. Furthermore, this title depicts latino characters, positive family dynamics, and friendships that are supportive but realistic in their day-to-day feuding.

Gillman, M. (2017). *As the Crow Flies*. Iron Circus Comics.

ISBN: 9781945820069

Publisher's Summary:

"Charlie Lamonte is thirteen years old, queer, black, and questioning what was once a firm belief in God. So naturally, she's spending a week of her summer vacation stuck at an all-white Christian youth backpacking camp. As the journey wears on and the rhetoric wears thin, she can't help but poke holes in the pious obliviousness of this storied sanctuary with little regard for people like herself . . . or her fellow camper, Sydney."

Commentary:

Readers will find a non-stereotyped depiction of a queer, black, adolescent, female protagonist as well as masterful, nuanced discussions of heavy topics—questioning prevailing hegemonic narratives regarding religion, gender identity, sexuality, race and its relationship to past prosperity, feminism, and oppression.

Hale, N. (2017). *Raid of No Return (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #7): A World War II Tale of the Doolittle Raid*. Harry N. Abrams.

ISBN: 9781419725562

Publisher's Summary:

"On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, officially bringing the United States into World War II. A new generation of pilots were recruited to fly bombing missions for the United States, and from that group, volunteers were requested for a dangerous secret assignment. For the first time in American history, Army bombers would be launched from an aircraft carrier. Once at sea, they were told their mission was a retaliation strike against targets in Tokyo. But on the day of the raid, a Japanese patrol boat spotted them and they had to launch early, with barely enough fuel to get them past their target. After the bombing, some pilots crashed, some were captured, and many ended up in mainland China and were carried to safety by Chinese villagers, being hunted by Japanese forces all the while. With tales of high-flying action and bravery, *Raid of No Return* is a story of heartbreak and survival during wartime."

Commentary:

In this historical account of Doolittle's Raiders and the attack they launched on Japan after Pearl Harbor, Hale tackles World War II—a topic that fans have been clamoring for—with his usual degree of thoroughly researched panache.

Ishizuka, C., & Tanaka, M. (2017). *Flying witch, vol. 1*. New York, NY: Vertical Comics.

ISBN: 9781945054099

Publisher's Summary:

"Makoto Kowata, a novice witch, packs up her belongings (including a black cat familiar) and moves in with her distant cousins in rural Aomori to complete her training and become a full-fledged witch"

Commentary:

Flying witch, vol. 1 is a sweet look at everyday life in the genre of magical realism—a charming story reminiscent of *Kiki's Delivery Service*.

Krosoczka, J. (2018). *Hey, kiddo: How I lost my mother, found my father, and dealt with family addiction*. New York, NY: Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic.

ISBN: 9780545902472

Publisher's Summary:

"In kindergarten, Jarrett Krosoczka's teacher asks him to draw his family, with a mommy and a daddy. But Jarrett's family is much more complicated than that. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and in and out of Jarrett's life. His father is a mystery—Jarrett doesn't know where to find him, or even what his name is. Jarrett lives with his grandparents—two very loud, very loving, very opinionated people who had thought they were through with raising children until Jarrett came along.

Jarrett goes through his childhood trying to make his non-normal life as normal as possible, finding a way to express himself through drawing even as so little is being said to him about what's going on. Only as a teenager can Jarrett begin to piece together the truth of his family, reckoning with his mother and tracking down his father.

Hey, Kiddo is a profoundly important memoir about growing up in a family grappling with addiction, and finding the art that helps you survive."

Commentary:

Hey, kiddo is an honest memoir that depicts family addiction, a flawed family, a diverse family unit, and healing through art.

Kumanomata, K. (2018). *Sleepy princess in the demon castle, vol. 1*. San Francisco, CA: Viz Media.

ISBN: 9781974700189

Publisher's Summary:

“Kidnapped by the Demon King and imprisoned in his castle, Princess Syalis is...bored. She decides to while away the hours by sleeping, but getting a good night's rest turns out to be a lot of work! She begins by fashioning a DIY pillow out of the fur of her Teddy Demon guards and an 'air mattress' from the magical Shield of the Wind. The princess's hapless demonic guards soon discover that their captive expects to be treated like, well, a princess. Things go from bad to worse—for her captors—when some of Princess Syalis's schemes end in her untimely—if temporary—demise and she chooses the Forbidden Grimoire for her bedtime reading...

Commentary:

Sleepy princess in the demon castle, vol. 1 is a fun manga with tons of RPG easter eggs!

Macaione, G., & Adragna, G. (2018). *Alice: From dream to dream*. Los Angeles, CA: BOOM! Studios, a division of Boom Entertainment.

ISBN: 9781684151806

Publisher's Summary:

“Alice has the ability to enter other people's dreams...but not always the way she wants or expects!

After moving back to Ohio, Alice is stuck sharing a bedroom with her brother, and worse, sharing his dreams! The bright spot in her life is her best friend, Jamie, but there's more history between their families than Alice realized, and there are secrets buried deep in their small town that only she'll be able to explore...but only in her dreams!”

Commentary:

Alice: From Dream to Dream is an exciting tale of magical realism in which family, friends, and secrets weave a tangled web through which the protagonist must wade in order to navigate some very delicate issues.

Marsden, M., Thummler, B., & Montgomery, L. M. (2017). *Anne of Green Gables a graphic novel*. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel Publishing.

ISBN: 9781449479602

Summary:

“The magic of L.M. Montgomery’s treasured classic is reimagined in a whimsically-illustrated graphic novel adaptation perfect for newcomers and kindred spirits alike.

When Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert decide to adopt an orphan who can help manage their family farm, they have no idea what delightful trouble awaits them. With flame-red hair and an unstoppable imagination, 11-year-old Anne Shirley takes Green Gables by storm.

Anne’s misadventures bring a little romance to the lives of everyone she meets: her bosom friend, Diana Barry; the town gossip, Mrs. Lynde; and that infuriating tease, Gilbert Blythe. From triumphs and thrills to the depths of despair, Anne turns each everyday moment into something extraordinary.” —Amazon

Commentary:

With lively and beautifully detailed artwork, this is a wonderful adaptation of a L. M. Montgomery’s classic young adult novel.

O’Connor, T., Crank!, & Farina, K. (2018). *The altered history of Willow Sparks*. Portland, Or.: Oni Press.

ISBN: 9781620104507

Publisher’s Summary:

“Willow Sparks and her best friend Georgia Pratt are at the bottom of the social ladder at Twin Pines High School, just trying to get through each day relatively unscathed. But when Willow finds a mysterious book that allows her to literally change her life, it feels like her luck is finally turning. As she becomes more and more popular with each entry into the book, her old life, including her friendship with Georgia, seems miles away. Yet as Willow will discover, every action has a reaction, and the future has unusual—even dangerous—ways of protecting itself.”

Commentary:

Even though fantastical elements add some magic, there is also a realistic and relatable high school story being told. Many teens will be able to relate to Willow being sucked into the power to rewrite her own life.

O'Neill, K., & Temofonte, S. (2017). *The Tea Dragon Society*. Portland, OR: Oni Press.

ISBN: 9781620104415

Publisher's Summary:

“After discovering a lost tea dragon in the marketplace, Greta learns about the dying art form of tea dragon care-taking from the kind tea shop owners, Hesekei and Erik. As she befriends them and their shy ward, Minette, Greta sees how the craft enriches their lives--and eventually her own.

BONUS CONTENT: Included in this gorgeous, oversized hardcover is *Extracts from the Tea Dragons Handbook*, explaining more about the creatures with illustrations of all the dragon breeds not seen in the graphic novel.”

Commentary:

This is a unique and lovely title from the creator of *Princess Princess* that will inspire breed loyalty similar to houses or factions.

Ostertag, M. (2017). *The witch boy*. New York , NY: Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic.

ISBN: 9781338089523

Publisher's Summary:

“In thirteen-year-old Aster's family, all the girls are raised to be witches, while boys grow up to be shapeshifters. Anyone who dares cross those lines is exiled. Unfortunately for Aster, he still hasn't shifted . . . and he's still fascinated by witchery, no matter how forbidden it might be.

When a mysterious danger threatens the other boys, Aster knows he can help—as a witch. It will take the encouragement of a new friend, the non-magical and non-conforming Charlie, to convince Aster to try practicing his skills. And it will require even more courage to save his family . . . and be truly himself.”

Commentary:

The Witch Boy gently challenges ideas of gender conformity and subverts societal messaging that teenagers who don't adhere to these practices should change in order to fit in—all within the context of magic!

Pullman, P., Melchior-Durand, S., Oubrerie, C., Bruno, P., Eaton, A., & Pullman, P. (2017). *The golden compass: The graphic novel*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

ISBN: 9780553535167

Publisher's Summary:

"The graphic novel adaptation of *The Golden Compass*... is now complete! This edition contains all three volumes—the entire story.

...Now, in this graphic novel adaptation of *The Golden Compass*, the world of *His Dark Materials* is brought to visual life. The stunning full-color art will offer both new and returning readers a chance to experience the story of Lyra, an ordinary girl with an extraordinary role to play in the fates of multiple worlds...."

Commentary:

This graphic adaptation of *The Golden Compass* is BEAUTIFUL! It perfectly illustrates the novel and makes it easier for readers to understand what is happening. Moreover, the illustrations are stunning.

Revoy, A. J. (2018). *Animus*. New York: First Second.

ISBN: 9781626721838

Summary:

"The residents of a quiet Japanese neighborhood have slowly come to realize that inauspicious, paranormal forces are at play in the most unlikely of places: the local playground. Two friends, a young boy and girl, resolve to exorcise the evil that inhabit it, including a snaggle-toothed monster" —OCLC.

Commentary:

A haunted playground and a mystery and a toothless ghost combine to make this a creepy, but enjoyable story.

Sedgwick, M. & Taylor, T. (2018). *Monster hunter: Scarlett Hart*. New York: First Second.

ISBN: 9781626720268

Publisher's Summary:

“Scarlett Hart, orphaned daughter of two legendary monster hunters, is determined to carry on in her parents' footsteps—even if the Royal Academy for the Pursuit and Eradication of Zoological Eccentricities says she's too young to fight perilous horrors. But whether it's creepy mummies or a horrid hound, Scarlett won't back down, and with the help of her loyal butler and a lot of monster-mashing gadgets, she's on the case.

With her parent's archrival, Count Stankovic, ratting her out to T.R.A.P.E.Z.E. and taking all the monster-catching rewards for himself, it's getting hard for Scarlett to do what she was born to do. And when more monsters start mysteriously manifesting than ever before, Scarlett knows she has to get to the bottom of it and save the city . . . whatever the danger!”

Commentary:

Monster hunter is a fun middle grade graphic novel with the potential for sequels.

Shirai, K., & Posuka, D. (2017). *Promised neverland, vol. 1-4*. Viz Media, Subs. Of Shogakukan.

ISBNs: 9781421597126; 9781421597133; 9781421597140; 9781421597157

Publisher's Summary:

“Emma, Norman and Ray are the brightest kids at the Grace Field House orphanage. And under the care of the woman they refer to as “Mom,” all the kids have enjoyed a comfortable life. Good food, clean clothes and the perfect environment to learn—what more could an orphan ask for? One day, though, Emma and Norman uncover the dark truth of the outside world they are forbidden from seeing.”

Commentary:

This amazing manga series about a group of orphans who find out that their home is not what it seems is not only a major award winner in Japan but also the basis for an anime that is being developed for release next year.

Smith, K., Lustgarten, K., & Franquiz, N. (2017). *Misfit city, vol. 1*. Los Angeles, CA: BOOM! Box, a division of Boom Entertainment.

ISBN: 9781684150274

Publisher's Summary:

"Nothing's happened in Wilder's hometown since they filmed that cult kids' adventure movie there in the 80s...but that's ancient history. Until one day, she and her friends come upon a centuries-old pirate map drawn by someone named Black Mary...and find out there might be some REAL adventure in their tiny town after all!"

Commentary:

"It's feminist, inclusive, nostalgic, and funny as heck. " Lisa, No Flying No Tights

Thummler, B. (2018). *Sheets*. Saint Louis, MO: The Lion Forge, LLC.

ISBN: 9781941302675

Publisher's Summary:

"Marjorie Glatt feels like a ghost. A practical thirteen-year-old in charge of the family laundry business, her daily routine features unforgiving customers, unbearable P.E. classes, and the fastidious Mr. Saubertuck who is committed to destroying everything she's worked for.

Wendell is a ghost. A boy who lost his life much too young, his daily routine features ineffective death therapy, a sheet-dependent identity, and a dangerous need to seek purpose in the forbidden human world.

When their worlds collide, Marjorie is confronted by unexplainable disasters as Wendell transforms Glatt's Laundry into his midnight playground, appearing as a mere sheet during the day. While Wendell attempts to create a new afterlife for himself, he unknowingly sabotages the life that Marjorie is struggling to maintain."

Commentary:

Sheets is a poignant depiction of middle grade inner life that is full of beautiful imagery and sensitive storytelling of weighty topics including loss; self-understanding; understanding of place in family or community; and ghosts—both literal and metaphorical.

Wang, J. (2018). *The Prince and the Dressmaker*. First Second.

ISBN: 9781250159854

Publisher's Summary:

"Paris, at the dawn of the modern age:

Prince Sebastian is looking for a bride—or rather, his parents are looking for one for him. Sebastian is too busy hiding his secret life from everyone. At night he puts on daring dresses and takes Paris by storm as the fabulous Lady Crystallia—the hottest fashion icon in the world capital of fashion!

Sebastian's secret weapon (and best friend) is the brilliant dressmaker Frances—one of only two people who know the truth: sometimes this boy wears dresses. But Frances dreams of greatness, and being someone's secret weapon means being a secret. Forever. How long can Frances defer her dreams to protect a friend?"

Commentary:

This is a sweet modern take on the classic fairy tale romance that addresses and artfully navigates some current concerns of modern society such as sexuality, identity, tolerance, acceptance, attraction, and gender fluidity.

Wilson, G. W., Leon, N., Herring, I., & Caramagna, J. (2018). *Ms. Marvel, Vol 9: Teenage Wasteland*. New York, NY: Marvel Worldwide,, a subsidiary of Marvel Entertainment, LLC.

ISBN: 9781302910785

Publisher's Summary:

"Kamala Khan has vanished! But where has she gone, and why? Jersey City still has a need for heroes, and in the wake of Ms. Marvel's disappearance, dozens have begun stepping up to the plate. The city's newest superhero Red Dagger and even ordinary citizens attempt to carry on the brave fight in Kamala's honor. Somehow, Ms. Marvel is nowhere...but also everywhere at once! Absent but not forgotten, Ms. Marvel has forged a heroic legacy to be proud of. But when an old enemy re-emerges, will anyone be powerful enough to truly carry the Ms. Marvel legacy - except Kamala herself?" Collecting: Ms. Marvel 25-30

Commentary:

Ms. Marvel, Vol 9: Teenage Wasteland is an awesome story of friendship and self-discovery as well as a little bit of romance.

Grades 9-12

Ahmed, S., Ward, C., Irving, F., & Cowles, C. (2017). *Black Bolt: Hard Time*(Vol. 1). New York, NY: Marvel Worldwide,, a subsidiary of Marvel Entertainment, LLC.

ISBN: 9781302907327

Publisher's Summary:

“The silent king of the Inhumans stars in his first-ever solo series! But it begins with Black Bolt...imprisoned?! Where exactly is he? Why has he been jailed? And who could be powerful enough to hold the uncanny Black Bolt? The answers to both will shock you—and Black Bolt as well! For if he is to learn the truth, he must first win a fight to the death with a fellow inmate—the Absorbing Man! Award-winning science fiction writer Saladin Ahmed (*Throne of the Crescent Moon*) crafts a story as trippy as it is action-packed, with truly mind-bending art from the one-and-only Christian Ward (*ODY-C*)!” COLLECTING: BLACK BOLT 1-6

Commentary:

Black Bolt: Hard Time is an accessible introduction to a lesser known superhero; moreover, this title is action packed and filled with shades of grey.

Bagieu, P., & Kane, M. (2018). *Brazen: Rebel ladies who rocked the world*. New York: First Second, an imprint of Roaring Book Press.

ISBN: 9781626728691

Publisher's Summary:

“Throughout history and across the globe, one characteristic connects the daring women of *Brazen*: their indomitable spirit.

With her characteristic wit and dazzling drawings, celebrated graphic novelist Penelope Bagieu profiles the lives of these feisty female role models, some world famous, some little known. From Nellie Bly to Mae Jemison or Josephine Baker to Naziq al-Abid, the stories in this comic biography are sure to inspire the next generation of rebel ladies.

This title has Common Core connections.”

Commentary:

This anthology provides a wide variety of graphic biographies of women from all walks of life and all around the world who changed history, the world, and their communities.

Chii. (2018). *The Bride Was a Boy*. SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT, LLC.

ISBN: 9781626928886

Summary:

“The heartwarming transgender love story, based on true events! Drawn in the style of diary comics with an upbeat, adorable flair, this is a charming tale about Chii, a woman assigned male at birth. Her story starts with her childhood and follows the ups and downs of exploring her sexuality, gender, and transition -- as well as falling in love with a man who's head over heels for her. Now they want to get married, so Chii's about to embark on a new adventure: becoming a bride!” —Amazon

Commentary:

The Bride Was a Boy gives insight into the transgender process in Japan as well as telling the author's own transition story; it is sure to capture the interest of high school students.

Coates, T., Gay, R., & Harvey, Y. (2017). *Black Panther: World of wakanda*(Vol. 1). New York, NY: Marvel Worldwide.

ISBN: 9781302906504

Publisher's Summary:

“You know them now as the Midnight Angels, but in this story they are just Ayo and Aneka, young women recruited to become Dora Milaje, an elite task force trained to protect the crown of Wakanda at all costs. Their first assignment will be to protect Queen Shuri... but what happens when your nation needs your hearts and minds, but you already gave them to each other? Meanwhile, former king T'Challa lies with bedfellows so dark, disgrace is inevitable. Plus, explore the true origins of the People's mysterious leader, Zenzi.”

Commentary:

Black Panther: World of Wakanda is a fast-paced background story to the Black Panther movies and comics. This title is a beautifully written LGBTQ romance-action/adventure story.

Col, A. D., Dell'Edera, W., Simeone, S., & Bowland, S. (2017). *Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys: The big lie*. Mt. Laurel, NJ: Dynamite Entertainment.

ISBN: 9781524104177

Publisher's Summary:

“A Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys mystery unlike any other you've ever read! When the teenage brothers Frank and Joe Hardy are accused of the murder of their father—a detective in the small resort town of Bayport—they must team up with Nancy Drew to prove their innocence (and find the real guilty party in the process) in a twisting noir tale, complete with double-crosses, deceit, and dames. Writer Anthony Del Col (*Assassin's Creed, Kill Shakespeare*) and artist Werther Dell'Edera (*Batman: Detective Comics, House of Mystery*) bring the iconic teen detectives into the modern age, and redefine noir for a new generation of readers!”

Commentary:

Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys: The Big Lie will hold the reader's interest to the very end with its exciting twists at every angle. Furthermore, readers who are not familiar with the old Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys as well as those who are will enjoy this modern adaptation of these characters.

Ellis, G., Beagle, S., Leth, K., Quirk, C., Cowles, C., & McCubbin, L. (2018). *Moonstruck: Magic to brew* (Vol. 1). Portland, OR: Image Comics.

ISBN: 9781534304772

Publisher's Summary:

“Werewolf barista Julie and her new girlfriend go on a date to a close-up magic show, but all heck breaks loose when the magician casts a horrible spell on their friend Chet. Now it's up to the team of mythical pals to stop the illicit illusionist before it's too late.” Collects issues 1-5

Commentary:

This graphic novel is awesome! It is diverse, inclusive, magical, and fun! Moonstruck is set in a universe where centaurs and lesbian werewolves work together in coffee shops that serve everyone. Overall, it is a wonderful display of how LGBTQ creatures and humans can work together to form a kind and respectful community.

Gedris, M. R. (2018). *Spectacle*. Portland, OR: Oni Press.

ISBN: 9781620104927

Publisher's Summary:

“Pragmatic engineer Anna works as a psychic in the Samson Brothers Circus, but she doesn't believe in anything supernatural—until her twin sister Kat is murdered and comes back as a very demanding ghost. Sharing a room with her sister was hard, but now they're sharing a body while trying to identify the killer. With few leads, a troupe full of secretive folk, and strange paranormal occurrences popping up around the circus, solving the case seems near impossible. But the murderer in their midst may be the least of their problems...”

Commentary:

Spectacle is a creepy and fantastical mystery about murder in the circus. Fun illustrations and a great setting help create an engaging mystery that will keep the reader hooked.

Bechko, C., Hardman, G., Boyd, J., & Bowland, S. (2018). *Green Lantern: Earth One* (Vol. 1). Burbank, CA: DC Comics.

ISBN: 9781401241865

Publisher's Summary:

“Hal Jordan yearns for the thrill of discovery, but the days when astronaut and adventure were synonymous are long gone. His gig prospecting asteroids for Ferris Galactic is less than fulfilling—but at least he's not on Earth, where technology and culture have stagnated. When Jordan finds a powerful ring, he also finds a destiny to live up to. There are worlds beyond his own, unlike anything he ever imagined. But revelation comes with a price: the Green Lantern Corps has fallen, wiped out by ruthless killing machines known as Manhunters. The odds against reinstating the Corps are nearly impossible...but doing the impossible is exactly what Hal Jordan was trained to do!”

Commentary:

This reboot of the Green Lantern's origin story is an interesting take on the Lantern mythology and a great entry point for new readers.

Hennessey, J., Greenwood, J., Simpson, B., Harding, M., & Brosseau, P. (2017). *Alexander Hamilton: The graphic history of an American founding father*. California: Ten Speed Press.

ISBN: 9780399580000

Publisher's Summary:

“Alexander Hamilton was one of the most influential figures in United States history—he fought in the Revolutionary War, helped develop the Constitution, and as the first Secretary of the Treasury established landmark economic policy that we still use today. Cut down by a bullet from political rival Aaron Burr, Hamilton has since been immortalized alongside other Founding Fathers such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson—his likeness even appears on the ten-dollar bill. In this fully-illustrated and impeccably researched graphic novel-style history, author Jonathan Hennessey and comic book illustrator Justin Greenwood bring Alexander Hamilton's world to life, telling the story of this improbable hero who helped shape the United States of America.”

Commentary:

Alexander Hamilton: The graphic history of an American founding father is a graphic novel biography of the American legend who inspired the hit Broadway musical *Hamilton*.

MariNaomi. (2018). *Losing the girl* (Book 1, *Life on Earth*). Minneapolis: Graphic Universe, a division of Lerner Publishing Group.

ISBN: 9781512449105

Publisher's Summary:

“Claudia Jones is missing. Her classmates are thinking the worst . . . or at least the weirdest. It couldn't be an alien abduction, right?”

None of Claudia's classmates at Blithedale High know why she vanished--and they're dealing with their own issues. Emily's trying to handle a life-changing surprise. Paula's hoping to step out of Emily's shadow. Nigel just wants to meet a girl who will laugh at his jokes. And Brett hardly lets himself get close to anybody.

In *Losing the Girl*, the first book in the *Life on Earth* trilogy, Eisner-nominated cartoonist MariNaomi looks at life through the eyes of four suburban teenagers: early romance, fraying friendships, and the traces of a mysterious—maybe otherworldly—disappearance. Different chapters focus on different characters, each with a unique visual approach.”

Commentary:

Sci-fi and reality are blended in this story seen from the point of view of four teens.

Pacat, C. S., Mad, J. T., Lafuente, J., & Campbell, J. (2018). *Fence* (Vol. 1). Berkeley, CA: BOOM! Box.

ISBN: 9781684151745

Publisher's Summary:

"Nicholas, the illegitimate son of a retired fencing champion, is a scrappy fencing wunderkind, and dreams of getting the chance and the training to actually compete. After getting accepted to the prodigious Kings Row private school, Nicholas is thrust into a cut-throat world, and finds himself facing not only his golden-boy half-brother, but the unbeatable, mysterious Seiji Katayama...

Through clashes, rivalries, and romance between teammates, Nicholas and the boys of Kings Row will discover there's much more to fencing than just foils and lunges. From acclaimed writer C.S. Pacat (*The Captive Prince*) and fan-favorite artist Johanna the Mad. "

Commentary:

As an action manga, *Fence* is subtle not only in its choice of content—focusing on European swordplay as the primary mode of combat, rather than a more conventional martial art—but also in its application technique. Diverse peoples are well represented here! They are characters in a rich narrative who happen to have diverse ethnicities, sexualities, sexual identities, etc.—without their diversity being the central conflict or a primary plot point. In short, *Fence's* excellent storytelling and nuanced inclusion of diversity will find an audience among those who are tired of having humanity's differences define its members.

Rowell, R., & Anka, K. (2018). *Runaways: Find your way home* (Vol. 1). New York, NY: Marvel Worldwide,, a subsidiary of Marvel Entertainment, LLC.

ISBN: 9781302908522

Publisher's Summary:

"Get ready to run! The IT book of the early 2000s with the original cast is back - Nico! Karolina! Molly! Chase! Old Lace! And, could it be? Gert?! The heart of the Runaways died years ago, but you won't believe how she returns! Superstar author Rainbow Rowell (*Eleanor & Park*, *Carry On*) makes her Marvel debut with fan-favourite artist Kris Anka (*All-new X-Men*, *Captain Marvel*) in the series that will shock you and break your heart! Did Chase and Gert's love survive their time apart? Have Karolina and Nico's feelings made their friendship impossible? What emotional landmines lie in wait to Destroy the Runaways?!" Collecting: Runaways 1-6

Commentary:

Although this is a story with characters who were introduced in the original *Runaways* series in the 2000s, knowledge of the original series is not required to enjoy this book. The ages of the characters (young teen through early adult) will surely spark the interest of current teens.

Rubio, S., Efa, Ortho, & Kane, M. (2017). *Monet: Itinerant of light*. New York: NBM Publishing.

ISBN: 9781681121390

Publisher's Summary:

“From many years without recognition, money and yet a family to raise, all the way to great success, critically and financially, Monet pursued insistently one vision: catching the light in painting, refusing to compromise on this ethereal pursuit. It cost him dearly but he was a beacon for his contemporaries. We discover in this comics biography how he came to this vision as well as his turbulent life pursuing it.”

Commentary:

The beautiful artwork wonderfully reflects the dynamic juxtapositions that constituted the man himself.

Shinkai, M., Kotone, R., Engel, T., & Blackman, A. (2017). *Your name* (Vol. 2-3). New York: Yen Press.

ISBNs: 9780316412889 & 9780316521178

Publisher's Summary:

“Mitsuha, a high school girl living in a small town in the mountains, has a dream that she's a boy living in Tokyo. Taki, a high school boy in Tokyo, dreams he's a girl living in a quaint little mountain town. Sharing bodies, relationships, and lives, the two become inextricably interwoven--but are any connections truly inseparable in the grand tapestry of fate?”

Written by director MAKOTO SHINKAI during the production of the film by the same title, *Your Name* is in turns funny, heartwarming, and heart-wrenching as it follows the struggles of two young people determined to hold on to one another.”

Commentary:

These follow up volumes to the 2018 nominee is an excellent wrap up of the story.

Tamaki, M., Jones, J., Florea, S., Fitzpatrick, K., & Temofonte, S. (2018). *Supergirl: Being super* (Vol. 1). Burbank, CA: DC Comics.

ISBN: 9781401268947

Publisher's Summary:

"She's super-strong. She can fly. She crash-landed on Earth in a rocket ship. But for Kara Danvers, winning the next track meet, celebrating her 16th birthday and surviving her latest mega-zit are her top concerns. And with the help of her best friends and her kinda-infuriating-but-totally-loving adoptive parents, she just might be able to put her troubling dreams—shattered glimpses of another world—behind her.

Until an earthquake shatters her small town of Midvale...and uncovers secrets about her past she thought would always stay buried.

Now Kara's incredible powers are kicking into high gear, and people she trusted are revealing creepy ulterior motives. The time has come for her to choose between the world where she was born and the only world she's ever known. Will she find a way to save her town and be super, or will she crash and burn?

Caldecott Honor and Eisner Award-winning writer Mariko Tamaki (*This One Summer*) and Eisner Award-nominated artist Joëlle Jones (*Lady Killer*) combine forces for this incredible coming-of-age tale! This is the Girl of Steel as you've never seen her before."

Commentary:

This is a great new take on Supergirl's teen years.

Weir, I. N., Steenz, Herrera, R., & Gil, J. (2018). *Archival quality*. Portland, OR: Oni Press.

ISBN: 9781620104705

Publisher's Summary:

"After losing her job at the library, Cel Walden starts working at the haunting Logan Museum as an archivist. But the job may not be the second chance she was hoping for, and she finds herself confronting her mental health, her relationships, and before long, her grasp on reality as she begins to dream of a young woman she's never met, but feels strangely drawn to. Especially after she asks Cel for help...

As Cel attempts to learn more about the woman, she begins losing time, misplacing things, passing out—the job is becoming dangerous, but she can't let go of this mysterious woman. Who is she? Why is she so fixated on Cel? And does Cel have the power to save her when she's still trying to save herself?"

Commentary:

As *Archival quality* touches on mental illness—depression and anxiety—and consequences of not seeking treatment, it's a truly modern Gothic horror story, replete with pathos and lots of personality.

Westerfeld, S., Puvilland, A., & Sycamore, H. (2018). *Spill zone: The broken vow* (Book 2). New York: First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press.

ISBN: 9781626721500

Publisher's Summary:

“Three years ago an event destroyed the small city of Poughkeepsie, forever changing reality within its borders. Strange manifestations and lethal dangers now await anyone who enters the Spill Zone. Addison got close enough to the Spill Zone to touch it, literally. She survived the encounter, but came back changed. It turns out she's not alone. North Korea has its own Spill Zone, and a young man named Don Jae is the only one who made it out alive. Alive, but changed. Now Addison, Don Jae, and, curiously, a rag doll named Vespertine, share an unholy bond and uncanny powers. From Scott Westerfeld, the inspired imagination behind the New York Times bestsellers *Uglies* and *Leviathan*, comes *The Broken Vow*, the second volume of our highly anticipated new graphic novel series.”

Commentary:

The second Spill Zone picks up right where the first one ends, and while we still don't REALLY know the exact cause of the Spill, many questions were answered in this sequel. There is much more action in this book than the first one, and it's definitely much less confusing. The illustrations are just as beautiful as in the first. The book is also a great display of people from different backgrounds (and nationalities) working together. While some of the monsters look like they were drawn quickly and hastily, the use of color was beautiful and unique.

Adult for Young Adult

Delisle, G. (2017). *Hostage*. Montréal: Drawn & Quarterly.

ISBN: 9781770462793

Publisher's Summary:

"In the middle of the night in 1997, Doctors Without Borders administrator Christophe Andre was kidnapped by armed men and taken away to an unknown destination in the Caucasus region. For three months, Andre was kept handcuffed in solitary confinement, with little to survive on and almost no contact with the outside world. Close to twenty years later, award-winning cartoonist Guy Delisle ... recounts Andre's harrowing experience in *Hostage*, a book that attests to the power of one man's determination in the face of a hopeless situation"

Commentary:

Hostage gives insight into Andr's inner turmoil while being held captive.

Evans, K. (2017). *Threads: From the refugee crisis*. London: Verso.

ISBN: 9781786631732

Publisher's Summary:

"In the French port town of Calais, famous for its historic lace industry, a city within a city arose. This new town, known as the Jungle, was home to thousands of refugees, mainly from the Middle East and Africa, all hoping, somehow, to get to the UK. Into this squalid shantytown of shipping containers and tents, full of rats and trash and devoid of toilets and safety, the artist Kate Evans brought a sketchbook and an open mind. Combining the techniques of eyewitness reportage with the medium of comic-book storytelling, Evans has produced this unforgettable book, filled with poignant images—by turns shocking, infuriating, wry, and heartbreaking.

Accompanying the story of Kate's time spent among the refugees—the insights acquired and the lives recounted—is the harsh counterpoint of prejudice and scapegoating arising from the political right. *Threads* addresses one of the most pressing issues of modern times to make a compelling case, through intimate evidence, for the compassionate treatment of refugees and the free movement of peoples. Evans's creativity and passion as an artist, activist, and mother shine through."

Commentary:

Kate Evans' heartbreaking and personal look at refugees living in "The Jungle" in Calais, France gives viewers insight into the crisis and makes it hard to look away from these people and their hopes for the future.

Franklin, T., St-Onge, J., Joy, S. J., & FT, G. (2018). *Bingo love*. Diamond Comic Distributors.

ISBN: 9781534307506

Publisher's Summary:

"When Hazel Johnson and Mari McCray met at church bingo in 1963, it was love at first sight. Forced apart by their families and society, Hazel and Mari both married young men and had families. Decades later, now in their mid-'60s, Hazel and Mari reunite again at a church bingo hall. Realizing their love for each other is still alive, what these grandmothers do next takes absolute strength and courage.

From TEE FRANKLIN (NAILBITER's "THE OUTFIT," *Love is Love*) and JENN ST-ONGE (*Jem & the Misfits*), *Bingo Love* is a touching story of love, family, and resiliency that spans over 60 years."

Commentary:

"With so many romance tales revolving around star-crossed youngsters, it's pretty refreshing to see a book that takes such an all-encompassing view of a relationship and acknowledges the difficulties people face in coming out at an older age." —*IGN*

Gaiman, N., Albuquerque, R., Scavone, R., & Stewart, D. (2018). *A study in emerald*. Milwaukie, OR: Dark Horse Books.

ISBN: Albuquerque

Publisher's Summary:

"This supernatural mystery set in the world of Sherlock Holmes and Lovecraft's Cthulhu Mythos features a brilliant detective and his partner as they try to solve a horrific murder.

This complex investigation takes the Baker Street investigators from the slums of Whitechapel all the way to the Queen's Palace as they attempt to find the answers to this bizarre murder of cosmic horror!

From the Hugo, Bram Stoker, Locus, World Fantasy, Nebula Award-winning, and New York Times bestselling writer Neil Gaiman comes this graphic novel adaptation with art by Eisner award-winning artist Rafael Albuquerque!"

Commentary:

In this graphic novel adaptation, Albuquerque's artistic skills for period horror are showcased, and nothing is as it seems.

Green, K. (2013). *Lighter than my shadow*. NY: Vintage.

ISBN: 9781941302415

Publisher's Summary:

"Like most kids, Katie was a picky eater. She'd sit at the table in silent protest, hide uneaten toast in her bedroom, listen to parental threats that she'd have to eat it for breakfast.

But in any life a set of circumstance can collide, and normal behavior might soon shade into something sinister, something deadly. One day you can find yourself being told you have two weeks to live.

Lighter Than My Shadow is a hand-drawn story of struggle and recovery, a trip into the black heart of a taboo illness, an exposure of those who are so weak as to prey on the weak, and an inspiration to anybody who believes in the human power to endure towards happiness."

Commentary:

Lighter Than My Shadow is a poignant graphic memoir with an intense first-person point of view depiction of anorexia. The narrative is hauntingly engaging, and the images provide a window into the mental landscape of the speaker.

Harvey, J., Levens, M., Filardi, N., & Crank! (2017). *Angel City: Town without pity*. Portland, OR: Oni Press.

ISBN: 9781620104262

Publisher's Summary:

"Introducing *Angel City*, a hard-boiled 1930s noir starring Dolores Dare, previous Hollywood hopeful and current enforcer for the Volante mob. When her best friend turns up dead in a dumpster behind the Chinese Theater, Dolores starts her own investigation of the "April Fool's Killer." As she gets closer to the truth, Dolores will go up against the studios, the corrupt homicide division, and even her own gangland contacts—and uncover a scandal that shakes the very foundations of Tinseltown."

Commentary:

Filled with mob-men and references to historic crimes, *Angel City* is sure to interest young adults in grades 9-12. Furthermore, the authors have made an offer readers simply can't refuse by including information about true crimes and people who make appearances in this story at the back of the book.

Quintero, I., & Peña, Z. (2018). *Photographic: The life of Graciela Iturbide*. Los Angeles: The J. Paul Getty Museum.

ISBN: 9781947440005

Publisher's Summary:

"Graciela Iturbide was born in Mexico City in 1942, the oldest of 13 children. When tragedy struck Iturbide as a young mother, she turned to photography for solace and understanding. From then on Iturbide embarked on a photographic journey that has taken her throughout her native Mexico, from the Sonora Desert to Juchitan to Frida Kahlo's bathroom, to the United States, India, and beyond. *Photographic* is a symbolic, poetic, and deeply personal graphic biography of this iconic photographer. Iturbide's journey will excite readers of all ages as well as budding photographers, who will be inspired by her resolve, talent, and curiosity."

Commentary:

"Mixing original illustrations, first-person prose, and lyrical interludes with gorgeous reproductions of photographer Graciela Iturbide's work, Quintero and Peña patiently reveal their subject's many angles, producing a "kaleidoscopic unraveling" of the artists... Teens will come away with an evolved sense of how to look at a creator's life and work and how to think critically about art as a process. The importance of being seen, specifically in regard to indigenous communities in Mexico and Mexican Americans in the United States, as a narrative thread will resonate strongly with readers. VERDICT Quintero and Peña have set a new standard in artist biographies. A must for teen collections." —SLJ

Snyder, S., Lemire, J., & Wands, S. (2017). *A.D.: After death*. Portland, OR: Image Comics.

ISBN: 9781632158680

Publisher's Summary:

"What if we found a cure for death? Two of comics' most acclaimed creators, SCOTT SNYDER (*WYTCHEs*, *Batman*, *American Vampire*) and JEFF LEMIRE (*DESCENDER*, *PLUTONA*, *Moon Knight*, *Sweet Tooth*) unite to create an epic like no other, set in a future where a genetic cure for death has been found. Years after the discovery, one man starts to question everything, leading him on a mind-bending journey that will bring him face-to-face with his past and his own mortality." Collects AD: AFTER DEATH #1-3.

Commentary:

This is the first of a planned trilogy. It's a great post-apocalyptic story that alternates between the present and unillustrated prose flashbacks.

Thompson, K., & Romero, L. (2017). *Hawkeye: Kate Bishop* (Vol. 1-3). New York: Marvel Comics.

ISBNs: 9781302905149, 9781302905156, & 9781302910976

Publisher's Summary:

"Remember Hawkeye? No, not that Hawkeye - your favorite Hawkeye, the former Young Avenger, the butt-kicking hero who had to save that other Hawkgy all the time and basically keep his life in some semblance of order. Yup, you know her, it's the dazzling Kate Bishop - making her solo comics debut! Kate is heading back out west and returning to Los Angeles, with her bow and arrow and P.I. badge in tow. There are crimes to solve and she's the best archer to handle 'em! The City of Angels has a new guardian angel. This is Kate Bishop like you've never seen her before, in a brand-new saga that really hits the mark!" Collecting *Hawkeye #1-16* And *Generations: Hawkeye & Hawkeye #1*.

Commentary:

"Kate Bishop is my Hawkeye, the best Hawkeye – uber skilled in archery and fighting, fun and snarky, impulsive and earnest, defiant and feminist." —Ana Grilo, *Kirkus*

Tynion, J., & Donovan, E. (2018). *Eugenic*. Los Angeles, CA: BOOM! Studios.

ISBN: 978-1684152063

Publisher's Summary:

"A brand new story of the apocalypse from horror masters James Tynion IV and Eryk Donovan, *Eugenic* tracks the evolution of humanity across three separate centuries as each set of descendants must grapple with the sins of their predecessors.

When a plague ravages the world, one scientist discovers the cure and becomes the savior of mankind. Hope is restored, and the world rebuilds. But then people who took the cure begin having children who are... unnatural, and the definition of "normal" is forever altered.

The GLAAD Award-nominated team of James Tynion IV (*Detective Comics*, *Memetic*) and Eryk Donovan (*Constantine: The Hellblazer*, *Quantum Teens are Go*) bring you a new vision of the apocalypse, exploring the conception and evolution of humanity's future across three separate centuries."

Commentary:

Eugenic is a dark dystopian view of what happens when humans alter DNA that challenges readers to consider the ethics of our technological capabilities.

Ukazu, N. (2018). *Check, please!: #Hockey* (Vol. 1). New York: First Second.

ISBN: 9781250177957

Publisher's Summary:

"Eric Bittle may be a former junior figure skating champion, vlogger extraordinaire, and very talented amateur pâtissier, but being a freshman on the Samwell University hockey team is a whole new challenge. It is nothing like co-ed club hockey back in Georgia! First of all? There's checking. And then, there is Jack—his very attractive but moody captain. A collection of the first half of the megapopular webcomic series of the same name, *Check, Please!: #Hockey* is the first book of a hilarious and stirring two-volume coming-of-age story about hockey, bros, and trying to find yourself during the best four years of your life."

Commentary:

Check, please!: #Hockey is a sports story that "skillfully dismantles themes of toxic masculinity and a slow-burn same-sex romance" —Booklist.