SCCS LIBRARY NEWS

GRAPHIC NOVELS AND THE CLASSROOM

And no, I do not mean X-rated or violent novels. I'm referring to those ever popular Japanese Manga and other comic-book style books that students are wild about reading.

Graphic novels come in many different shapes and forms.

- Manga refers to the print form of Japanese Anime (which are the animated comics). Oftentimes these manga graphic novels come with ratings due to the nature of the book. If purchasing these books, make sure the rating is appropriate for the intended audience.

- Classic and popular novels have been turned into graphic novel form making the story easier to understand for certain readers. Some examples of this type in the high school library

include: The Red Badge of Courage, The Jungle, Black Beauty, The Wizard of Oz, Artemis Fowl.

- Graphic novels have been created for a certain historic event, time period, or significant person. Some of these graphic novels are very simplistic and easy to understand. There are also some graphic novels that help readers understand political and military conflicts by giving them a personal perspective such as Persepolis: Story of a Childhood by Marjane Satrapi or Maus by Art Spiegelman.
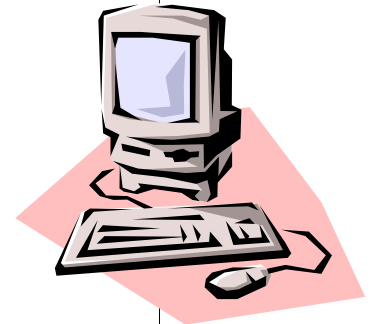
So how can you incorporate graphic novels into the classroom?

- Treat it like any other book and discuss character, plot,

theme, etc.

- Attract that non-reader to reading with something a little less "threatening"

- Use historical graphic novels and biographies with your exceptional learners

- Discuss the importance of word choice when trying to tell a story. How to be concise, but successful!

- Use a "wordless" graphic novel for creative writing exercises

- Encourage students to take their favorite story or chapter from a book and create their own graphic novel chapter.

This article was just meant to be an introduction to the graphic novel world. Feel free to contact Rachel for more information regarding graphic novels.

Check us out online @
http://teacherweb.com/NY/SCCS/Allen

Did you know....

- Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.

- The average person will spend 2 weeks over their lifetime waiting for the traffic light to change.

- A lump of pure gold the size of a matchbook can be flattened into a sheet the size of a tennis court.

- Americans on the average eat 18 acres of pizza every day.

FALL INTO READING!

In case you missed it this past weekend, John Searles, book editor for Cosmopolitan magazine shared new book releases with viewers of the *Today Show*. Click on (or copy and paste) the link to read summaries of each title.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27237637/

The Hour I First Believed by Wally Lamb

The Given Day by Dennis Lehane

Lulu in Marrakech by Diane Johnson

Testimony by Anita Shreve

Time of my Life by Allison Winn Scotch

American Wife by Curtis Sittenfeld

One Fifth Avenue by Candace Bushnell

Hurry Down Sunshine by Michael Greenberg

The Night of the Gun by David Carr

Smart Girls Like Me by Diane Vadino

If you have time, check out these top picks!

Library Team
Rachel Allen, Librarian
Rebecca Fairchild, Elementary Library &
Reading Teacher
Karin Nemier, Library Aide

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Find anything @ your library!

Catch us online @
http://teacherweb.com/
ny/sccs/allen

From the May 2008 School Library Journal, here are some websites that may be helpful for those election "teachable moments."

Scholastic Election 2008 (Grades 3-8)

http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/election2008.htm

The Democracy Project

http://pbskids.org/democracy/

NYT Lesson Plans (Grades 6-8)

http://nytimes.com/learning/issues_in_depth/20080204.htm

Election Center (Grades 3-6)

http://www.weeklyreader.com/election/

Elections...The American Way (Library of Congress)

http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/election/home.html

STUDY GROUPS!

At this point, you've probably already heard several times about the study groups that I'm offering this school year. Below are the dates and descriptions of the study groups. Most of the dates have already passed, but if you're interested in learning about what was covered in a certain study group, let me know and I can meet with you individually at your convenience.

Web Evaluation – September 17

In this ever growing information age when anyone can be an author online, web evaluation is an extremely important skill. Teachers will learn the importance of web evaluation and how to teach this to their students. We will discuss basic evaluation criteria as well as the new acronym "RAD CAB" that will be used in library instruction.

OPAC / ICEPAC / OCM BOCES MEDIA – October 8

Resources, resources, resources! This study group will go over what is available in regard to print and media resources and how to access these items. We will learn how to use the school's OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog), as well as how to interlibrary loan using ICEPAC and how to order media materials though OCM BOCES.

Databases – October 15

Database? What is this and how can I use this in the classroom and with my students? In this study group, participants will be introduced to the concept of a library "database" and specifically to the 20+ databases that are available to them at Sandy Creek Central School. Participants will be given time to explore the databases and brainstorm ways to incorporate this valuable resource into their curriculum. We will also discuss NOVEL (**N**ew York **O**nline **V**irtual **E**lectronic **L**ibrary), a service (books, magazines, newspapers, etc...) that is available to New York residents 24/7.

Streaming Video – October 29

This study group will focus on a valuable electronic resource that can be easily incorporated into the classroom. Participants will become familiar with the streaming video services available through PowerMedia Plus, Learn360 and other free online streaming services. We will discuss how to use these streaming video databases as well as how to incorporate them into a media presentation such as Microsoft Power-Point.

Blogs – November 12

In this ever-growing information age, you (and your class) can become an author online. In this study group, participants will become familiar with the concept of a "blog." A representative will be coming from the Oswego County School Library System to assist us in learning about blogs, how to create our own, and how we can use this concept in the classroom.

Caption describing picture or graphic.