

## Library Lines by Ruth Gilbert, Youth Librarian, Kirkland Town Library

If you have young people at home, you might be aware of the popularity of graphic novels. Kids love them, and for good reason. Graphic novels are a really great format for all kids, but especially for reluctant readers. They're inviting, colorful, and have storylines and character development just as sophisticated as those you'd find in a traditional novel or chapter book. And there's sure to be one out there that matches the interests of the child in your life. You'll find stories about magical creatures, realistic stories about friendship and family, adventures, humor, sports, and of course, superheroes. There are also fascinating nonfiction graphic novels about science and history. Here's a selection of recent graphic novels sure to excite a young person in your life.

"Fifth Quarter" by Mike Dawson is a great pick for sports-loving kids. Fourth grader Lori loves basketball even though her game needs a lot of work. She only ever gets to play in the fifth quarter, when the points don't count in the real game. But Lori works hard to improve both her basketball and her friendship skills, and learns how to be a good teammate by the end.

"Chunky" by Yehudi Mercado is another graphic novel about sports and is also a memoir. Hudi's doctor wants him to lose weight, so his parents push him to keep trying sports until he finds one he likes. Hudi hates sports, but he gets through with the support of his imaginary friend and mascot Chunky. Chunky helps Hudi learn to love himself just as he is.

"Animorphs: The Invasion" by Chris Grine is a graphic novel adaptation of the first of the Animorphs book series, first published about 25 years ago. A group of friends are shocked to see a spaceship crash from the sky, and are even more surprised to meet the alien inside. This alien explains why he's there, why Earth is in trouble, and how the kids can help by taking on the ability to morph into animals. This is a fast-moving, action-packed adventure and sci-fi story.

"Jukebox" by Nidhi Chanani, is a unique story involving time travel, history, and music. Twelve year-old Shaheen's father has disappeared, leaving his record store empty. The only trace of him is his broken glasses, which lead Shaheen and her cousin Tannaz to find a magical jukebox in the attic of the store. They discover that playing records on the jukebox sends them to the time period when the music was recorded, and they embark on adventure through time and music to find Shaheen's dad.

"Katie the Catsitter" by Colleen AF Venable and Stephanie Yue is a delightful, funny twist on the superhero genre. Katie needs to earn money to go to an expensive camp with her friends, so she decides to cat-sit for her neighbor Ms. Lang. The only thing is, Ms. Lang has 217 very unusual cats, and she always seems to be out on the same nights a supervillain strikes the city. Katie can't help but try to figure out what's going on.

If your kids are looking for nonfiction graphic novels, check out books in the "Science Comics" and "History Comics" series. These series present facts and information in an inviting, easy-to-access way that may be especially appealing for reluctant readers. They're also highly visual, so kids who are visual learners may enjoy them more than traditional print books. "Science Comics" covers topics like skyscrapers, robots, trees, whales, and weather, while "History Comics" includes titles about the Great Chicago Fire, the Roanoke colony, and the Challenger space shuttle disaster.

There are so many more wonderful graphic novels to choose from, so visit your local library to learn about more!