

APRIL/
MAY
2026

 Setanta

BOOK CLUB

THE READING EDIT

GRAPHIC NOVEL EDITION

Turn Pages, See Worlds

Dive into the awesome world of graphic novels and manga

Stretch Your Reads

Love this month's top picks? Discover more books from your favourite genres to take your reading further



MORE
INSIDE ↓

WHAT'S INSIDE

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From the depths of
the underworld comes a
HAVOC-FILLED
and **HILARIOUS**
illustrated series

From author-illustrator **JAMIE GREGORY**

Out
JUNE
2026



Art © Jamie Gregory, 2026.

Turn Pages, See Worlds

The Magic of Graphic Novels and Manga

Written by Ella Jones – Graphic novel mega-fan

Chances are, you've read a graphic novel or two but, just in case you haven't, now's the time to **join the comics revolution!**

Manga and graphic novels are brilliant at combining words and images to help spark your imagination. The Comic style art can pull you into fast-paced battle scenes or huge cityscapes in a matter of seconds and make you feel like you're part of the action.

Did you know that manga and graphic novels have been around for a very long time? The author of the fabulous *Unico* was writing manga way back in the 1940s, before the Second World War, and some manga are even older than that!



There's something here for everyone, whatever your interests. Do you like funny books? Try the bite-sized comics of *Saphie the One-Eyed Cat* or the joke-filled bonanza of *Bunny vs Monkey*. If you love adventure, then try the robotic brawls of *Mecha-Ude* or the epic quests of *City of Dragons*.



Interested in pop stars? The heart-warming *Hikaru in the Light!* could be for you. If you're a fan of other books like the *Wings of Fire* series or *When the Sky Falls*, graphic novel versions can give you a fresh take on stories you already love. Haven't read the originals? Use the graphic novels to take the tales for a test-drive.



If you're still not convinced comics are for you, try out something starring characters you already know, like Pikachu or Spider-Man, to get you started.

These books are a blast to read and they can help bring out your creative side too. If you love drawing, use the wide variety of art styles here to inspire you - every story has a different look.

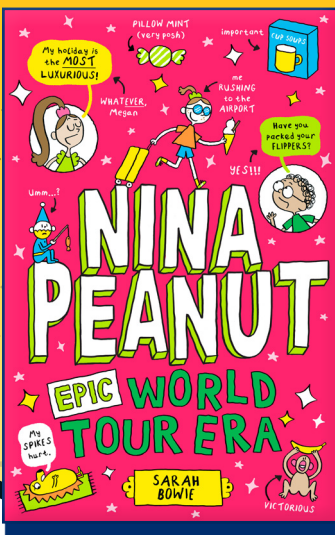
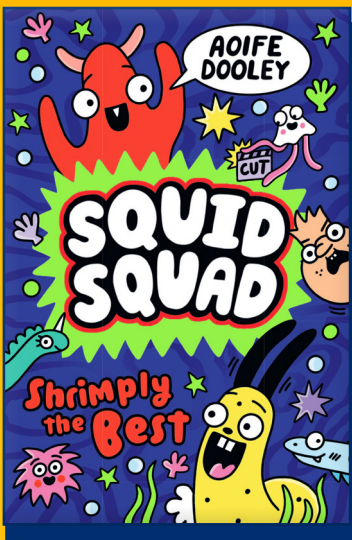
Graphic novels and manga are for everyone - I bet even your teacher has read a few! There are so many to choose from and they're super fun to read and share with friends. What are you waiting for - grab a graphic novel and **get reading!**



APRIL/MAY

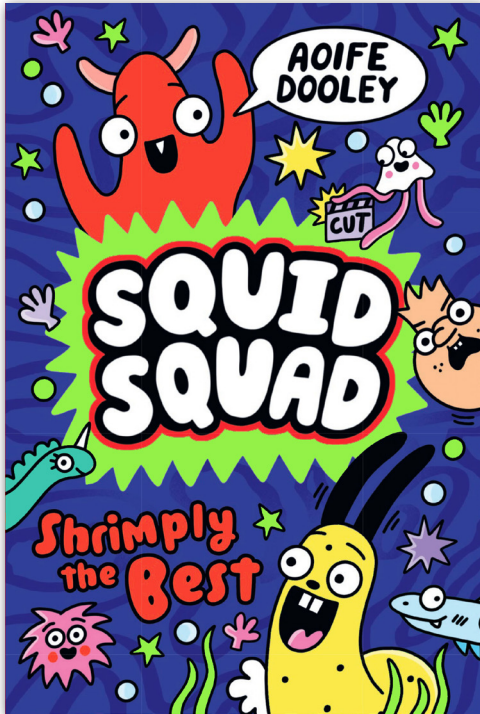
TOP PICKS

Select the covers below to learn more



Suitable For Ages: 6-7

SQUID SQUAD 2: SHRIMPY THE BEST



[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

Ollie the vampire squid and Zing the sea bunny are back with their wild group of ocean friends in the wacky town of Nowhere! Together, the Squid Squad dive into four hilarious mini-adventures—trying out jobs, rescuing a shell-ebrity, and dealing with mischievous troublemakers. With silly powers, big laughs, and bold artwork, every page is packed with underwater chaos and fun.

You'll enjoy this if:

- You love weird, wacky creatures doing ridiculously funny things
- You're into fast, bite-sized adventures that never get boring
- Bright, colourful pictures make reading more exciting for you
- You're a fan of Bumble and Snug, Spongebob Squarepants and Bunny vs Monkey

Free resource:

[DOWNLOAD ACTIVITY SHEETS](#)

SCHOLASTIC
BOOK CLUB LIVE

Make a splash this World Ocean Day with Aoife Dooley
[WATCH NOW >](#)

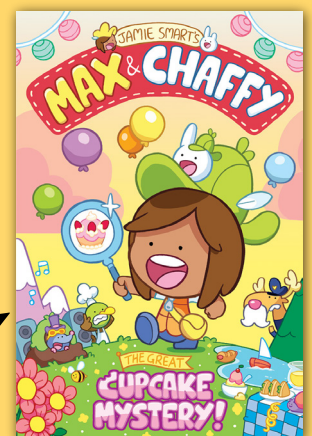
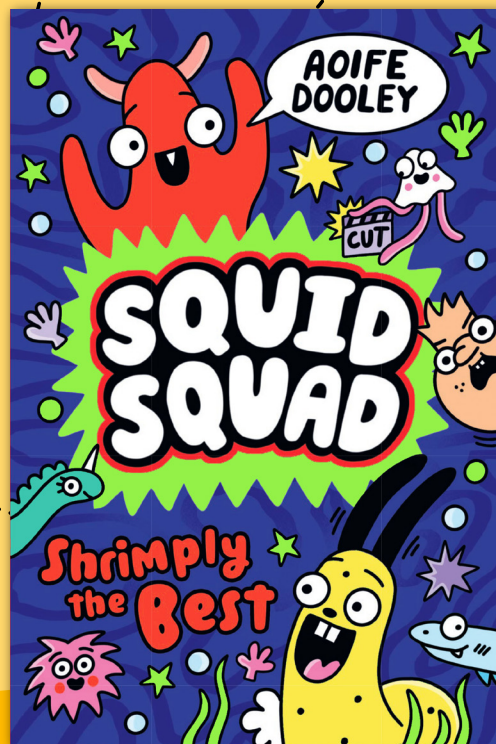
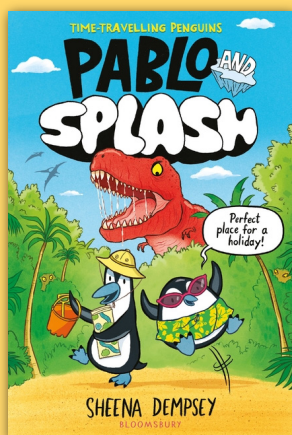
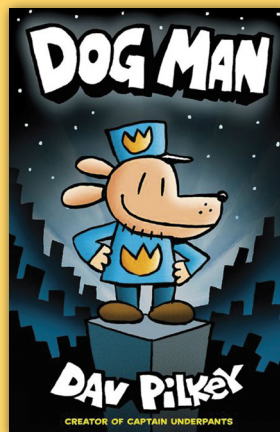
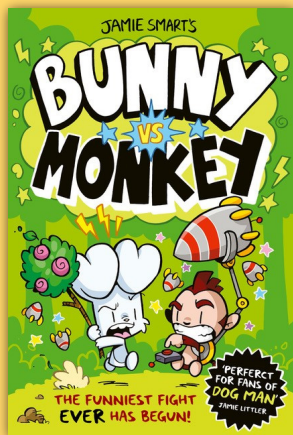
WHAT'S YOUR SEA NICKNAME?

Pick the month you were born and the first letter of your name to find out your funny sea nickname

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Jan McWindy | A Barnacles | N Lagoon |
| Feb Big Boaty | B Unicorn Thing | O Ship |
| Mar McSluggly | C Squiggly Squid | P Boat |
| Apr McCrusty | D Tuna Tank | Q Reef |
| May Captain Danger | E Goofy Goldfish | R Catfish |
| Jun Sir Breezy | F Posh Prawn | S Beefshark |
| Jul Big Crabby | G Toxic Turtle | T Scallop |
| Aug McShelly | H Silly Starfish | U Beluga |
| Sep Captain | I Blowhole | V Flounder |
| Oct McBubble | J Walrus | W Eel |
| Nov Big Jelly | K Shark | X Pearl |
| Dec McFishy | L Shrimples | Y Octopus |
| | M Lobster | Z Clam |

WHAT TO READ NEXT

Looking for more weird, wacky creatures doing ridiculously funny things?



Suitable For Ages: 6-7

CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS: THE FIRST EPIC MANGA



[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

George and Harold are back—and this time their superhero, Captain Underpants, is bursting into action in awesome manga style! With wild jokes, epic battles, and flip-book animations, this reimagined adventure brings even more energy to the classic story. Captain Underpants may wear underwear, but he's still a hero ready to save the day in the silliest way possible!

You'll enjoy this if:

- You enjoy laugh-out-loud humour mixed with totally over-the-top superhero moments
- You like bold, energetic manga-style artwork that makes everything feel bigger and more dramatic
- You're into stories where creativity, mischief, and imagination save the day

Free resource:

[WATCH TRAILER](#)

EXTRACT FROM CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS: THE FIRST EPIC MANGA

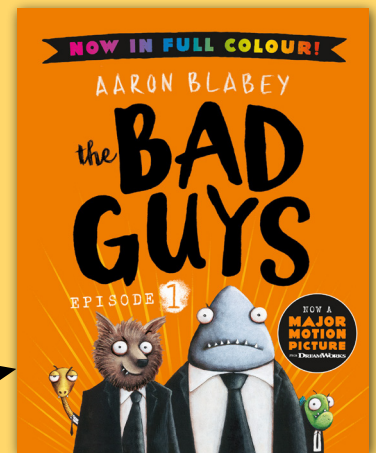


CONTINUED IN THE BOOK!

WHAT TO READ NEXT

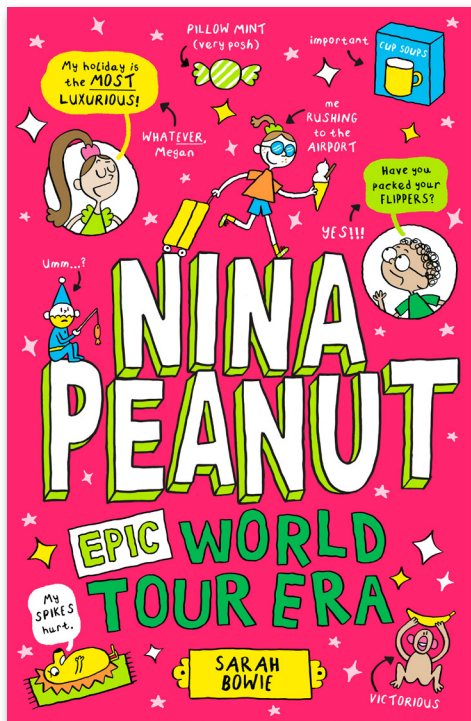
Like the sound of
*Captain Underpants:
The First Epic Manga?*

We think you'll LOVE
these too!



Suitable For Ages: 9-10

NINA PEANUT: EPIC WORLD TOUR ERA



Nina Peanut is heading on her “world tour” (okay... a family holiday!) to Sunshiney Island, and she’s ready for the BEST time ever. But things get extra interesting when her school rival shows up too! Between sandcastle contests, giant ice creams, and sunny adventures, Nina’s holiday turns into a hilarious mix of fun, drama, and big dreams.

You’ll enjoy this if:

- You like realistic, funny stories about friendships and rivalries
- You enjoy strong, expressive main characters with big personalities
- You’re interested in everyday adventures with a humorous twist
- You like stories that explore growing up, confidence, and relationships

[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

Free resource:

[DOWNLOAD ACTIVITY SHEETS](#)

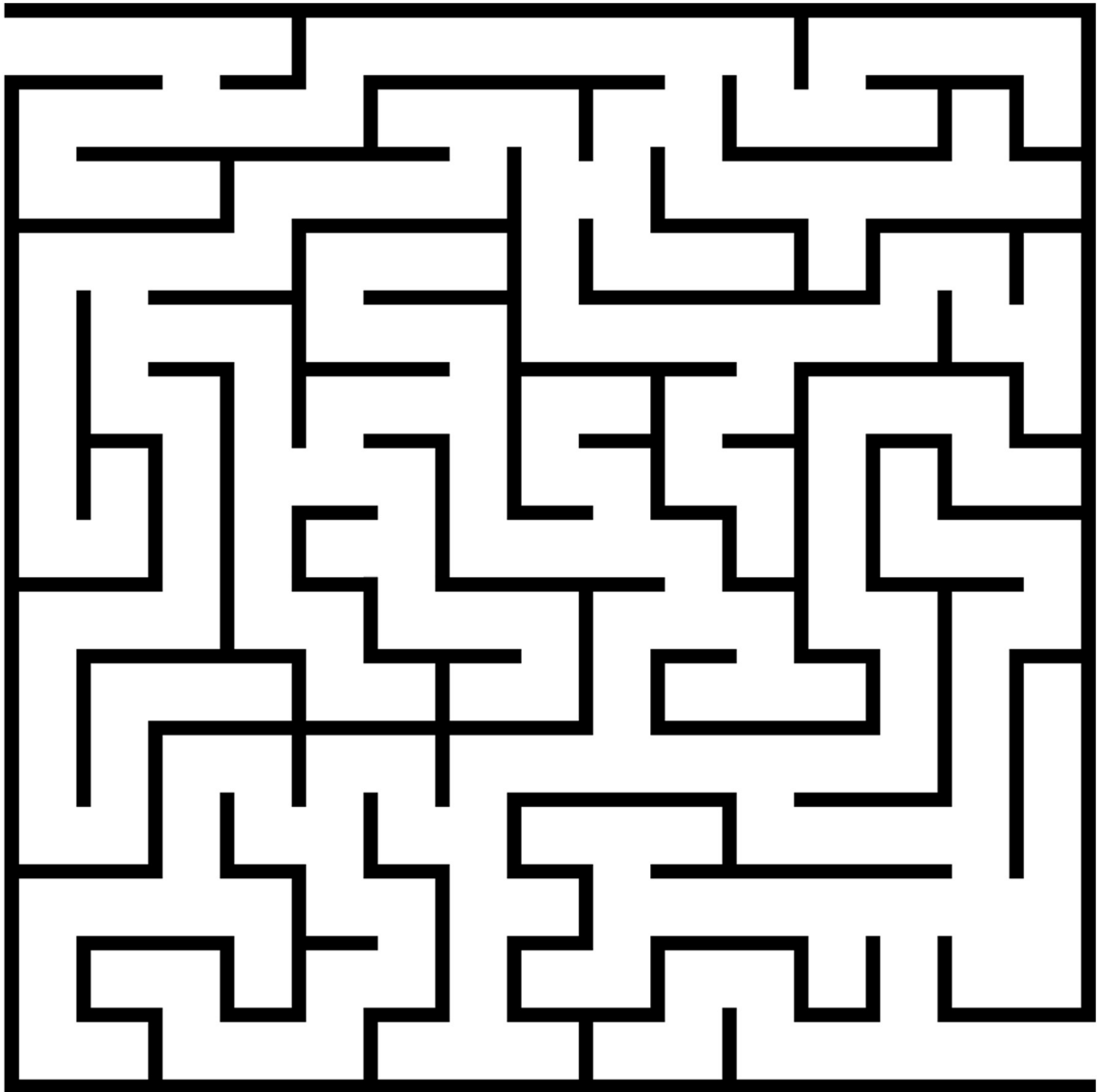
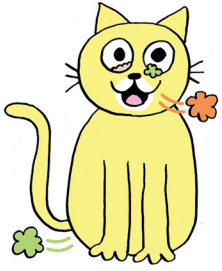
[WATCH DRAW-ALONG VIDEO](#)

 SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB LIVE

Step into Nina Peanut's Epic World Tour Era with Sarah Bowie [WATCH NOW >](#)

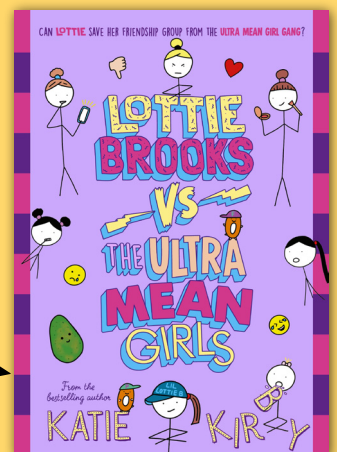
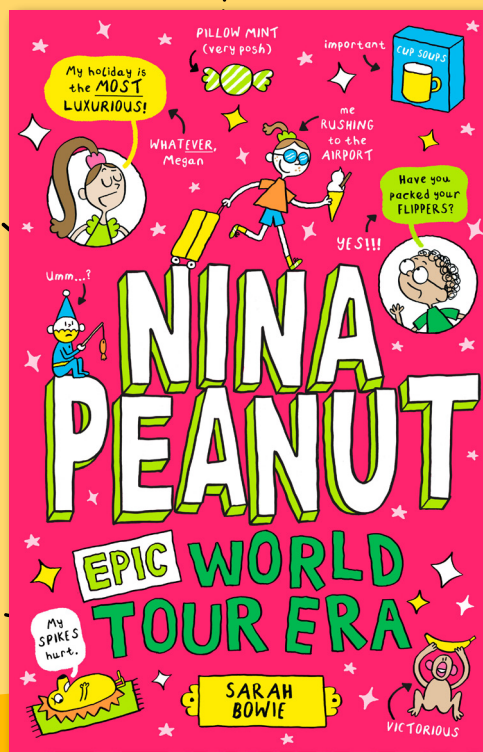
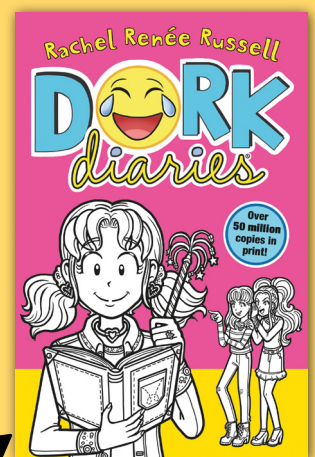
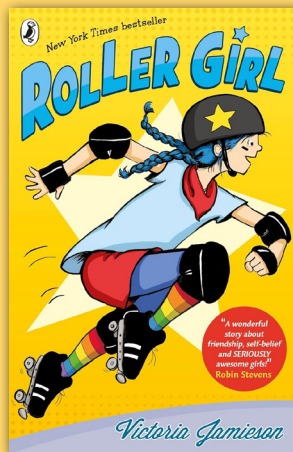
Les is Lost

Les has got himself lost and confused!
Can you help lead him back home?



WHAT TO READ NEXT

Couldn't get enough
of *Nina Peanut:
World Tour Era*?



Suitable For Ages: 9-10

WINGS OF FIRE 3: TALONS OF FIRE



[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

Turtle the dragon doesn't think he's a hero – he'd rather stay hidden and keep his powerful magic a secret. But when the dangerous Darkstalker returns, Turtle realizes someone must stand up and stop him. With time running out, this quiet dragon might have to find courage he never knew he had.

You'll enjoy this if:

- You enjoy fantasy stories with rich world-building and complex characters
- You're interested in themes of courage, identity, and responsibility
- You like graphic novels with detailed artwork and dramatic storytelling
- You enjoy stories where characters grow and face difficult choices

Free resource:

[DOWNLOAD
ACTIVITY
SHEETS](#)

[TAKE QUIZ](#)

Write a Wings of Fire Acrostic Poem

In an acrostic poem, the first letter of each line spells out the subject of the poem. Write your own acrostic poem by filling in each line with words to describe the Wings of Fire series.

W

I

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READ THEM ALL!



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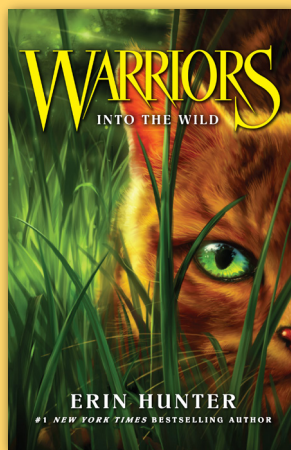
 SCHOLASTIC

FIND OUT
MORE



WHAT TO READ NEXT

Want to read more epic books like *Wings of Fire: Talons of Power*?



FIND ALL THE WORDS!

S T O C O R K H N B Y X E A S
V K N T O O Y W O K P C N N Z
S K A N A W U E P N P A B I I
Z D M W O C W G H G J T N M W
O Y E A A E C I R G Q P V E V
T M C O N I S H E U B K K I L
A K H D Y G I V H C T O G P C
K A A E W E A E D R W T Y Q H
U L L C C L I K Q L U T D U I
T V V D E A D C A P M M V X B
N H K B B X N I S E K A I N I
G K O D O M O O Z S N E M B Z
E Y E F M R J H N X V T M C N
H I N E J M A N G A T A H I U
F Y B U B E F X E N A K Z F Z

**ANIME MANGA CANON KODOMO
ISEKAI MECHA PANEL MANGAKA
KAWAII OTAKU CHIBI**

DEFINITIONS:

ANIME: Short for animation and more specifically, Japanese animation.

KODOMO: Anime and manga for children.

PANEL: An individual frame, or single drawing.

OTAKU: Japanese term for a geek or nerd.

MANGA: A style of Japanese comic books and graphic novels.

ISEKAI: Where characters are transported into a fantasy world.

MANGAKA: Japanese term for a manga artist or creator.

CHIBI: Japanese slang term for small, used to describe a popular art style.

CANON: The material officially accepted as true and part of the main storyline.

MECHA: Stories that feature robots in battle.

KAWAII: Japanese term for cute.

Q&A WITH DAVID SAYLOR

Senior Vice & Creative President
of Graphix



Why do you think graphic novels are so powerful at getting children reading, especially those who might struggle with traditional books?

Words and images together are a very powerful combination. In the same way that picture books engage very young children, graphic novels and comics immediately draw in readers with action, emotion, and conversations. Seeing the expressions on the characters, their body language, and the context of the conversations can give excellent readers—and struggling readers—the exciting entry points into a story. As Lewis Carroll wrote, “And what is the use of a book,” thought Alice, “without pictures or conversations?” Graphic novels have both!

How do you see the role of graphic novels evolving in the next 20 years? Will they become even more important in school reading and libraries?

I feel very enthusiastic about how graphic novels are being embraced by readers, parents, and booksellers. I expect that they will continue to become a major part of the publishing sphere for the coming years, expanding further into nonfiction and other book categories. And the overlap between manga readers and graphic novel readers will blend and blur into a very exciting future.

Q&A WITH DAVID SAYLOR

Senior Vice & Creative President of Graphix

How can teachers use graphic novels to build a reading-for-pleasure culture in the classroom?

Graphic novels absolutely offer a reading-for-pleasure moment in classrooms. And they lend themselves easily to lessons on character development, how the art helps offer context clues to the narrative, and reading comprehension. Teachers are always the first ones to embrace ways to get students excited about reading and graphic novels are the perfect tool.

What would you say to a child who thinks reading is boring – might a graphic novel change their mind?

My answer to that is Dav Pilkey and Dog Man! I've rarely seen kids get as excited and enthusiastic about books as when they read Dog Man, which is full of heart and humor in abundance. And truthfully, there's a graphic novel for every kid. There are graphic novels on every topic and in every genre. So I say, YES, the right graphic novel (like the right book for the right reader) will change anyone's mind about reading being "boring."

When you first launched Graphix, there wasn't much shelf space for graphic novels for kids. What changed over the past 20 years to make them so central to children's reading today?

The major change that happened is that graphic novels offered a longer and richer reading experience to children. Many children love comics and newspaper cartoons, but back in 2005 there wasn't much out there with longer adventures and stories for children. Now there are shelves of wonderful graphic novels that offer rich, dramatic, engaging, long-form storytelling that feels completely satisfying. We just had to create the books. I knew the audience would find and embrace them, because I loved comics as a kid, and I wanted longer books that I could read again and again. And here we are!

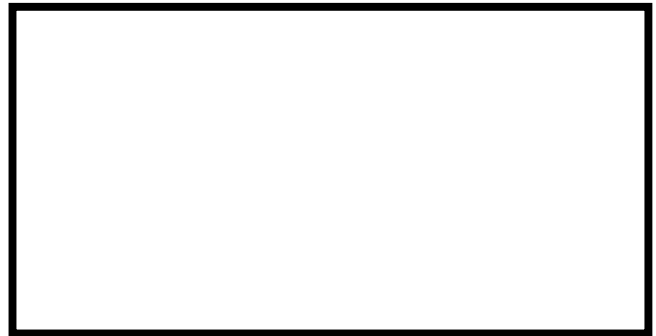
DRAW THE SOUND EFFECTS!

BRING THESE SOUNDS TO LIFE! WHAT SHAPE DOES IT MAKE?
IS IT SPIKY, SWIRLY, BOUNCY OR WAVY? WHAT COLOURS MATCH THE SOUND?
THERE'S NOT RIGHT OR WRONG WAY - JUST USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

POW! →



SWOOSH! →



BAM! →

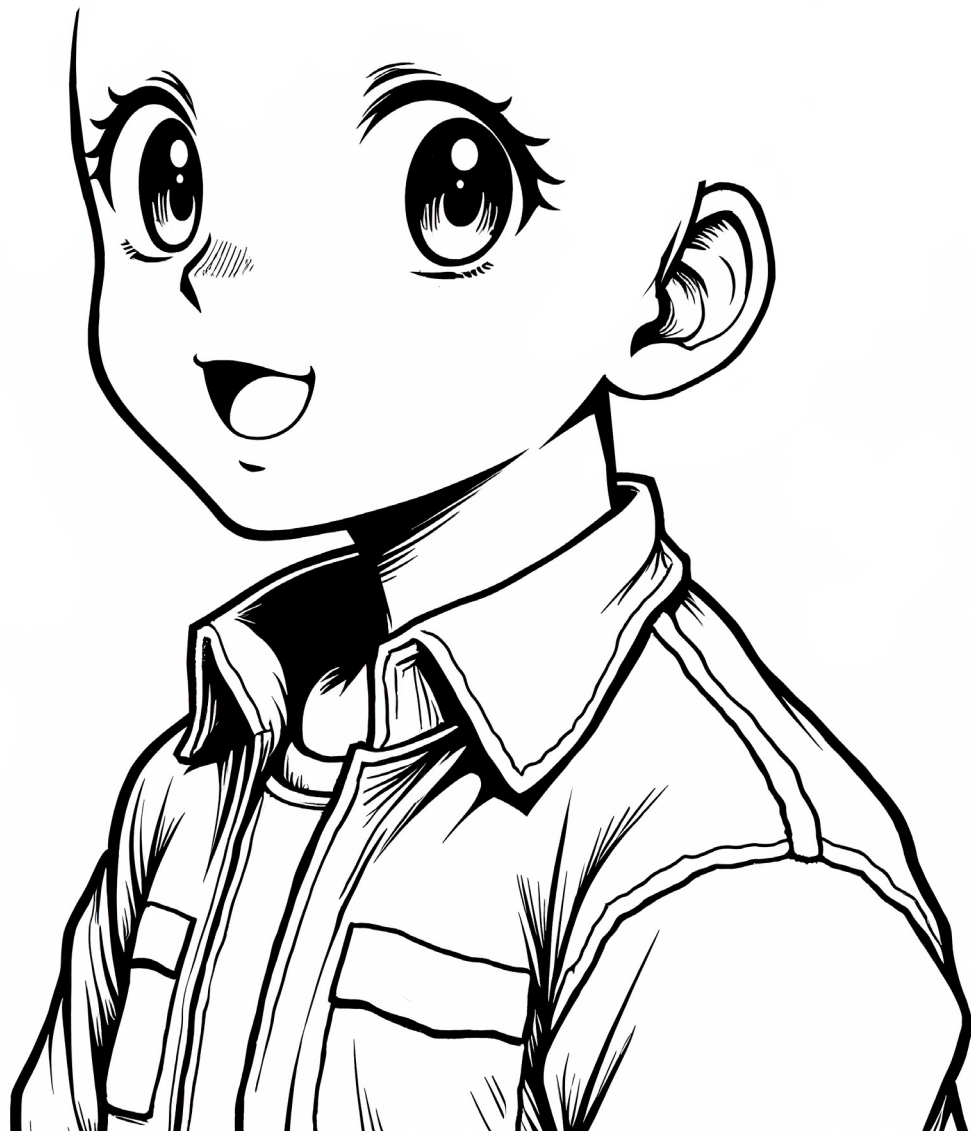


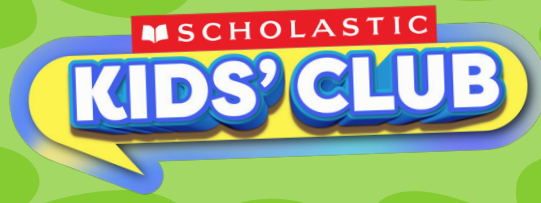
CRASH! →



GIVE THE CHARACTER MANGA-STYLE HAIR!

ADD YOUR OWN MANGA STYLE HAIR AND BRING THE CHARACTER TO LIFE!





READING FUN BEYOND THE PAGES

Our Kids' Club is packed with activities and videos that bring your pupils' favourite books to life, keeping the joy of reading flowing long after the pages.

www.shop.scholastic.ie/clubs/kids



BOOK CLUB LIVE

CELEBRATE READING WITH YOUR FAVOURITE AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS!

Join us for our programme of virtual events for schools. Featuring writing workshops, drawalongs and more, there are regular events running for all ages throughout the school term.

Each event is completely free to attend, and if you can't join us at the advertised time, a recording will be available afterwards for registered attendees.

[Browse all upcoming events](#)



▶ FREE VIRTUAL BOOK EVENTS

▶ FOR SCHOOLS



Have suggestions?

We'd love to hear them! Tell us what you'd like to see in upcoming issues, your ideas can help us keep this magazine fun, fresh and relevant for every reader.

[CONTACT US](#)



We love seeing your young readers enjoying The Reading Edit!

Share the fun and tag us on social media with the hashtag #TheReading Edit so we can celebrate your brilliant readers together.

