



LEARNING HISTORY THROUGH GRAPHIC NOVELS

Great Depression

Bluesman: A Twelve Bar Graphic Narrative in the Key of Life and Death.

Rob Vollmar. This three-part fictional series follows Lem Taylor, an African American guitar player, through his travels in the deep South—when just being black in the wrong place could get you arrested or killed.

YA Voll **HS**

World War II

Maus, a Survivor's Tale and **Maus, a Survivor's Tale II: And Here My Troubles Began.**

Art Spiegelman. These novels paint a vivid picture of the rise of the Nazi party in Germany, detailing the life of Vladek Spiegelman in the Warsaw ghetto and his subsequent capture, confinement and survival in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Although this is a true story, Spiegelman uses animals for the different characters—the Jewish people are mice and the Germans are cats.

940.5315 Spie **MS, HS**

Yossel: April 19th, 1943: A Story of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Joe Kubert. Told through the pictures of Yossel, a teenager who likes to draw, this book tells the true tale of how Mordecai Annelwicz led a group of young Jewish people to fight back against the Nazis in Warsaw, Poland.

YA Kube **MS, HS**

Sgt. Rock: Between Hell and a Hard Place. Written by Brian Azzarello and Illustrated by Joe Kubert. This is WWII from a soldier's point of view—the story of Easy Company, fighting the Nazis in Europe.

Fic Azza **HS**

Fallout: J. Robert Oppenheimer, Leo Szilard, and the Political Science of the Atomic Bomb. Jim Ottaviani. Learn about the Manhattan Project through the eyes of scientists Oppenheimer and Slizard in a way that is understandable—even if you don't know much about science.

Fic Otta **HS**

1960s

Stuck Rubber Baby. Howard Cruse. Toland Polk is an idealistic, white, Southerner who questions his racist upbringing. He finds like-minded friends in college and joins the civil rights movement, facing fire hoses and police dogs while coming to grips with his own homosexuality.

Fic Crus **HS**

Road to America. Baru. Algerian immigrant Said Boudaif, living in France in 1960, is a championship boxer, torn between the French culture that doesn't want him and the terrorists who want Algeria to be free from France.

Fic Baru **HS**

1970s

Aya. Marguerite Aboutet. Opportunities for women are growing during the economic growth of the African Ivory Coast during the 1970's. While Aya's friends spend their evenings in nightclubs, Aya spends her time studying. She wants to go to medical school, but Aya's traditional father just wants her to marry a rich husband.

YA Abou **HS**

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood. Marjane Satrapi. Persepolis is an autobiographical story that details the conflict between the author's desire to be a normal teenager (wearing hip clothing and listening to pop music) and surviving under the dangerous repression of the Iranian government in the late 1970s.

955 Satr **MS, HS**

Recent Events

Palestine. Joe Sacco and Edward Said. Joe Sacco is an investigative reporter. This true story illustrates how Palestinian refugees live with open sewers that flood into houses when it rains as well as corrupt Palestinian authorities who make peace with Israel more difficult.

956.94 Sacc **HS**

Deogratias: A Tale of Rwanda. Jean-Philippe Stassen. Learn about the Hutu slaughter of the Tutsi people through the eyes of Deogratias, a Hutu teenager driven crazy from losing his Tutsi girlfriend.

YA Stas **HS**

9-11 Emergency Relief: A Comic Book to Benefit the American Red Cross. Some of the country's best graphic artists share their personal stories of the tragedy of 9/11.

YA 363.32 **Nine HS**

Pride of Baghdad. Brian K. Vaughan, Niko Henrichon, and Todd Klein. This fictional graphic novel describes the current Iraq war from the point of view of the lions who escaped from the Baghdad zoo in the early days of the US invasion.

Fic Vaug **MS**

Combat Zone: True Tales of GIs in Iraq. Karl Zinsmeister. Learn about the war in Iraq (Persian Gulf II) from the soldier's point of view. Karl Zinsmeister, an embedded reporter during the first months of fighting in Iraq, includes many technical terms describing modern weaponry.

YA Zins **HS**

HS means a book is appropriate for most high school readers.

MS means a book is appropriate for most middle school readers.

