

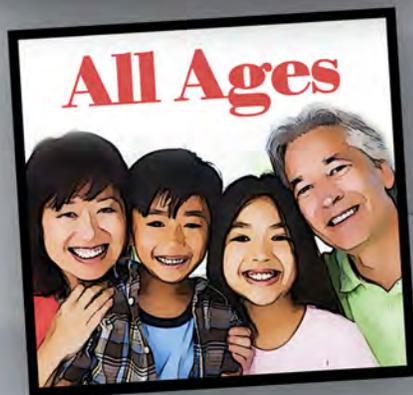


Graphic Novels



Graphic Novels

RATINGS GUIDE



All Ages

Books generally acceptable for children.



Children

Ages 5 - 9
Contains comic-type violence.



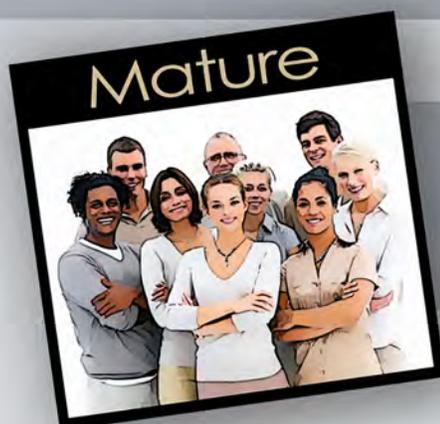
Tween

Ages 10 -14
Non-sexual, mild but not graphic violence.



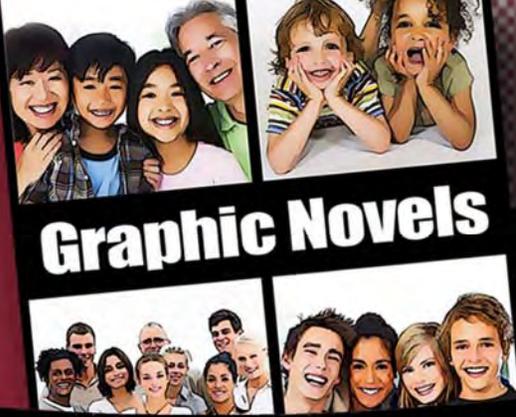
Teen

Ages 15 and up
May have mild, but not gratuitous violence, and scantily dressed characters.



Mature

May contain strong violence, nudity, profanity and slurs.



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FACT: There is no standardized graphic novel ratings system.

Many publishers have chosen to implement their own systems, with a handful of publishers eschewing ratings altogether.

Publishers who do use ratings generally assign five different classifications, each representing a different age group. While symbols differ by publisher, the age groups remain the same.

These five classifications are:

ALL AGES – Graphic novels appropriate for very young readers (up to grade 3).

YOUTH – Graphic novels appropriate for young readers (grades 3-6).

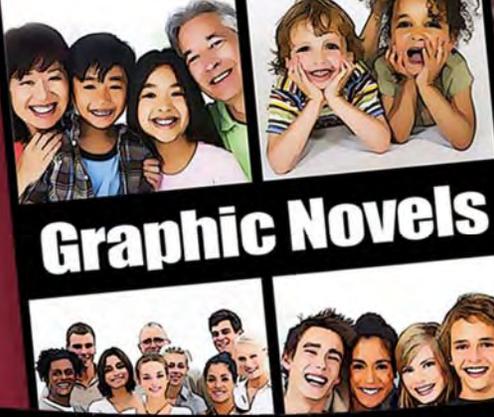
TEEN – Graphic novels appropriate for teens in grades 7-9. Appropriate for most readers 13 and up. Parents are advised that they might want to read before or with younger children.

OLDER TEEN – Graphic novels appropriate for teens in grades 10-12. May contain profanity and strong language, moderate violence and gore, moderate sexual themes and sexual violence, nudity, and alcohol and illegal drug use.

ADULT/MATURE – Graphic novels appropriate for adults. These may contain excessive profanity and language, intense violence, excessive gore, explicit sexual language, themes and violence.

Baker & Taylor classifies titles that are ALL AGES, YOUTH and TEEN as Children's. OLDER TEEN and ADULT/MATURE titles will fall under Adult. Baker & Taylor also uses its own records of past volumes on file as well as comparisons with publishers' catalogs to aid in classification. Additionally, publishers are encouraged to send in advance reader copies of all publications. These advance reader copies are individually examined by a bibliographer on staff to make sure they are age appropriate that the title information is entered into our system correctly.

When there is no rating available, Baker & Taylor relies more heavily on its own records for classification. Titles with long histories of being children or teen friendly get a juvenile code. If there are no records available, a title will be coded as adult until it can be examined more closely.



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RATINGS GUIDE

Q&A

Is it true there is no standardized rating system for graphic novels?

Yes. Unlike video games (assigned one of seven standard ratings by the Entertainment Software Ratings Board) or movies (rated by the Motion Picture Association of America), graphic novels do not have a primary board or group that assigns ratings.

Big deal - they're just comics, right? Aren't all graphic novels for kids anyway?

No. There are graphic novels for kids and graphic novels with extremely adult content – and every imaginable type of graphic novel in between.

But aren't they all about flying guys in tights and guys with claws? You know, superheroes?

Actually, there are fiction and non-fiction graphic novels on every imaginable subject. There are graphic novel adaptations of great literature, philosophical graphic novels, autobiographic novels – even graphic novels that teach calculus! Check out the BISG BISACs for graphic novels– it's an eye-opener.

Anything with a superhero must be for kids, though. Right?

Wrong. There are many titles featuring superheroes that are appropriate for children, but there are some that aren't.

What about manga? Those books with the characters with the big sparkly eyes and the sweat drops are definitely for kids, right?

No, not all of those books are for kids. Japanese comics, called manga, often exhibit a distinctive and highly recognizable cartoon style. (And yes, big sparkly eyes and sweat drops make a frequent appearance in manga.) That being said, a manga title may exhibit many such devices and still have extremely mature subject matter.

Speaking of which, what exactly is yaoi? I see it on the cover of some manga...

Yaoi is the catchall term for female-oriented fictional media (including manga and anime) featuring idealized homosexual male relationships. Be advised that yaoi can be quite explicit! Less graphic is 'shonen-ai,' which tends to focus more on the romantic and less on the sexual. Yaoi has a devoted following and is surprisingly popular in the U.S.



Graphic Novels

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Ok, so there are all kinds of graphic novels for all different age groups. How do I know what's appropriate for a child and what's appropriate for an adult?

If you have the book in hand, check the back as most publishers have a ratings system in place. These ratings are generally broken down into five categories – ALL AGES, YOUTH, TEEN, OLDER TEEN, and ADULT – and while the symbols representing them may change, the age groups will not.

If there is no rating on the back, it is safest to assume that the title is adult.

If you are ordering a graphic novel title from Baker & Taylor and want to be absolutely sure it is appropriate for all ages, make sure it's marked Children. Graphic novels for OLDER TEENS (which may contain profanity and strong language, moderate violence and gore, moderate sexual themes and sexual violence, nudity, and alcohol and illegal drug use) and those for ADULTS are both classified as adult product.