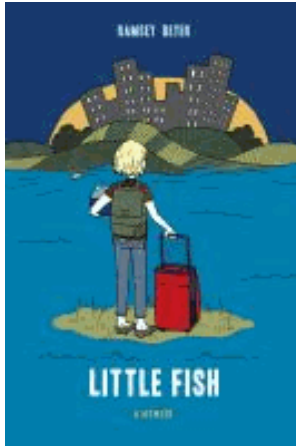


Annotated Graphic Novel List

A. Stern - Summer 2015

Little Fish: A Memoir From a Different Kind of Year. Memoir. (14 & up, grades 9-12)

Beyer, Ramsey. *Little Fish: A Memoir From a Different Kind of Year*. San Francisco, CA: Zest Books, 2013. Print.



Told through real-life journals, collages, lists, and drawings, this coming-of-age story illustrates the transformation of an 18-year-old girl from a small-town teenager into an independent city-dwelling college student. Written in an autobiographical style with beautiful artwork, *Little Fish* shows the challenges of being a young person facing the world on her own for the very first time and the unease--as well as excitement--that comes along with that challenge.

From the Booklist review: "Wary college-bound students will find comfort in this sincere and endearing look at freshman year."--Jones, Courtney. Copyright 2010 *Booklist*.

- VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates) Starred Review

Subjects: English, Memoir, Writing, Art.

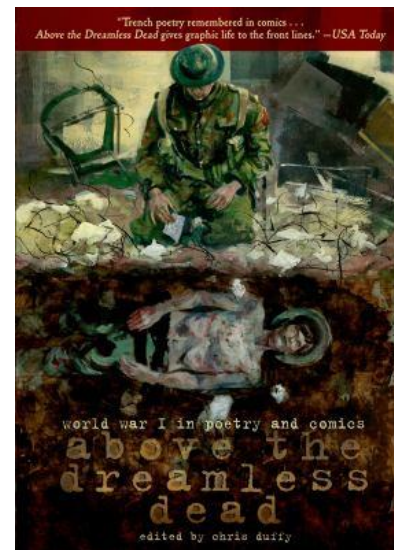
Use in classroom: English: read as part of unit on memoir. Creative writing and/or Art: explore writing stories using both image and text, drawing from personal experience.

Above the Dreamless Dead: World War I in Poetry and Comics. Poetry. (14 & up, grades 8-12)

Duffy, Chris, ed. *Above the Dreamless Dead: World War I in Poetry and Comics*. New York: First Second, 2014. Print.

A collection of World War I British trench poetry by poets, including Wilfred Owen, Rudyard Kipling, and Thomas Hardy, reinterpreted in graphic novel format by cartoonists such as Garth Ennis, Phil Winslade, and Katherine and Stuart Immonen.

Booklist Starred Review: There's a lot that's impressive in this collection. Perhaps most impressive is how seriously the contributing artists have taken the poems they illustrate, including Hunt Emerson's raucously comical, big-nose takes on three très vulgar soldiers' songs. George Pratt trades pen-and-ink for rollers, putty knives, and acrylic to sculpt as much as draw the charnel



figures of dead soldiers for Wilfred Owen's *Greater Love*. Rather than illustrate Siegfried Sassoon's ruefully sarcastic *The General*, comics writer Garth Ennis composes an angry tribute to the Tommies, whom artist Phil Winslade draws with photorealistic accuracy. Animating a night episode from a prose work, *The Great Push* (1916), by Patrick MacGill, Eddie Campbell shrouds everything in Goyaesque darkness. The trekking, singing soldiers Kevin Huizenga draws for 19-year-old Charles Sorley's lines beginning *All the hills and vails along* could be Schultz's Peanuts gang grown tall. These and the 18 other cartoonists' portrayals of 22 further poems are equally original and evocative of the pity fearful, terrified, mournful, enraged which the poetry inhabited and embodied, as Owen so famously wrote. This isn't the first and won't be the last WWI poetry anthology issued during the war's centennial, but it may prove to be the most accessible and striking.--Olson, Ray. Copyright 2014 *Booklist*.

- VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates) Starred Review
- *Booklist* Starred Review

Subjects: History: World War I, Warfare, Poetry, English, Art.

Use in classroom: English: making connections between art, poetry and graphic novels. History: Examining World War I through poetry and art. Art: How do the images and comics depicted enhance or take away from the poetry? Create art in combination with a selected poem/poetry theme.

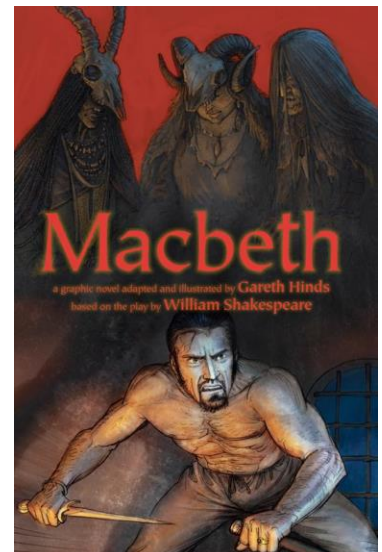
Macbeth. Play adaptation/Fiction. (14 & up, grades 9-12)

Hinds, Gareth, and William Shakespeare. *Macbeth*. Cambridge: Candlewick, 2015. Print.

Set against the moody backdrop of eleventh-century Scotland, Gareth Hinds's captivating, richly illustrated interpretation takes readers into the claustrophobic mind of a man driven mad by ambition. An evil seed takes root in the mind of Macbeth, a general in the king's army, when three witches tell him he will one day be king. At the urging of his wife, he resolves to take the throne by the most direct path: a dagger in the heart of King Duncan. But "*blood will have blood*," and when others grow suspicious of his sudden rise to power, is Macbeth prepared to commit more murders to keep the crown?

Subjects: Shakespeare, English, History.

Use in classroom: English: Use in support of *Macbeth* curriculum.

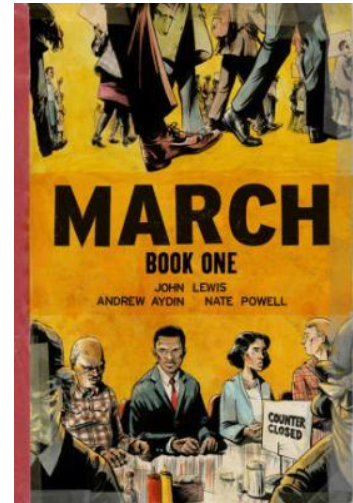


March: Book 1. Memoir (14 & up, grades 9-12)

Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell. *March: Book One*. Marietta, GA: Top Shelf Productions, 2013. Print.

March is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

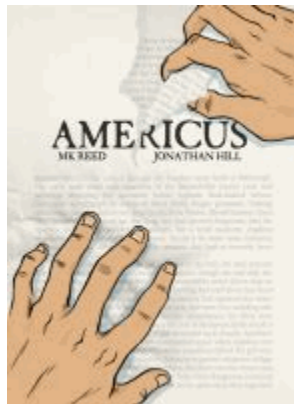
Book One spans John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall.



Subjects: English, Memoir, History, Civil Rights, Martin Luther King, Jr., Segregation, Jim Crow, Civil Disobedience.

Use in classroom: History: examine the civil rights movement through John Lewis's graphic memoir. Reflect on art and story. How does this medium convey Lewis's experience?

Americus. Realistic Fiction. (14 & up, grades 8-12)



Reed, M. K., and Jonathan David Hill. *Americus*. New York: First Second, 2011. Print.

Oklahoma teen Neal Barton stands up for his favorite fantasy series, *The Chronicles of Apathea Ravenchilde*, when conservative Christians try to bully the town of Americus into banning it from the public library.

Booklist Review: Shy eighth-grader and cynic Neil Barton would rather bury his head in his favorite fantasy series, *The Chronicles of Apathea Ravenchilde*, than try to make friends or make waves in Americus, the small town in which he lives. Right before Neil is supposed to start high school, however, his best friend and fellow bookworm, Daniel, is suddenly sent away to military school and Daniel's mom tries to get the *Apathea Ravenchilde* series banned from the local library. In the aftermath, Neil starts to find the strength to defend himself against his bullies as well as defend his favorite books against those who would remove them. This clever mix of fantasy and realistic fiction, thoughtful pacing, authentic dialogue, and expressive art perfectly captures the angst of a nerdy teen who is at first ostracized but then finds his niche as he finds his voice. Fans of J. K. Rowling, Cornelia Funke, libraries, intellectual freedom, and Mike Carey's *Unwritten* series are sure to get a kick out of this title.--Mack, Candice. Copyright 2010 *Booklist*.

- *Library Media Connection* Starred Review

Subjects: English, Censorship, Banned Books, Local Politics, Activism, Libraries, Intellectual Freedom, GLBTQ issues.

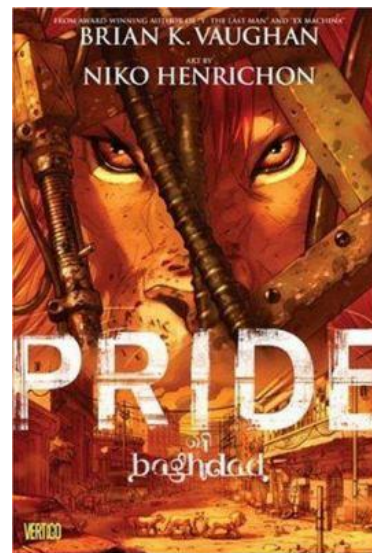
Use in Classroom: Banned Books week, lessons about intellectual freedom and local activism. Freshman Seminar: discuss social competency skills transitioning from middle school to high school.

Pride of Baghdad. Fiction inspired by a true story. (14 & up, grades 9-12)

Vaughan, Brian K., and Niko Henrichon. *Pride of Baghdad.* New York: DC Comics, 2006. Print.

In the spring of 2003, a pride of lions escaped from the Baghdad Zoo during an American bombing raid, roaming the streets in a desperate struggle for their lives. *Pride of Baghdad* raises questions about the true meaning of liberation--can it be given or is it earned only through self-determination and sacrifice? And in the end, is it truly better to die free than to live life in captivity?

School Library Journal Review: A heartbreaking look at what it's like to live in a war zone. Inspired by true events, this story tells of four lions that escape from the Baghdad Zoo during a bombing raid in 2003 and encounter other animals that offer unique perspectives, such as a tortoise that survived World War I. They begin to question the nature of freedom. Can it be achieved without being earned? What is its price? What do the lions owe the zookeepers who took



care of them at the cost of keeping them in captivity? Where should they go? What should they eat? The four lions soon realize that a desert city is nothing like the grassy savannas of their memories. Their experiences mirror those of the Iraqi citizens displaced by the conflict. The book succeeds as a graphic novel and as an account of the current crisis. Henrichon's full palette emphasizes browns and grays that evoke the sands of the country, while his long brushstrokes and careful attention to detail reflect the precise and minimalist dialogue that Vaughan uses. An allegorical tale with compelling and believable characters, *Baghdad* makes it clear that without self-determination, there can be no freedom—Erin Dennington, Chantilly Regional Library, Fairfax, VA (c) Copyright 2010. *Library Journals LLC.*

- Library Journal Starred Review
- Publisher's Weekly Starred Review

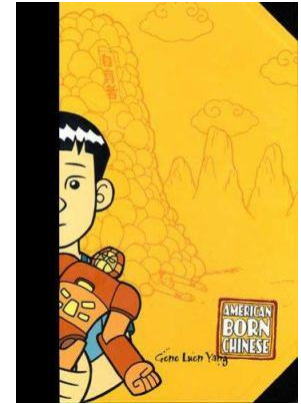
Subjects: History, Geography, Baghdad, Lions, Captivity vs. Freedom, Philosophy, Story Adaptation, War, Allegory.

Use in Classroom: History and Geography: Examine the war in Iraq/crisis in the Middle East through the lens of this allegorical story. English: Explore adapting a true story/allegorical writing.

American Born Chinese. Magical Realism/Fiction. (13 & up, grades 7-12)

Yang, Gene Luen, and Lark Pien. *American Born Chinese*. New York: First Second, 2006. Print.

American Born Chinese weaves the stories of three seemingly unrelated characters. Jin Wang starts at a new school where he's the only Chinese-American student. When a boy from Taiwan joins his class, Jin doesn't want to be associated with an FOB like him. Danny is an all-American boy, but his obnoxious Chinese cousin Chin-Kee's annual visit is such a disaster that it ruins Danny's reputation at school. The Monkey King has lived for thousands of years and mastered the arts of kung fu and the heavenly disciplines, but there's no place with the immortal gods for a monkey. Each of these characters cannot help himself alone, but how could they possibly help each other?



- 2006 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature
- Winner of the 2007 Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album: New
- Eisner Award nominee for Best Coloring
- 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year

Subjects: English, History, Folktales, China, Eastern Religions, Identity, Stereotypes, Cultural in/sensitivity, Satire.

Use in classroom: Freshman Seminar Lesson: Stereotypes in Popular Culture (cultural sensitivity and diversity). English lesson: language tropes (satire, caricature, hyperbole, etc.). English and/or History lesson: Folktales and religion—compare and contrast *American Born Chinese* with stories from *Journey to the West*.

Sources:

[Goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1152065.American_Born_Chinese)

[Follett TitlePeek](https://www.follett.com/title/1152065)
