Jewish Graphic Novels:  
A Selected Bibliography  
By Wendy Wasman

Graphic Novels for Younger Readers

Baraitser, Marion and Anna Evans.  *Home Number One: A Graphic Novel*.  Loki Books, 2006.  Dinah, a bored Jewish girl living in the repressed city of Utopia in the imagined America of 2020, is sent on a life-changing journey to 1943, where she joins her distant cousin Gonda and two friends in Theresienstadt.  This graphic novel offers a unique way for teen readers to explore the Holocaust.


Kubert, Joe.  *The Adventures of Yaacov & Isaac*.  Mahrwood Press (distributed in the U.S. by Feldheim Publishers), 2004.  Kubert’s stories about two young brothers impart Torah values and Jewish history lessons in an exciting action-adventure comic book style that is likely to appeal to elementary school boys ages 10 and up.


Lutes, Jason and Nick Bertozzi.  *Houdini: The Handcuff King*.  Hyperion, 2007.  This snapshot of one day in the life of the famous showman offers an edge-of-your-seat reading experience for children ages 10 and up.


Sheinkin, Steve. *The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey: A Graphic Novel of Jewish Wisdom and Wit in the Wild West*. Jewish Lights Publishing, 2006. These ten gems about Rabbi Harvey are told in the manner of classic Jewish folktales and are illustrated in a sepia-toned graphic novel format. The humor is aimed at teens and adults.

Sturm, James. *The Golem’s Mighty Swing*. Drawn and Quarterly, 2003. This graphic novel follows a Jewish baseball team as they travel through the Midwest in the 1920’s. Beset with a losing record, they conjure a golem to help draw the crowds, but instead face fierce anti-Semitism. This novel is a good choice for teenage boys.

## Graphic Novels for Older Teens and Adults

Croci, Pascal. *Auschwitz*. Harry N. Abrams, 2003. This intense graphic novel depicts an elderly couple as the recall their experiences and heartbreaking losses in Auschwitz. Because of the disturbing nature of the images and text, this book is most suitable for adults.


Katin, Miriam. *We Are On Our Own*. Drawn and Quarterly, 2006. Miriam Katin’s first graphic novel, told from the perspective of a young child, is a poignant memoir of her escape from Budapest with her mother during World War II.

Keret, Etgar and Actus Comics. *Jetlag*. Stories translated by Dan Ofri. The Toby Press, 2006. These stories, by one of Israel’s most popular writers, are very intense and full of violent and disturbing images, and are therefore most suitable for adult readers.


Kubert, Joe. *Jew Gangster*. ibooks, 2005. These two graphic novels shed light on a relatively unknown period of time in Jewish history, when Jewish gangsters violently ruled the streets.

Kubert, Joe. *Yossel, April 19, 1943: A Story of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*. ibooks, 2003. Kubert imagines what his life would have been like had his parents not left Europe before the Holocaust. His namesake, Yossel, chronicles his time in the Warsaw Ghetto by illustrating the life and death around him.


Modan, Rutu. *Exit Wounds*. Drawn and Quarterly, forthcoming. Set in modern-day Tel Aviv, Modan’s graphic novel tells the story of a young man looking for his estranged father who may have been a victim of a suicide bombing. See sample pages at [http://www.drawnandquarterly.com/shopCatalogLong.php?item=a451165f22c05b](http://www.drawnandquarterly.com/shopCatalogLong.php?item=a451165f22c05b)

Pekar, Harvey. *The Quitter*. Vertigo, 2006. Pekar examines his childhood and adolescence growing up as a Jewish boy in an increasing African American community in Cleveland. Teenagers will find much to relate to in this graphic memoir, but as in his other autobiographical comics, adults are his main audience.

Sfar, Joann. *Klezmer: Book One: Tales of the Wild East*. Translated by Alexis Siegel. First Second, 2006. Sfar takes his readers on a wild tour of the snowy forests and shtetls of pre-World War II Eastern Europe as he follows a ragged band of klezmer musicians on their adventures. Because of some nudity, this book is better suited for adults only.

Sfar, Joann. *The Rabbi’s Cat*. Pantheon, 2005. This richly-illustrated graphic novel tells the story of a widowed rabbi and his daughter in 1930’s Algeria. Narrated by their precocious cat, the book depicts a time when Arabs and Jews peacefully coexisted and learned from each other’s differences.


Books about Graphic Novels and Comics


Eisner, Will. *Comics & Sequential Art*. Poorhouse Press, 1985. Written by the recognized master of graphic novels, Eisner’s textbook is an excellent introduction to the format.


Howe, Sean, ed. *Give Our Regards to the Atomsmashers! Writers on Comics*. Pantheon Books, 2004. Includes essays about comics by Brad Meltzer, Myla Goldberg, and many other authors.


Lyga, Allyson A.W. and Barry Lyga. *Graphic Novels in Your Media Center*. Libraries Unlimited, 2004. This comprehensive resource guide provides a solid foundation for librarians and teachers, and even includes lesson plans and lists of recommended reading.


Websites/Blogs

Comic Books for Young Adults: A Guide for Librarians provides good background material and arguments for having comics and graphic novels in libraries. It can be found at http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/lml/comics/pages/addressing.html


Jews in Comics is a bibliography maintained by Steven Bergson, Past President of the Ontario Chapter of the AJL. Check it out at: http://www.geocities.com/safran-can/JWISHC.HTM/. Bergson also has a blog titled Jewish Comics, http://jewishcomics.blogspot.com/, in which he reviews recent graphic novels and comics that have a Jewish focus and makes announcements about upcoming events of interest to readers of graphic novels.


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