

GRAPHIC NOVEL
BOOK CLUB

@ the San Diego Public Library Mission Valley Branch • 2123 Fenton Parkway, San Diego, CA 92108

BOOKS TO GET YOU STARTED

VERSION 1.0 • WINTER 2014

If you're a comics fan, you know compiling a reading list of graphic novels for a Book Club is a daunting task. With 75+ years of amazing stories and art, the comics medium is filled with absolute treasures. The staff of Comic-Con International got together and came up with a list of their favorite graphic novels. We hope that the books on this list, which we stress is just a starting point, will make for great discussions. As a side note, we intended a list of 20 books; we stopped at 60, and could have easily continued. We think this list showcases the incredible diversity of comic books and graphic novels and the genres they embrace. We have selected books that are still in print; some of them are available in digital form via Kindle and comiXology. See the individual books in this listing for that availability.

As with most book clubs, you, the members, will pick the books your group reads. If you have a favorite graphic novel you'd like to suggest—and maybe even moderate—at a future club meeting, please bring your suggestion and a copy of the book (if you have it) to the first club meeting. It doesn't have to be on this list. Make your case for your favorite book and if your fellow members agree, we'll feature it in an upcoming meeting!

Please see page 8 of this list for local resources (comics and book stores) that may carry the books we suggest for consideration for discussion.

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY MISSION VALLEY MEETINGS:

First Wednesday of Every Month at 6:00 PM

2123 Fenton Parkway, Next to IKEA

(Community Room)

2014 Dates:

Feb. 5, March 5,
April 2, May 7,
June 4, July 2,
Aug. 6, Sept. 3,
Oct. 8, Nov. 5, Dec. 3

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB



CRIME/MYSTERY/THRILLER

Gotham Central, Book 1: In the Line of Duty
Ed Brubaker, Greg Rucka & Michael Lark

The Gotham City Police Dept. works overtime dealing with Batman's villains.

DC Comics • 240 pages

Eisner Award Winner!

Available in print and on Kindle



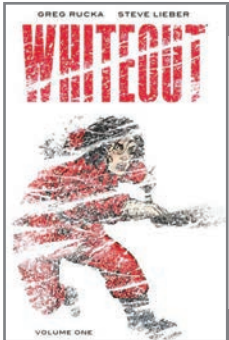
CRIME/MYSTERY/THRILLER

Richard Stark's Parker, Vol. 1: The Hunter
Darwyn Cooke

Adapted from Richard Stark's iconic novels, Parker is a career criminal looking for revenge.

IDW • 144 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



CRIME/MYSTERY/THRILLER

Whiteout, Vol. 1: Definitive Edition
Greg Rucka & Steve Lieber

U.S. Marshal Carrie Stetko is sent to Antarctica to investigate a murder.

ONI Press • 128 pages

Available in print



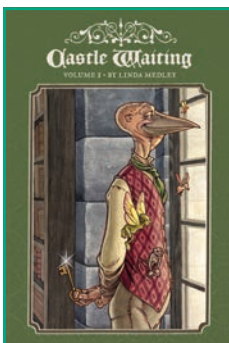
FANTASY

Bone: Out from Boneville, Vol. 1
Jeff Smith

Jeff Smith's all-ages fantasy follows Bone and his cousins on an epic Lord of the Rings like quest.

Scholastic • 144 pages

Available in print and on comiXology



FANTASY

Castle Waiting, Vol. 1
Linda Medley

This tale of an abandoned castle and its inhabitants has been called a "feminist's fairy tale."

Fantagraphics • 472 pages

Eisner Award Winner!

Available in print and on comiXology



FANTASY

Coraline: The Graphic Novel
Neil Gaiman & P. Craig Russell

Coraline discovers a different set of parents when she moves to a new home and has to fight to get back to her real home.

Harper Collins • 192 pages

Available in print and on comiXology



FANTASY

Friends with Boys
Faith Erin Hicks

Maggie McKay goes to high school for the first time, along with the sad ghost who has haunted her all her life.

First Second • 224 pages

Available in print



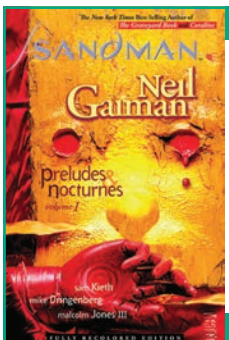
FANTASY

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, Vol. 1
Alan Moore & Kevin O'Neill

Famous literary characters band together to fight villains in Victorian England.

ABC/DC Comics • 176 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



FANTASY

The Sandman, Vol. 1: Preludes & Nocturnes
Neil Gaiman & Sam Kieth

The beginning of Gaiman's epic tale of Dream, who escapes captivity to search for his lost objects of power.

DC Comics/Vertigo • 240 pages

Eisner Award Winner!

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



HORROR

Fatale, Book 1: Death Chases Me
Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips

An immortal woman inspires obsession in every man she comes across.

Image Comics • 144 pages

Available in print and on comiXology

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB



HORROR

Locke & Key, Vol. 1: Welcome to Lovecraft
Joe Hill & Gabriel Rodriguez

Come inside Keyhouse, where every door you open transforms you. But beware the beast who lives there!

IDW • 152 pages

Eisner Award Winner!

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



HORROR

The Sixth Gun, Book 1: Cold Dead Fingers
Cullen Bunn & Brian Hurtt

The sixth gun is from a set of weapons with powers not of this world. When it surfaces in the Old West, only one man stands in the way of the evil forces trying to possess it.

Oni Press • 160 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



HORROR

Swamp Thing, Vol. 1: Raise Them Bones
Scott Snyder & Yanick Paquette

The Swamp Thing is part of the Green, which watches over the world. But a war with the Red is brewing.

DC Comics • 168 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



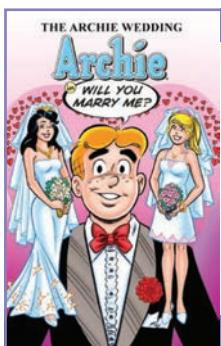
HORROR

The Walking Dead, Vol. 1: Days Gone By
Robert Kirkman & Tony Moore

This is where it all began: An apocalyptic event turns much of the world's population into zombies, as the unaffected struggle to survive.

Image Comics • 144 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



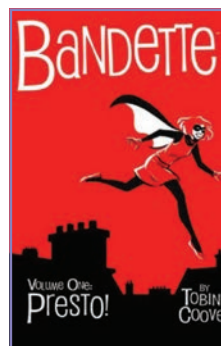
HUMOR

The Archie Wedding: Archie in Will You Marry Me?
Michael Uslan & Stan Goldberg

Gaze into two possible futures for Archie, as he marries Betty AND Veronica in this "what if?" scenario.

Archie Comics • 168 pages

Available in print



HUMOR

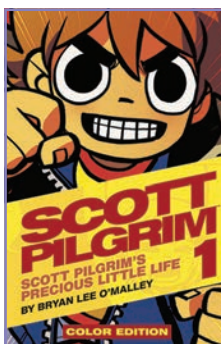
Bandette, Vol. 1: Presto!
Paul Tobin & Colleen Coover

Bandette uses her skills as a thief on both sides of the law. But someone evil wants the world's greatest thief dead!

Dark Horse • 144 pages

Eisner Award Winner!

Available in print and on comiXology



HUMOR

Scott Pilgrim, Vol. 1: Precious Little Life
Bryan Lee O'Malley

Scott Pilgrim has to fight his way through Ramona Flowers' seven evil exes in order to date her.

Oni Press • 192 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



REALITY-BASED

American Born Chinese
Gene Luen Yang

Jin Wang just wants to be an all-American boy, but a visit from his Chinese cousin causes him to transfer to another school to start over.

First Second • 240 pages

Eisner Award Winner!

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



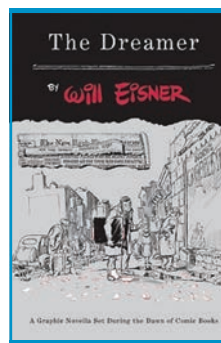
REALITY-BASED

American Splendor and More American Splendor
Harvey Pekar, et al

No one captures real life like Harvey Pekar. His classic stories—illustrated by some of the top artists in comics—are collected in these anthologies.

Ballantine Books • 320 pages

Available in print



REALITY-BASED

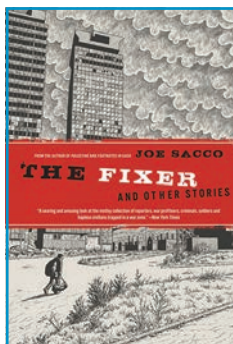
The Dreamer
Will Eisner

Will Eisner's autobiographical look at his beginnings in comics is also a history of the early years of the industry.

W. W. Norton & Company • 54 pages

Available in print

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB



REALITY-BASED

The Fixer and Other Stories

Joe Sacco

Joe Sacco reports on the Bosnian War in comics form.

Drawn and Quarterly • 216 pages

Available in print



REALITY-BASED

Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic

Alison Bechdel

Alison Bechdel's autobiographical tale of growing up with her father, the owner of the town's funeral home.

Mariner Books • 232 pages



Available in print



REALITY-BASED

Ghost World

Daniel Clowes

A series of stories chronicles the lives of teenagers Enid and Becky, as they grow up and head towards separate lives.

Fantagraphics • 80 pages

Available in print



REALITY-BASED

Gingerbread Girl

Paul Tobin & Colleen Cover

Anna Billips might have a missing sister or she just might be insane. Is her twin imaginary or created by her mad scientist father?

Top Shelf • 112 pages

Available in print and comiXology



REALITY-BASED

It's A Good Life, If You Don't Weaken

Seth

Seth's obsession with a forgotten magazine cartoonist affects his personal life and relationships.

Drawn and Quarterly • 176 pages

Available in print



REALITY-BASED

Marble Season

Gilbert Hernandez

Gilbert Hernandez's semi-autobiographical graphic novel about growing up and the power of storytelling and role-playing for youth.

Drawn and Quarterly • 128 pages

Available in print



REALITY-BASED

Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History

Art Spiegelman

Art Spiegelman's devastating account of his parents' lives in Nazi Germany and concentration camps during WWII.

Pantheon • 160 pages

Available in print



REALITY-BASED

The New York Four

Brian Wood & Ryan Kelly

Riley journeys from Brooklyn to Manhattan to go to school, find love, and make new friends.

DC Comics • 176 pages

Available in print



REALITY-BASED

The Complete Persepolis

Marjane Satrapi

Marjane Satrapi's coming-of-age story, set during the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Pantheon • 341 pages

Available in print



REALITY-BASED

Relish: My Life in the Kitchen

Lucy Knisley

Lucy Knisley's autobiographical tale of growing up with her chef mom in a life surrounded by food.

First Second • 176 pages

Available in print and on Kindle



REALITY-BASED

Stuck Rubber Baby
Howard Cruse

Howard Cruse's semi-autobiographical story explores coming of age in the 1960s south, and a search for identity.

DC Comics/Vertigo • 224 pages Eisner Award Winner!

Available in print



SCIENCE FICTION

Chew, Vol. 1: Taster's Choice
John Layman & Rob Guillory

Tony Chu is a detective who gets psychic impressions from what he eats, including maybe the corpse of a murder victim.

Image Comics • 128 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SCIENCE FICTION

Fashion Beast
Alan Moore, Anthony Johnston & Facundo Percio

Alan Moore's screenplay (written when he was writing *Watchmen* in 1985), is a modern-day telling of *Beauty and the Beast* set in a dystopian future.

Avatar Press • 256 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SCIENCE FICTION

Fray
Joss Whedon & Karl Moline

Malaka Fray is a thief and a Slayer (ala Buffy the Vampire Slayer), in this tale set in the future.

Dark Horse • 216 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SCIENCE FICTION

Morning Glories, Vol. 1: For a Better Future
Nick Spencer & Joe Eisma

Six new students fight for their lives amidst the sinister secrets of Morning Glory Academy.

Image Comics • 192 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



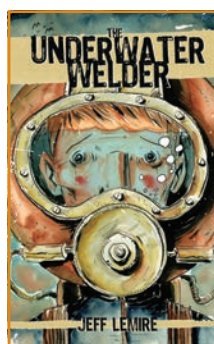
SCIENCE FICTION

Saga, Vol. 1
Bryan K. Vaughan & Fiona Staples

A sweeping science fiction epic that unites two soldiers from opposing sides who fall in love and have a baby.

Image Comics • 160 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SCIENCE FICTION

The Underwater Welder
Jeff Lemire

Jack Joseph deals with the pressures of impending fatherhood and his work undersea in this story that is equal parts science fiction and character study.

Top Shelf • 224 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SCIENCE FICTION

Y: The Last Man, Vol. 1: Unmanned
Bryan K. Vaughan & Pia Guerra

What happens when every man on earth—except one—dies?

DC Comics/Vertigo • 128 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

All-New X-Men, Vol. 1: Yesterday's X-Men
Brian Michael Bendis & Stuart Immonen

The original X-Men time travel from the past to encounter their modern day counterparts and a future they could never imagine.

Marvel Comics • 136 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

Aquaman, Vol. 1: The Trench
Geoff Johns & Ivan Reis

Aquaman fights a long-buried race of undersea creatures in this new imagining of the classic hero.

DC Comics • 144 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB



SUPERHERO

Astonishing X-Men, Vol. 1: Gifted
Joss Whedon & John Cassaday

Joss Whedon reinvents the X-Men with a new team led by Cyclops and Emma Frost.

Marvel Comics • 152 pages



Eisner Award Winner!

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



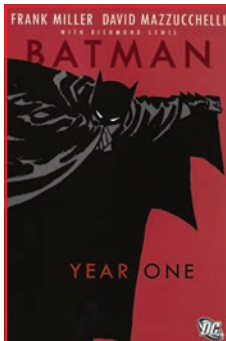
SUPERHERO

Batman: Hush
Jeph Loeb & Jim Lee

A new menace from Batman's past (Hush) threatens the Dark Knight and the people he loves.

DC Comics • 320 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

Batman: Year One
Frank Miller & David Mazzucchelli

In this ground-breaking story which changed the Batworld forever, find out how Bruce Wayne became Batman.

DC Comics • 136 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

Captain America: The Winter Soldier, Vol. 1
Ed Brubaker & Steve Epting

Captain America's life is changed when he confronts a Cold War-era assassin from the former Soviet Union.

Marvel Comics • 168 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

Captain Marvel, Vol. 1: In Pursuit of Flight
Kelly Sue DeConnick, Dexter Soy, & Emma Rios

Carol Danvers, the superhero formerly known as Ms. Marvel, takes on a new mission as Captain Marvel.

Marvel Comics • 136 pages

Available in print and on comiXology



SUPERHERO

The Death of Superman
Dan Jurgens, Jerry Ordway, et al

Superman vs. Doomsday, a malevolent creature from another world, who destroys everything in its path. The title tells the outcome.

DC Comics • 160 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

Five Weapons: Make the Grade
Jimmie Robinson

13-year-old Tyler is the son of a legendary hitman, and enrolled in a school for assassins. But Tyler is a pacifist ...

Image Comics • 144 pages

Available in print and on comiXology



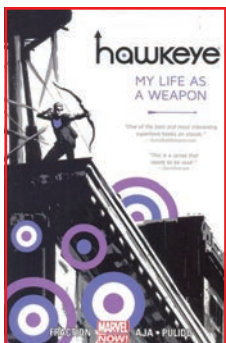
SUPERHERO

Green Lantern: Secret Origin
Geoff Johns & Ivan Reis

How Hal Jordan became the Green Lantern of Space Sector 2814.

DC Comics • 176 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

Hawkeye, Vol. 1: My Life As a Weapon
Matt Fraction & David Aja

What does Hawkeye do when he's not being an Avenger? He gets into a lot of trouble!

Marvel Comics • 136 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

Hellboy: The Midnight Circus
Mike Mignola & Duncan Fegredo

Young Hellboy runs away and discovers a weird circus, inhabited by five demons from Hell.

Dark Horse • 56 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

Invincible, Vol. 1: Family Matters
Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker

Mark Grayson's dad is the most powerful superhero on the planet, and Mark is following in his footsteps.

Image Comics • 120 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

Irredeemable, Vol. 1
Mark Waid & Peter Krause

What if the world's greatest superhero decided to become the world's greatest supervillain?

BOOM! Studios • 128 pages

Available in print and on comiXology



SUPERHERO

Kingdom Come
Mark Waid & Alex Ross

The DC Universe heroes come out of retirement to stop a new breed of heroes who stop at nothing to achieve their goals.

DC Comics • 232 pages

Eisner Award Winner!

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

Marvels
Kurt Busiek & Alex Ross

The history of the Marvel Universe unfolds through the eyes of a newspaper photographer.

Marvel Comics • 248 pages

Eisner Award Winner!

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

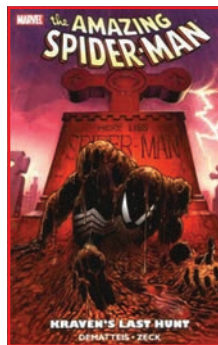
Runaways, Vol. 1: Pride and Joy
Brian K. Vaughan and Adrian Alphona

A group of super-powered kids go on the run when they realize their parents are super-villains.

Marvel Comics • 142 pages

Eisner Award Winner!

Available in print



SUPERHERO

The Amazing Spider-Man: Kraven's Last Hunt
J. M. DeMatteis & Mike Zeck

Kraven the Hunter "kills" Spider-Man and dons his costume, while Spidey fights back to reclaim his identity.

Marvel Comics • 168 pages

Available in print and on comiXology (6 invind. issues)



SUPERHERO

The Superior Spider-Man, Vol. 1: My Own Worst Enemy
Dan Slott and Ryan Stegman

Doctor Octopus has taken over Peter Parker's body and becomes the Superior Spider-Man!

Marvel Comics • 120 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

Superman: Red Son
Mark Millar, Dave Johnson & Killian Plunkett

What would happen if Superman's rocket from Krypton landed in Soviet Russia rather than the United States?

DC Comics • 160 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

The Ultimates, Vol. 1: Super-Human
Mark Millar & Bryan Hitch

The Ultimates (The Avengers in Marvel's Ultimate Universe) band together to fight evil. This version is closest to the movie version of *The Avengers*.

Marvel Comics • 160 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology



SUPERHERO

Wonder Woman, Vol. 1: Blood
Brian Azzarello & Cliff Chiang

This new imagining of Wonder Woman places emphasis on her mythological roots as Diana finds out who her real father is.

DC Comics • 160 pages

Available in print and on Kindle and comiXology

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB RESOURCES

We've made an effort to include books on this list that are currently in print and available digitally. We would like to suggest you support your local comics shops and we provide this list as a resource for finding the books listed here. Check their websites for more information about hours and locations.

SAN DIEGO AREA COMIC BOOK SHOPS

Comickaze Comic Books & More 5517 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, Suite AB San Diego, CA 92117 (858) 278-0371 www.comickazeonline.webs.com	On Comic Ground 1629 University Avenue San Diego, CA 92103 (619) 683-7879 www.oncomicground.50webs.com
Comics-N-Stuff 1020 El Cajon Blvd El Cajon, CA 92020 www.comics-n-stuff.com Locations also at <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carlsbad Westfield Mall Superstore• Chula Vista Center• Horton Plaza• North County Fair Westfield Mall• Otay Ranch Town Center• Parkway Center Shopping Center	Rising Sun Creations 1620 Camino De La Reina Suite D San Diego, CA 9108 (619) 291-5264 www.rsc-online.com
Crazy Fred's Cards & Comics 5648 Lake Murray Blvd La Mesa, CA 91942 (619) 303-6597 www.crazyfreds.com	Southern California Comics 8280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd #124 San Diego, CA 92111 (858) 715-8669 www.socalcomics.com
Galactic Comics 4981 Newport Avenue San Diego, CA 92161 (619) 226-6543 www.galacticcomics.com	Villainous Lair Comics 3371 Adams Avenue San Diego, CA 92116 (619) 487-1340 www.villainouslair.com
	Yesteryear Comics 9353 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, Suite D2 San Diego, CA 92123 (828) 279-6121 www.facebook.com/yesteryearcomics

USED BOOKSTORES

These bookstores each have a selection of used graphic novels.

Book • Off

4260 Kearny Mesa Road
#128
San Diego, CA 92111
(858) 627-9600
www.bookoffusa.com

5th Avenue Books

3838 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 291-4660

**Plus don't
forget
to check
your
LOCAL
LIBRARY!**

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for regular Book Club updates!**
www.comic-con.org/toucan



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