

Great Graphic Novels for Tweens

By Laura Leonard, Library Director

If you know upper elementary or middle schoolers you have most likely heard of Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series and Raina Telgemeier's books *Smile*, *Sisters*, *Drama*, and *Ghosts*. Fortunately, there are more than a dozen Wimpy Kid books and Telgemeier will publish two new books in 2019. Even better news is that there are plenty other wonderful graphic novels to keep tweens and teens reading.

For readers interested in realistic fiction and autobiographical accounts there are many to choose from. Svetlana Chmakova uses humor to tell the story of students at Berrybrook Middle School. Each of her three books: *Awkward*, *Brave*, and *Crush* feature a different narrator providing alternative perspectives to the experiences at BMS, some funny and others cringe worthy. *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson depicts how friendships shift and change during middle school. Although there are bumps and bruises along the way the main character, Astrid finds her strength and a new passion. *Real Friends* by Shannon Hale is a memoir that also focuses on the changing dynamics of friendships while providing insight into how to navigate challenging situations. The Newbery Honor winning memoir, *El Deafo* by Cece Bell recounts the struggle of going to school with the added challenge of having a large hearing aid strapped to your chest. Themes that are universal to all tweens and teens are explored with humor and grace. In *Sunny Side Up* and the sequel *Swing It, Sunny* by Jennifer L. Holm the focus is less on school and more on the sometimes challenging family dynamics that kids face. Sunny's stay with her grandfather is prompted by a difficult situation, but the bond they two form is one to be treasured.

Adventure awaits readers of *The Time Museum* by Matthew Loux! A summer job takes an unexpected turn as Delia and her friends must travel through time to protect the museum. In *The Stonekeeper*, first of the Amulet series by Kazu Kibuishi siblings, Em and Navin who fight for the person they love in the face of sinister and dangerous situations. Ben Hatke has penned two out of this world series. *Zita the Spacegirl* and *Mighty Jack* are perfect for readers looking for page-turning excitement.

Although many of the books included here incorporate humor, if laughs are what you are looking for check our graphic novels by Jeffrey Brown, *Bone* by Jeff Smith or the ever popular *Big Nate*.

For more recommendations search for the Top 10 Graphic Novels of 2018 published by *School Library Journal*, the ALSC (The Association for Library Service to Children) 2018 Graphic Novels Reading Lists or contact the Wyckoff Library at 201-358-5072. Go to www.bccls.org to view availability and request books from the library. Ask a librarian how to access Novelist, a database that you can access using your library card that will help you find your next great read.

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