

Check It Out Column for April 18-26

Not your old comic book anymore!

by Kathy Stutzman, Community Relations Assistant

With the recent phenomena of movies based on comic book heroes, comic books and their alter egos, graphic novels, are rapidly appearing on the shelves of stores and libraries.

I first heard the term, graphic novel, when I asked my daughter for Christmas ideas. She suggested purchasing graphic novels for my then seven year old grandson. She said they had bought one and my grandson's reading had really improved. Upon questioning, I learned they were like comic books only in a paperback form. So began my quest for graphic novels.

What is a graphic novel? It's a new way to engage young students with alternative reading formats. Think of it as a stand-alone story in comics form, usually published as a soft-cover book. Many of them use familiar comic book characters (e.g. Batman, Fantastic Four, Spider-man, Donald Duck) or settings (e.g. Star Wars).

Graphic novels and comics are turning a new generation of anti-reading youth into readers! In fact, nearly half of the Library's graphic novel collection is out all the time. These popular novels utilize sequencing, symbolism, allegory, drawing inferences and more literary techniques. As a result, they are now considered a legitimate format for reluctant readers, visual learners and ESL students.

Some of the titles in our collection include:

- Batman and O. The chrysalis by Chuck Dixon
- Superman, the Man of Steel by John Byrne and Marv Wolfman
- Watchmen by Alan Moore
- Left Behind Series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins
- Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi by Tom Veitch
- Walt Disney's Donald Duck Adventures

Currently, we have a teen graphic novel display on the upper floor. To locate additional graphic novels, go to the graphic novel sections in either the children's area and adult area. WCPL has over 800 titles that can be checked out. Run, don't walk! Remember, due to their popularity, about half are checked out continually.

New graphic novels are being published everyday. From comic biographies to graphic novels about science and math – experts say this format is about to explode with new and exciting titles for students in elementary. Don't get left out! Catch the newest arrivals by going to our website, [www.warsawlibrary.com](http://www.warsawlibrary.com), clicking "Books, CDs and More" at the

top, then clicking “New Arrivals”, next click, “Graphic Novels” which will show the newest novels.