

Title of Session: The Art of Storytelling - Graphic Novels

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: The Art of Storytelling Group

BJB2: Welcome, everyone, to today's Art of Storytelling discussion

BJB2: we usually start all Tapped In discussions with brief introductions. Please tell me where you are located and what interests you about the discussion.

BJB2: I teach remedial communication in Pennsylvania and am leading this discussion

SerenaG: I'm from Texas and Oddly enough, I just like stories.

JoseMH: I'm in San Antonio, Texas. Interested in other people's points of view and interest regarding the arts.

JenniferR5: Hello, I am from Houston, TX. I am currently a student teacher. I would like to know more about how to engage students in creative writing.

FredK: I am a literacy tutor in SE Oklahoma

ZerlyndaC: I'm also from Texas and love stories

MariaGu: I'm in Houston and I like to listen to people's stories

BJB2 smiles. Looks like an enthusiastic group!

FredK: Each of our lives is a story

JoseMH: BJ, are you a good story teller?

BJB2: Let's start with a brief discussion about what you think a graphic novel is.

BJB2: sometimes, Jose

JenniferR5: I think a graphic novel contains more detailed illustrations rather than text. Perhaps?

JoseMH: A fancy comic book.

OrlandoP: Is a graphic novel like a Manga, BJ?

BJB2: both answers are correct

SerenaG: I guess I'm a relatively simple kinda girl, and I think a graphic novel just describes the story more than another

BJB2: yes, Orlando, it can be

ZerlyndaC: what's a manga?

BJB2: Good Serena....that's part of it

OrlandoP: Stephen King just published a graphic novel with color illustrations but I forgot the title of the novel.

SerenaG: (yay)

BJB2: hmmm...we'll have to see if we can find out what it is, Orlando

BJB2: but for now...let's look at some other definitions of graphic novels

SerenaG: the dark towner or something like that Orlando??? [Ed Note: The Dark Tower http://www.stephenking.com/dt_07/]

BJB2: I'll be showing you some urls

BJB2: you may need to hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard to override the pop up blocker

BJB2: . o O (and I'll explain Manga in a minute)

BJB2: I liked this definition because it walks the walk...

OrlandoP: Zerlyn, A manga is like a long comic book but it is a novel with complicated plot and several subplots and conflicts and indepth characterization.

BJB2: <http://www.artbomb.net/comics/introgn.jsp>

ZerlyndaC: would you happen to know of an example?

BJB2: we can look at some examples later if that's ok?

ZerlyndaC: perfect

JoseMH: no problem

BJB2: did everyone get the artbomb site?

JenniferR5: yes

MariaGu: yes

ZerlyndaC: yes

OrlandoP: Yes

SerenaG: Yes

BJB2: I have two more sites that are similar:
<http://www.graphicnovels.brodart.com/history.htm>

OrlandoP: BJ Can we check out the site while we're chatting?

BJB2: this site gives a good overview of graphic novels. Yes, Orlando

BJB2: I'll give you a couple minutes to look at the url

OrlandoP: We're not going to get kicked out of the chat room while checking the sites?

ZerlyndaC: Will we be using any particular url?

BJB2: you shouldn't get kicked out unless you have a pop up blocker

BJB2: Zerlynda, just click on the urls I'm sharing

OrlandoP: Thanks, just tell us when to check them out BJ.

SerenaG: So BJ, are graphic novels exactly like comic books because I see no difference yet?

ZerlyndaC: ok

BJB2: here's the other site I have on a definition

BJB2: <http://leep.lis.uiuc.edu/seworkspace/aspisak/Home.htm>

BJB2 gives everyone a minute to look at the last url

SerenaG: Oh, the last url gives a better idea...

BJB2: everyone back?

ZerlyndaC: I agree with Serena

ShayneT: Looking at the first site, I remember the Classic Comics that I read as a kid - "graphic novels" of literature.

BJB2 nods to Shayne.

BJB2: Zerlynda and Serena, just as our students learn in different ways, so do teachers. Those sites all give basically the same information, but in different formats

BJB2: Let's look at the next site I have for you
<http://www.rationalmagic.com/Comics/Comics.html>

OrlandoP: Wow

BJB2: this site is about the only one I found that includes suggestions of graphic novel titles for younger kids

ZerlyndaC: around what age can you start introducing graphic novels?

BJB2: good question, Zerlynda...let's try this one and see if that helps answer your question

BJB2: The Comic Book Project <http://www.comicbookproject.org/home.html>

JoannaS: ok. I am now able to see it

BJB2: what age would you recommend, Zerlynda?

SerenaG: I didn't know there was actually a project to have kids write these type of stories. I think that's such a great idea

JoannaS: I like this project

BJB2 . o O (or anyone else want to suggest an appropriate age for doing graphic novels?
)

JoseMH: It certainly looks interesting and doable

OrlandoP: BJ, does everybody know that Mangas are read from the back to the front pages?

BJB2: probably not, Orlando. I didn't know that!

JoannaS: I'd say starting third grade

ZerlyndaC: well from looking at the site, elementary age, students are really creative during those years not to say they're not when they grow up

MariaGu: it seems like students would really enjoy doing this

JoseMH: kids should be encouraged to use their imagination

LarryW: This is a good project

BJB2: Yes, I agree that elementary students can do this...even first graders can do very simple stories

NancyKZ: yes it does look like they will

JoannaS: Nowadays, students are eager to learn especially different aspects about technology

SerenaG: I agree with Zerlynda, it seems to be the younger kids. So BJ is this idea not so popular with say high school students?

MaureenB: I was thinking of doing comics as a genre at the end of the school year but I think graphic novels would work so much better

OrlandoP: My children started reading them before they went to first grade. Just read the books first because some have content that are inappropriate to children, like violence.

ShayneT: My senior high school students might balk at doing this. I've got kids telling me that "they can't draw." Maybe it is better before they become self-conscious about their art?

JenniferR5: I could see my first graders doing this.

LarryW: kids are more engaged with a book project like this

BJB2: Serena, the majority of published graphic novels are for teen/late teen

JoannaS: yes, First grade is ok. It is never too soon

BJB2: here's a site to give you some guidelines

BJB2: <http://www.teachingcomics.org/index.php>

OrlandoP: I have High School kids who are addicted to Mangas.

ShayneT: Orlando, how to Mangas differ?

LarryW: yes, never to soon, I agree

LarryW: mangas ?

BJB2: Manga is mostly a style of drawing

OrlandoP: Larry, differ from what?

BJB2: Shayne, do you want to share your url?

ZerlyndaC: mangas from graphic novels?

ZerlyndaC: is that your question Larry

OrlandoP: It's a Japanese style of drawing with characters with spiky hair, check out Pokemon Larry

OrlandoP: Oh that

BJB2 wonders if Shayne is still with us?

SerenaG: So you can do a graphic novel with say digital pictures and not have to actually draw them out?

JoseMH: yeah, like anime

ShayneT: yes, I'm looking for it on the site

BJB2: <http://www.curriculum.org/tcf/teachers/projects/arthistory.shtml>

NancyKZ: I didn't know that it was called Mangas

JoannaS: I like that url I think it is always great to combine the graphs with texts. kids enjoy that

BJB2: Shayne, can you tell us a little about that site?

ShayneT: Here it is: Art History goes Graphic - <http://www.curriculum.org/tcf/teachers/projects/arthistory.shtml>

OrlandoP: Larry, Mangas are Japanese, in fact they are so popular in Asia that it is a huge business.

LarryW: the url uses art / comics to educate

BJB2 gets the discussion back on track

JoannaS: That's a great idea

OrlandoP: I agree BJ

BJB2: has everyone opened Shayne's url?

BJB2: <http://www.curriculum.org/tcf/teachers/projects/arthistory.shtml>

LarryW: this is a bit different from creating books

BJB2: comments or questions so far?

LarryW: yes I have opened Shaynes url

JoannaS: about art history?

BJB2 . o O (on graphic novels in general or about Shayne's url)

BJB2 . o O (it's a big file.)

ShayneT: The lesson plan can be adapted for any topic. The pdf gives a good breakdown about creating a graphic novel.

MaureenB: I like the outline to explore the graphic novel and then the outline to write one from the arthistory

JoannaS: I like how it uses hands on activities to teach illustration and literacy

MaureenB: great way to keep kids interested in June

JoseMH: lots of helpful information there on Shayne's url

LarryW: The PDF is comprehensive, I read though the TOC

SerenaG: I like Shayne's url, it's easy to understand

OrlandoP: BJ, how can teachers use graphic novels in the classroom since they are recommended by the curriculum?

JoannaS: I would like to save these urls. they seem interesting

BJB2: well, Orlando...Shayne's suggestion would be art history...but what about any history? or social issue?

DavidWe: They'll be in your transcript, Joanna

BJB2: let me give you some ideas...

OrlandoP: Ok, thanks

JoannaS: Thanks David

ShayneT: A concept that we hear frequently these days is "differentiating" instruction. Using graphic novels to explore or extend concepts within any kind of classroom would be interesting.

BJB2: Graphic novels for teens <http://www.noflyingnotights.com/>

OrlandoP: Great idea, Shayne

ShayneT: When my kids were little and doing Bible studies, I would draw out the stories for them. Should have saved them

LarryW: there is streaming video on the site also, under teachers resources

BJB2: Phil Yeh uses artwork and humor to promote literacy, the environment, creativity and other positive issues

BJB2: <http://www.hollywoodcomics.com/yeh.html>

JoannaS: great website for teens

SerenaG: BJ/SHAYNE I don't just plan on teaching kids I would like to do counseling for troubled individuals. I think this idea could be used to help them express ideas/emotions in a "safe" way

BJB2: This one is called Bound by Law. It deals with copyright
<http://www.law.duke.edu/cspd/comics/digital.html>

SerenaG: what do you think?

ZerlyndaC: it would help them express themselves more, im loving it

BJB2 agrees with Serena

BJB2 . o O (there are many ways to use storytelling to help at risk teens...)

ShayneT: Serena, would this be related to art therapy?

JoannaS: I agree that this is a great tool to express emotions

OrlandoP: Great ideas and sites BJ and Shayne, but how can teachers make their students buy these? Aren't they expensive?

BJB2: check the links in this room, Serena

LarryW: requires more time to research / evaluate

BJB2: Orlando, I'd purchase a few kinds to use as demos and then have the students create their own

ShayneT: Buy the graphic novels? I've found them in the library.

SerenaG: Shayne I would assume so, it would help them feel at ease about it.

BJB2: speaking of libraries....

JoannaS: yes

SerenaG: Don't laugh but I think this is the greatest idea ever.

JenniferR5: it's a great idea

BJB2: ALA Great Novels for Teens

<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/greatgraphicnovelsforteens/gn.htm>

ZerlyndaC: I agree with you Serena

LarryW: It looks user friend; however, I couldn't move around on the site very well

SerenaG: And I think it could be tweaked for different students who can't draw so well

ZerlyndaC: the ideas are great and it seems that kids would take a liking to it

BJB2: take a look at this site for Art Spiegelman

<http://www.randomhouse.com/pantheon/graphicnovels/spiegelman.html>

ZerlyndaC: Maus?

BJB2: . o O (did Maus and In the Shadow of the Towers)

ZerlyndaC: I actually just finishing reading Maus 1 and 2

JoseMH: Perhaps students could work in pairs. One would do the writing and the other would illustrate?

JoannaS amazed by the wonderful resources

BJB2: good idea, Jose

ShayneT: I would even allow use of collage

BJB2: here's one on child abuse

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Tale_of_One_Bad_Rat

JenniferR5: A collage sounds interesting

OrlandoP: Zerlynda, like is too mild a word, they get addicted to reading.

BJB2: more information on The Tale of One Bad Rat can be found at <http://www.bryantalbot.com/bad.rat.home.html>

ZerlyndaC: very true

JoannaS: graphic novels are great ways to help students enjoy the learning and understand concepts!

SerenaG: I would like to give students a more social learning experience as well. Like taking pictures for other at risk teens

BJB2 nods...and increase literacy

OrlandoP: Awesome sites BJ! I myself want to start reading some of the graphic novels.

BJB2: Serena, you might want to look at some of the resources in this group room and in the Arts in Corrections group room and in the Alt/Correctional Ed Forum

SerenaG: no kidding. This sure seems like something to get the kids completely involved with

SerenaG: That sounds like a great idea thanks BJ!

JoannaS: I like your idea Serena

SerenaG: Thank you Joanna.

BJB2: Serena, I'd be happy to talk with you about teaching at risk kids

BJB2 . o O (I teach in a juvenile correctional facility)

JoseMH: talk about helping to build self-esteem

JoannaS: Really? how's that?

SerenaG: Really? Because I wanted to try to work in one down here where I live. But then.. I've got a full work load with school and things.

SerenaG: I find at risk teens something interesting, and feel like I could really help

NancyKZ: that's good Serena

JoseMH: we all can learn from each other

JoannaS: Yes, teens need our support

BJB2: Serena, (and anyone) feel free to email me at bjb@tappedin.org

JoseMH: thanks

BJB2: we have about 5 minutes left...any comments or questions on our topic of graphic novels?

SerenaG: thanks so much BJ

NancyKZ: O.k. thanks

LarryW: thanks

JoseMH: great topic, man. great topic

JoannaS: Thanks for the e-mail BJ

SerenaG: nope as long as I'm able to get the links in the transcript I should be good to go.

ZerlyndaC: Thanks BJ, the topic was great!

OrlandoP: Are you giving a part 2 of the session, BJ?

NancyKZ: good information

MariaGu: very interesting topic

JenniferR5: Excited to share this new information!

BJB2: I lead this Storytelling discussion every month, Orlando...

LarryW: I don't know enough to say much

JoannaS: Yes this topic is excellent. It is useful for students

BJB2: the next one will be April 11

OrlandoP: Great, thanks BJ.

SerenaG: BJ do you show the same links for every discussion/

ShayneT: This was a great discussion. You've given so many urls to explore. Thanks BJ!

BJB2: I try to look at different aspects of storytelling each month

NancyKZ: Thanks for the information and the URLS

BJB2: there is an archive of transcripts at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

OrlandoP: This was AWESOME!

JoannaS: I will try to attend your other discussions

BJB2 blushes. Thanks for your kind words!

SerenaG: Ok that's great. I'll see whenever I can get back on. This was so interesting, and hey even I learned new things. Thank so much everyone!!

DavidWe: Maybe you should do another episode of this topic, BJ

ShayneT: bye

OrlandoP: I'll check the transcripts sometime soon, thanks again BJ and everybody.

SerenaG: Bye!!

LarryW: bye Shayne

JoseMH: Thanks, BJ for the information and a JOB WELL DONE!

JoannaS: I agree

BJB2: thanks, everyone!

BJB2 waves goodnight

ZerlyndaC: Thanks for the links BJ! I will def. be at the next event

JoannaS: Goodnight everyone

