

## **SELECTION CRITERIA AND STUDENT BORROWING POLICY FOR GRAPHIC NOVELS**

Graphic novels are an important tool in the mission of the school library as well as the public library. These novels attract reluctant readers, and they build life-long reading habits. The specialized format of graphic novels requires that some aspects of the general selection criteria be emphasized and expanded upon.

- Preview all titles, whenever possible.
- Do not assume that a graphic novel is appropriate even if the author's texts are already part of the general collection.
- Be aware that themes that may be appropriate in a text format may be too explicit or sensational in a graphic novel format.
- Use trustworthy review sites and retain hardcopies of favorable reviews of potentially challengeable material.
- Be aware of publishers with a reputation for controversial materials.
- Be aware of authors known for using mature themes and language.
- When a new graphic novel arrives at the library, read the graphic novel and look for inappropriate imaging and inappropriate language. If the material is inappropriate for a school-house library, sell or give the graphic novel away to a library belonging to Northern Lights Library System.
- If a graphic novel is made for teens, label the novel as such. Do not allow students to take out unless the student is 14+ without parental permission.
- If a student orders a graphic novel using Tracpac, read through the material upon arrival. If the librarian feels it has inappropriate content, contact the parent to confirm whether student may borrow the item. If parent gives permission, make a note of the date, the title of the graphic novel, and the name of parent who gave permission.