# Comic Book Literacy

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**
Course(s):
Time Period: **September**
Length: **6 weeks**
Status: **Published**

## Enduring Understandings

Comic books are an art form and a distinct way of relaying a narrative.

Certain stories lend themselves to a comic presentation.

(Super)heroes are now most-commonly associated with comics.

There are many genres and sub-genres of comics.

## Essential Questions

What is a graphic novel?

How are graphic novels different from traditional novels?

How do you read a graphic novel?

How have comic books evolved since their initial creation?

Why have comic books been maligned as "junk food for the brain"?

Why are some stories more suited to graphic novels?

What makes a comic book character?

How have comic book characters become modern mythology?

How and why have comic conventions become ground zero for almost all of popular culture?

Why have comics shifted from over-the-top presentation of events to gritty realism?

## Content

"Seduction of the Innocent" by Dr. Frederick Wertham

Comics Code Authority

Superman

Batman

Sub-Mariner

The Flash

Green Lantern

Wonder Woman

Captain America

Thor

Spider-Man

The Fantastic Four

X-Men

Guardians of the Galaxy

Daredevil

Vocabulary:

Panel

Gutters

Captions

Speech/thought balloons

Sound effects

Splash panel

Bleed

## Skills

Literacy

Fluency

Reading comprehension

Genre identification

Thematic analysis

Character analysis

## Resources

Self-provided and/or selected works

Action Comics #1

Stan Lee documentary

## Standards

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| LA.RL.11-12.1 | Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain. |
| LA.RL.11-12.2 | Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text. |
| LA.RL.11-12.3 | Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed). |
| LA.RL.11-12.4 | Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. (e.g., Shakespeare as well as other authors.) |
| LA.RL.11-12.5 | Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact. |
| LA.RL.11-12.6 | Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement). |
| LA.RL.11-12.7 | Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text. (e.g., Shakespeare and other authors.) |
| LA.RL.11-12.9 | Demonstrate knowledge of and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early twentieth-century foundational works of literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics. |
| LA.RL.11-12.10a | By the end of grade 11, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above with scaffolding as needed. |
| LA.RL.11-12.10b | By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at grade level or above. |
| LA.W.11-12.7 | Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of |

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| | the subject under investigation. |
| LA.W.11-12.8 | Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation. (MLA or APA Style Manuals). |
| LA.W.11-12.9 | Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. |
| LA.W.11-12.9.A | Apply grades 11–12 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century foundational works, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics”). |
| LA.W.11-12.9.B | Apply grades 11–12 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning [e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court Case majority opinions and dissents] and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy [e.g., The Federalist, presidential addresses]”). |
| LA.SL.11-12.1 | Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively. |
| LA.SL.11-12.1.A | Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well reasoned exchange of ideas. |
| LA.SL.11-12.1.B | Collaborate with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and assessments (e.g., student developed rubrics), and establish individual roles as needed. |
| LA.SL.11-12.1.C | Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence; ensure a hearing for a full range of positions on a topic or issue; clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions; and promote divergent and creative perspectives. |
| LA.SL.11-12.1.D | Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task. |
| LA.SL.11-12.3 | Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used. |
| LA.SL.11-12.4 | Present information, findings and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically. The content, organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. |
| LA.SL.11-12.5 | Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest. |
| LA.SL.11-12.6 | Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. |
| LA.11-12.SL.11-12.2 | Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data. |