

Unit 1: Introduction to Graphic Novels

Content Area: **Language Arts**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Semester 1 & 2**
Length: **2 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Enduring Understandings

Sequential art is a historic way to tell stories.

Graphic Novels are a medium that has been revitalized.

Graphic Novels and comics have a vocabulary all their own.

Form and function are related in comics by physically shaping how a story is told.

Standards

L	Language
L.SS.9–10.1	Demonstrate command of the system and structure of the English language when writing or speaking.
L.VL.9–10.3	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading and content, including technical meanings, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
L.VL.9–10.3.A	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
L.VL.9–10.3.B	Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy).
L.VL.9–10.3.C	Analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).
L.VI.9–10.4	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings, including connotative meanings.
L.VI.9–10.4.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text.
L.VI.9–10.4.B	Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.
L.VI.9–10.4.C	Analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone; how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).
R	Reading

RL.CR.9–10.1	Cite a range of thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to strongly support analysis of multiple aspects of what a literary text says explicitly and inferentially, as well as including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
RL.CI.9–10.2	Determine one or more themes of a literary text and analyze how it is developed and refined over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
RL.IT.9–10.3	Analyze how an author unfolds and develops ideas throughout a text, including how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.
RL.TS.9–10.4	Analyze how an author’s choices concerning the structure of a text, order of the events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulation of time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create specific effects (e.g., mystery, tension, or surprise).
RL.PP.9–10.5	Determine an author’s lens in a text (including cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature) and analyze how an author uses rhetorical devices to advance a point of view.
RL.MF.9–10.6	Analyze, integrate, and evaluate multiple interpretations (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry) of a single text or text/s presented in different formats (visually, quantitatively).
RL.CT.9–10.8	Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) how an author draws on, develops, or transforms source material historical and literary significance (e.g., how a modern author treats a theme or topic from mythology or a religious text) and how they relate in terms of themes and significant concepts.
W	Writing
W.IW.9–10.2	Write informative/explanatory texts (including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes) to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
W.IW.9–10.2.A	Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aid in comprehension.
W.IW.9–10.2.B	Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic.
W.IW.9–10.2.C	Use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
W.IW.9–10.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.
W.IW.9–10.2.E	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
W.IW.9–10.2.F	Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).
W.WP.9–10.4	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach; sustaining effort to complete complex writing tasks; seeking out feedback and reflecting on personal writing progress; consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
W.RW.9–10.7	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

SL	Speaking and Listening
SL.PE.9–10.1	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
SL.PE.9–10.1.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.
SL.PE.9–10.1.B	Collaborate with peers to set rules for discussions (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, presentation of alternate views); develop clear goals and assessment criteria (e.g., student developed rubric) and assign individual roles as needed.
SL.PE.9–10.1.C	Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.
SL.PE.9–10.1.D	Respond thoughtfully to various perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and justify own views. Make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.
TECH.8.1.12.D.1	Demonstrate appropriate application of copyright, fair use and/or Creative Commons to an original work.
TECH.8.1.12.E.CS2	Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media.

Content and Texts

Scott McCloud's *Understanding Comics*

Selections from *Flight volume 1* edited by Kazu Kibuishi

[Are Graphic Novels Novels?](#)

PBS Digital Studios *It's Lit!*

Essential Questions

What role does order play in storytelling?

How can images tell a story without text?

What is the relationship between image and text?

What is the vocabulary of comics?

How is form related to function?

Knowledge and Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to do the following:

Understand and discuss various ways that images can support and alter a story
Use artistic terminology to explain images
Evaluate and create a story from an image
Identify issues of time, space, and transition
Analyze issues of time, space, and transition
Identify different genres of comics
Begin to see the connection between pop culture and social criticism

Transfer Goals

Students will independently be able to utilize graphic novel terminology and apply that knowledge to analyzing panel structure.

Students will independently be able to understand the graphic novel form and apply that knowledge to plot structure.

Assessment

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_w12qVbVV7OTThc9VW43HSpZm3Czh9kegRwYqjMm7fQ/edit?usp=sharing

Modifications

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17jJtNi1cFhRgM3667P67m3pGkjlSD-XarWejIWAANIg/edit?usp=sharing>