

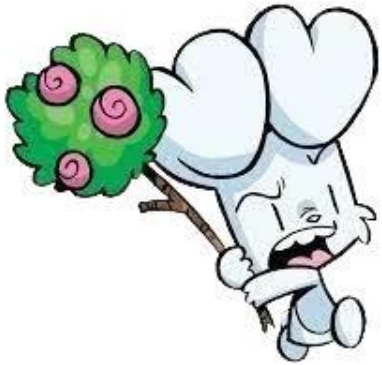


School Library Service

Primary Library Network: Summer 2026

Library Information and Resources

Focus: Graphic Novels in Primary Schools



Why comics and graphic novels are a great addition to your library or book corner

- Graphic novels are a legitimate and powerful part of literacy.
- Research shows that, while overall reading for enjoyment is declining, engagement with comics and graphic novels remains strong.
- The combination of image and text is consistent with how young people already consume information. Graphic novels both helps sustain engagement in reading and supports the navigation of a complex and image driven world.
- Despite strong evidence of impact on attainment and well being, stigma and lack of teacher confidence still limits their use in schools.

Recommended Reading

[Unlocking The Power Of Comics | Why Should You Use Multimodal Formats In The Classroom | National Literacy Trust](#)

What to consider when choosing graphic novels

- Is the novel a stand alone or single chapter of a long running series? This is particularly relevant to manga.
- Is this a useful teaching resource? For example, biographies, non-fiction in graphic format or classic fiction adaptation.
- What are the interests of my class? Graphic novels are a format and can cross many genre.
- What age is this aimed at? Are the images and text age appropriate?
- Consider the the font and layout? Is the font accessible are the panel sequences consistent?
- Is it inclusive and diverse?

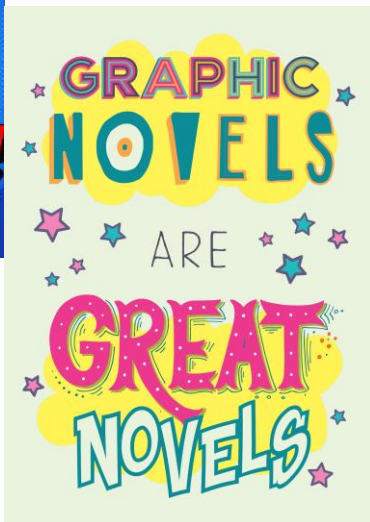
How should I organise these books?

Shelving with Junior Fiction

- By genre or alphabetically
- This encourages exploring other book types whilst browsing
- Larger format can make shelving problematic

Creating a standalone collection

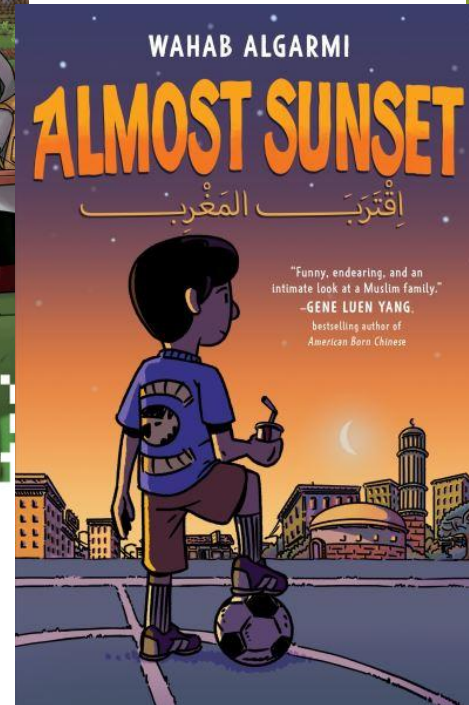
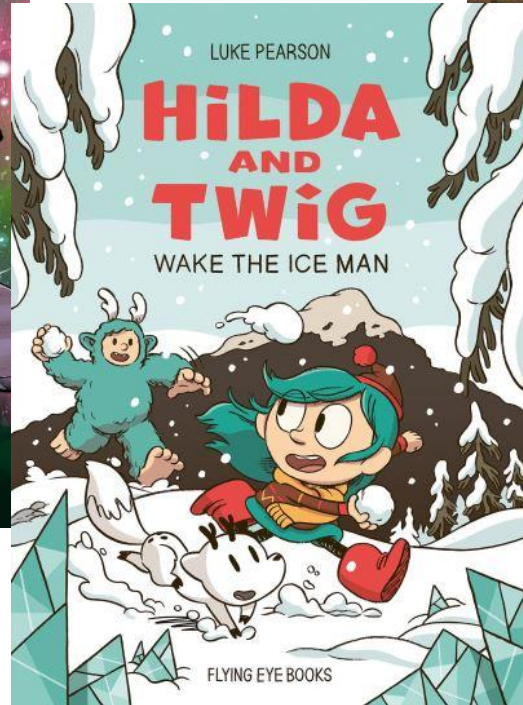
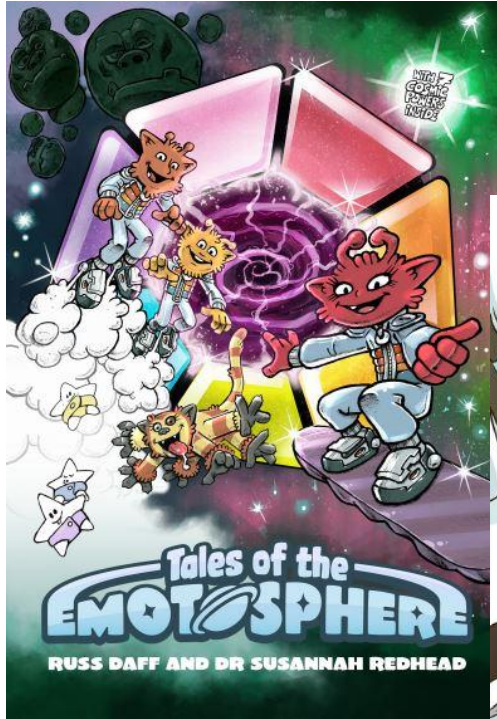
- Ensure collection is well signposted.
- Easier to accommodate varying sizes of books.
- Pupils may return to this area without exploring the whole library, some children may limit their choice.



Excelsior Award White

For students aged 9 and over (Key Stage 2)
Shortlist for 2026

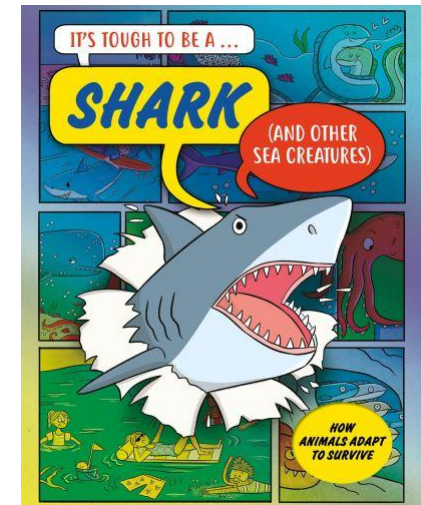
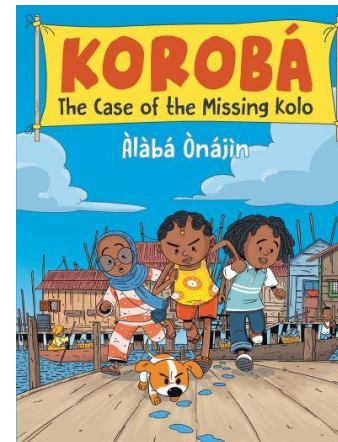
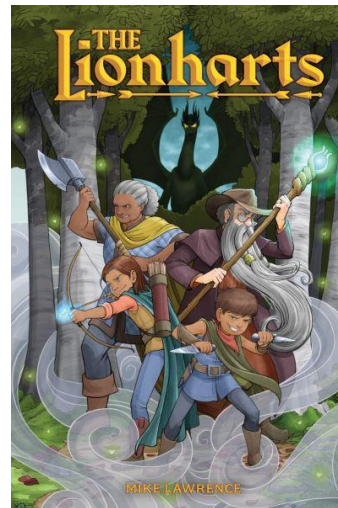
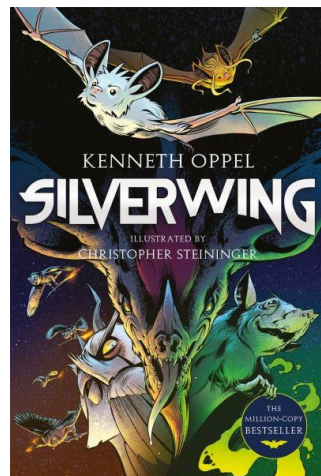
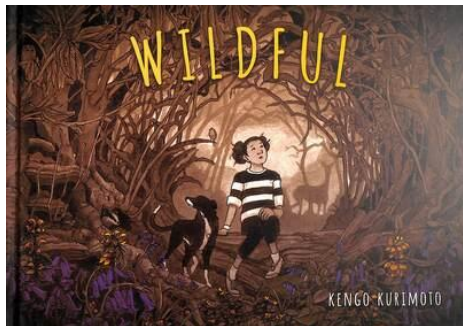
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WHITE



Visit the website to get involved. [Excelsior Award White 2026](#)

Further Reading

- [Why grabbing a graphic novel is a good thing | BookTrust](#)
- [Comic book reading tips | Words for Life](#)



Professional Updates

- The Reading Rights summit – what we learned and what comes next
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/about-us/news-updates/the-reading-rights-summit-what-we-learned-and-what-comes-next/>
- Barrington Stoke: Reader of the Year
<https://sla.org.uk/Public/About-Us/Awards-Pages/Reader-of-the-Year.aspx>
- The Empathy Day Festival is 4 – 11 June
<https://empathylab.uk/empathy-day/>
- Refugee Week 15 – 21 June 2026
<https://refugeeweek.org/>
- Access All Arts Week in June 15 – 19
<https://accessallarts.skyarts.uk/>
- Summer Reading Challenge 2026 Read to the Beat
<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>
- Inclusive Books for Children booklists
<https://www.inclusivebooksforchildren.org/>



Professional Updates

- Trends in children and young people's reading in print and digital formats
<https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/trends-in-children-and-young-peoples-reading-in-print-and-digital-formats/>
- The Book Trust – starting school booklist
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/booklists/all-about-starting-school-or-nursery/>
- The National Year of Reading
<https://goallin.org.uk/>
- Authorfy is free for the National Year of Reading
<https://authorfy.com/>
- Authors Live is a series of live webcasts available for free
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p006v267/authors-live>



Professional Updates



BOOK AWARDS

- The CLiPPA Shadowing Scheme – Poetry Award
https://clpe.org.uk/poetry/CLiPPA/shadowing_scheme
- Laugh Out Loud Book Awards 2026
<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/lollies/about>
- The Klaus Flugge shortlist: May 14 2026
<https://www.klausfluggeprize.co.uk/>
- The Alligators Mouth celebrates the best books for 6–8-year-olds
<https://www.thealligatorsmouth.co.uk/award>
- The 2026 Carnegie shortlists for Illustration and Writing
<https://carnegies.co.uk/>
- The Jhalak Prize for Children and YA
<https://www.jhalakprize.com/>

