

Library Lines, by Lily Collins , Kirkland Town Library staff and CCS senior

From *Wandavision* to *Superman & Lois*, TV shows based on comics are more and more common. Oftentimes, writers and fan theorizers alike pull from the source material, which can be an amalgamation of different comics from different runs and series. Particularly with *Wandavision*, there were dozens of easter eggs and moments of foreshadowing which were clear to people who read all of the comics. However, there are a lot of comics. Like, a lot. Just between DC and Marvel, there are around 75,000 published comics. Plus, it can be pretty hard to get your hands on some of them.

Luckily, most of these comics are also in graphic novels. Some graphic novels are simply longer comic books, usually with a complete and satisfying storyline that comic books tend to lack. Others, however, are collections of a run of comics originally published as single-issue comics.

If you still are trying to figure out what exactly happened in *Wandavision*, check out *Vision & the Scarlet Witch: the Saga of Wanda and Vision* by Steve Englehart. This graphic novel contains comics originally published between 1975 and 1984. There is almost no overlap between the graphic novel and the show, so you can definitely enjoy both without worrying about spoilers!

Marvel offers many graphic novels. They range from the Golden Age of Comics to the Modern Age comic like *Runaways: The Complete Collection* by Brian K. Vaughn. *Runaways* also has a TV show but this one does stick somewhat closer to the source material. With the abundance of Marvel TV shows in the future, now is the perfect time to get into graphic novels!

If DC comics are more your style, there are also plenty of graphic novels which feature Superman, Batman and many other classic characters available to check out! There are a range of DC comic-based TV shows as well, many of which take place within the *Green Arrow* universe. To do some reading on some of the characters you may encounter, take a look at the Green Arrows backstory in *Green Arrow: Year One* by Andy Diggle. If you are more a fan of movies like *Birds of Prey*, a great reading option is *Harley Quinn: Wild Card* by Liz Marsham.

Then there are graphic novels that have nothing to do with comics and can be about anything from history to an adaptation of classic novels. For example, recently deceased Congressman John Lewis wrote a series of three graphic novels titled *March*, which detail his experiences during the civil rights movement. Another amazing graphic memoir is *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei, who is an outspoken advocate for equal rights and portrayed Sulu in the original *Star Trek*. Takei, whose family was Japanese, relates his experiences as a four year old growing up in an American concentration camp. These two examples highlight why the format of a graphic novel is a fantastic way to share moving stories.

Additionally, there are many adaptations of classic novels from George Orwell's *Animal Farm* to Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*. These are perfect to help readers understand the plot and

navigate the language of books written in a different time. The beautiful illustrations only add to the story.

Whether you are looking for an adaption of *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens or brushing up on some lore before the release of the next TV episode or movie, reach for a graphic novel. You may be surprised how much you enjoy them and luckily there are many amazing ones that can be found and checked out in the Mid-York Library System!