

PROGRAM PLAN: TEEN COMIC CLUB!

by Ben Worth with contributions from Heather Campbell

General:

Description	Comics Club! is a weekly after school program for teens ages 14-18. The program will supply participants with recommended weekly comicbook readings that feature characters from a diverse variety of settings, in which they face challenges particular to their situation (sexuality, gender, socioeconomic class, culture, ethnicity, disability, and so on). Suggested comics are selected for themes that reflect challenges participants may relate to. Participants are encouraged to explore additional comicbooks and graphic novels and share reviews and recommendations during club meetings. A meeting facilitator will offer guidance for group discussions on readings and related topics, leaving freedom for conversations to develop organically. Weekly comicbook suggested readings will cover a diverse range of stories and themes, reflecting participant's interests and tying into related community events when appropriate.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide a safe, secure environment for teens to gather after school and engage in positive social activity.• To foster a supportive environment where teens can share any challenges they're facing and receive assistance.• To facilitate an encouraging community where teens can share enthusiasm over shared interests, and discuss works of literature outside of required school assignments.• To increase teen enthusiasm for reading by demonstrating to reluctant readers that comicbooks are legitimate works of literature that can be poignant, as well as fun.
Target Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teens age 14 – 18 (high school students)

Benefits:

To Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe environment to hang-out in after school• Foster literacy and exploration of new subjects through the comicbook medium• Connect socially with peers through mutual interests• Connect with peers around the positive activity of reading• Gain exposure to a wide range of comicbooks that explore stories outside of the common superhero genre• Teens are provided with opportunities to act as experts based on their informed knowledge of specific comics• The comicbook medium may open up interest and understanding of previously challenging or undesirable topics - builds teens' familiarity with people of different backgrounds• Teens discover reading materials that build their capacity for empathy and sensitivity• Teens are engaged with learning and build self-esteem as their reading comprehension and literacy skills improve
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teens feel optimistic about their personal futures as they read stories about overcoming obstacles
To Library & Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library seen as a fun space for teens to meet and explore Increased circulation of library materials Teen Services staff gains additional opportunities to foster relationships with local teens Builds on relationships with area schools Builds relationship with local shops that sell comicbooks Youth grow up into adults who see the library as a valuable resource for learning and engaging in a variety of social activities
To Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth who participate in the club potentially get to meet and form relationships with peers from outside their school and regular social circle Provides a space where teens can socialize without concern for them causing trouble or getting into mischief Increased literacy among teens – cascading social benefits

Scheduling:

Length	1.5 hour weekly sessions
Optimum Delivery Times	After-school, Fridays (3:30-5:00pm)
Frequency of Delivery	Weekly
Delivery Season	Year-round
Minimum/ Maximum Attendance	None – drop-in attendance – anticipated attendance of 6 – 14 participants per session

Resources Required:

Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the young adult, and adult graphic novel collection Selected titles from the graphic novel collections to be displayed during the program as suggestions for additional reading Access to computers
Staff	Program Coordinator - Teen Services Librarian and 1 Teen Services Library Assistant or youth volunteer, 2.5 hours per week
Staff Time	Preparation/ Clean Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time to set-up program room (tables, seating, display trucks), collect related library materials for display, prepare snacks, cleanup room following program 45 - 60 minutes
	Delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5 hour sessions
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area schools, local comicbook shops, youth counselors
Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 programming room within Teen area
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a
Promotion/ Publicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library Guide and Website Posters on branch events boards or other program promotion areas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and subsequent posters displayed at area schools • Posters displayed at local comicbook shop(s) 	
Evaluation	Success Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff feedback • Participant feedback • Program attendance • Promoted library materials circulation increase
	Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary questionnaire to be filled out by participants asking what they like about the program, what they don't like, and what they would change/ improve/ like to see

Budget:

Quarterly gift certificate awarded by random draw. One ballot per participant may be entered at each weekly meeting.	\$30 x 4 annually - gift certificates purchased from local comicbook shop
Snacks	Approximately \$15/session

Suggested Materials:

Blankets by Craig Thompson	Thompson's <i>Blankets</i> is an autobiographical work about his life from childhood to young adulthood. Growing up in a fundamentalist Christian household, Thompson has troubles reconciling the relationship with his first love with a faith that he does not identify with.
Fun Home: A Family Tragicomedy by Alison Bechdel	Bechdel's memoir, <i>Fun Home</i> , highlights her time as a youth, the contentious relationship she had with her father, as well as themes of gender identity and homosexuality.
Embroideries by Marjane Satrapi	In <i>Embroideries</i> , Satrapi details the stories of Iranian womanhood and their sexual lives, exchanged over an afternoon of tea between her grandmother, mother, aunt, and their friends.
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi	Growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution of 1979, Marjane's childhood was marked by war, changes in government, and repression. In this beautiful graphic novel, she chronicles her life as a child and teen during this historic time in Iran's history.
Tomboy by Liz Prince	In <i>Tomboy</i> , Prince details her youth struggles of not fitting in with either the male or female gender stereotype, finding the place where she belongs, and embracing her differences.
Blue is the Warmest Color by Julie Maroh	Originally published in french, <i>Blue is the Warmest Color</i> chronicles the love story of two youth, Emma and Clémentine, through Clémentine's personal diary. The graphic novel deals with themes of sexual identity, parental relationships, and addiction.
Promethea by Alan Moore	Available in five graphic novels, Moore's <i>Promethea</i> is the story of college student Sophie Bangs who, whilst researching the story of Promethea, becomes a vessel through which the character Promethea manifests.
This One Summer by Jillian & Mariko Tamaki	This Caldecott and Printz 2015 Honor book details a difficult summer at Awago Beach for Rose and her younger friend Windy, in which they

	learn about secrets held by others. <i>This One Summer</i> is a story about growing up and becoming a young woman.
Stitches by David Small	Small's memoir details his childhood illness and eventual cancer diagnosis during the 1950's. After having a vocal cord removed as a teen due to the cancer, Small's relationship with his parents became tumultuous and he turned to art as a means of escape.
Ghost World by Daniel Clowes	<i>Ghost World</i> is the story of Enid and Becky, two eighteen year olds who have recently graduated high school and are dealing with the potential separation of their friendship and learning about their place in society.