

Pride of Baghdad is based on the true event of four African lions that escaped from the Baghdad Zoo after the United States bombed Baghdad in 2003. As the four lions prowl around the city looking for food and safety, their different personalities begin to emerge. Zill is the male lion and yearns to once again see the African horizon, Noor (Zill's current mate) has schemed for a long time to get out of the Zoo, Ali is impulsive and curious of the new world into which she has been released, and Safa is an old lioness that wants to return to the safety of the zoo. It is a story of family, survival, and questions about the price of freedom. The novel won the IGN award for best original graphic novel in 2006.

**MODERN CLASSIC NOVELS FOR TEENS:  
A LIST**

**Classics In the Making:**

*Harry Potter* (J.K. Rowling, 2000)  
*The Hunger Games* (Suzanne Collins, 2010)  
*Discworld Series* (Terry Pratchett, )

**Science Fiction**

*Fahrenheit 451* (Ray Bradbury, 1953)  
*Flowers for Algernon* (Daniel Keyes, 1966)  
*Anna to the Infinite Power*  
 (Mildred Ames, 1986)  
*His Dark Materials* (Philip Pullman, 1995-2000)

**Dystopian**

*1984* (George Orwell, 1949)  
*The Giver* (Lois Lowry, 1993)  
*Noughts & Crosses*  
 (Malorie Blackman, 2001)

**Fantasy**

*Chronicles of Narnia* (C.S. Lewis, 1950-1956)  
*The Princess Bride* (William Goldman, 1973).  
*Sabriel*(Garth Nix, 1995)

**Romance**

*Mr. and Mrs. Bo Jo Jones* (Ann Head, 1968)  
*Puberty Blues* (Kathy Lette & Gabrielle Carey, 1979)  
*Sooner or Later* (Bruce & Carole Hart, 1983)  
*Undercover* (Beth Kephart, 1998)

**Realistic Fiction**

*The Catcher in the Rye* (J.D. Salinger, 1951)

*The Outsiders* (S.E. Hinton, 1967)  
*The Chosen* (ChaimPotok, 1967)  
*Go Ask Alice* (Beatrice Sparks, 1971)  
*Speak* (Laurie Halse Anderson, 1999)

## THE CLASSICS GO GRAPHIC: CLASSIC BOOKS AS GRAPHIC NOVELS

By Vanessa Black

One of the most recent ways to reach out to young adult readers has been through introducing them to graphic novels. The graphic novel format pairs drawings and text for a different reading experience. There is a necessity not only to read the text, but a need to “read” and understand aspects of the story from the panels of drawings.

While many associate graphic novels with materials about superheroes, or the more popular Manga titles, there is a wide variety of genres available. There are many graphic novels made from popular fiction, such as the graphic novel edition of *Twilight*. As well there have been many non-

fiction graphic novels such as *Persepolis*, a story about a girl growing up during and after the Islamic Revolution. These are only samples of the many types and genres of graphic novels that exist. There is a graphic novel perfect for everyone’s reading interests. Most recently many publishers have adapted classic literature such as *Alice in Wonderland* or Shakespeare’s plays into graphic novel format. This has given a new life to some old books that may not be as appealing to young adults in their original format.

There have been several publishers adapt classics to the graphic novel format, including the well known Marvel Comics, Classical Comics, and Papercutz. Marvel Comics, the giant in the comics publishing industry, has an imprint called Marvel Illustrated that publishes graphic novel versions of classic literature. Planned or existing versions include *Moby Dick*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Dracula*, and *The Wizard of*