



## Editorial

The academic year is well underway and we hope that you have settled into your routine.

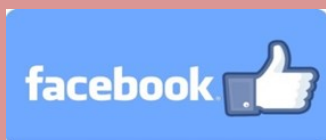
In *The roles of the Librarian* you get a glimpse of our work. As librarians, we are here to help you not only with finding the right book for your assignment but also guiding you towards being better researchers.

Since the beginning of this academic year, three new **Book Clubs** have been formed. Each club is unique, so whether you are into poetry, fiction or a good old fashioned Maltese rumanz, we have a Book Club just for you!

When it comes to choosing your next read, head on over to the *Librarian's Choice* where we give you our very own recommendations. These books and many others can be found in the Fiction section at the Library, where many new titles are added each month. JC Library also has a good selection of graphic novels. You can read more about them in the article *Graphic Novels: a teaching and learning medium*.

An interesting article about *Lichens* is also included in this issue of together with a very interesting *Did you know?* and a valuable *Research Tip*. This issue's *Getting to Know* is about Sicilian author Andrea Camilleri.

On behalf of the JC Library staff we would like to wish you a Wonderful Festive Season.



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## The roles of the Librarian

By Mark Camilleri

Gone are the days when the librarian was perceived as the stereotype middle-aged person who stamps dates on books and scowls at patrons who dare to whisper in the reading hall. Thinking about this image, one justifies why some people shy away from libraries to date. It is very unfortunate as the role of the librarian has changed drastically in the last few decades.

**The librarian, first and foremost, is part of the whole collection.** Think of the librarian as a reference work. You enter the library and need some information on the library itself, on its collections or even on a particular subject area. Ideally, one asks a librarian about such information. Without idealizing the librarian as the perfect professional, it is most likely that they, as professionals can help you locate your needs from rare books to the bathroom. The stamping of dates on books comes at the end of the whole librarian-patron transaction and the fact that the patron is checking out books means that they are somehow satisfied.

**Librarians have different roles.** Basically, the role of the librarian is to attend to their patrons much like a shop assistant, right? Not totally right. Librarians are a resource one can easily use (and who is quite often disregarded) while doing a research paper, a school project or even searching for the smallest piece of trivia in the vast sea which is the library. Librarians, who know their collections well, teach you how to search and direct you to the best resources that may help you in your quest.

Naturally, librarians do other tasks as well. Acquiring library items, manage bibliographic data (cataloguing and classification), outreaching with patrons, drafting library policies, marketing, etc. is done mostly by library staff who are well trained in their areas. One asks why cannot someone else be employed for other tasks? The answer is anyone can be employed to do these tasks, why not? However, whoever is entrusted with these tasks needs also to understand the work behind the scene of a library. They need to be well trained to link their area of expertise with libraries. Taking marketing as an example, marketing experts in a library know that not all marketing strategies work well with every type of businesses. Thinking about libraries as businesses, one has to keep in mind the clientele, the services offered and how best to describe these services in order to entice the patrons to use them more. They need to also know what the library gains by attracting more patrons! It would have been easier if it were only money. However, libraries' aims are to generate more information from the information they already have through their use, raise statistics of literate people in society, and make sure that the right information is easily accessible by everyone.

# LIBRARY NEWS



## Library Opening Hours

(1st October - 15th June)

Monday to Friday: 8am to 4pm

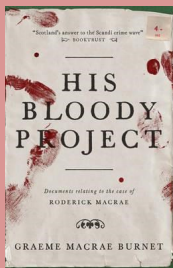
Saturday: Closed

Christmass Recess :

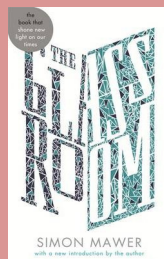
Friday 23rd December (Half Day Closed)

Monday 26th December (Full Day Closed)

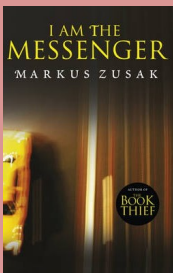
## New books in the Fiction Section



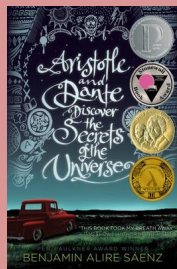
His Bloody Project  
by  
Graeme Macrae Burnet



The Glass Room  
by Simon Mawer

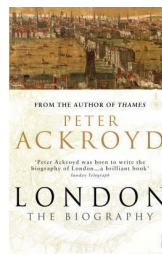


I am the messenger  
by Markus Zusak

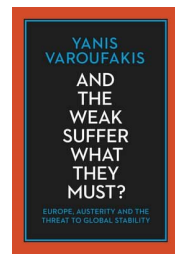


Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe  
by Benjamin Alire Saenz

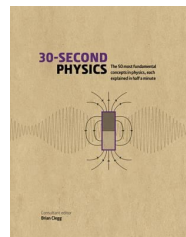
## New Non-Fiction and Scholarly Works



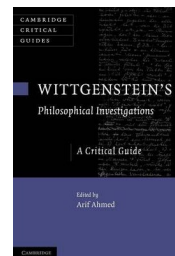
London : The Biography  
by Peter Ackroyd



And the Weak Suffer What They Must? : Europe, Austerity and the Threat to Global Stability  
By Yanis Varoufakis



30 Second Physics  
Edited by Brian Clegg



Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations : A Critical Guide  
Edited by Arif Ahmed

And many more ...

## PANDORA'S BOX

WE SPECIALISE IN  
MERCHANDISE & MEMORABILIA  
RELATED TO MOVIES AND  
VIDEO-GAMES.

THIS IS NOT A HOBBY... IT'S A  
WAY OF LIFE!



- ACTION FIGURES
- STATUES & BUSTS
- COMICS
- GRAPHIC NOVELS
- T-SHIRTS
- BOARD GAMES
- KEYCHAINS

## COLLECTABLES

Shop: 84, Triq Hal Tarxien, Tarxien  
Phone: 21667114  
E-Mail: info@pandorasboxmalta.com  
Opening Hours: Mon-Fri: 16:30 - 19:00  
Saturday: 9:00 - 13:00



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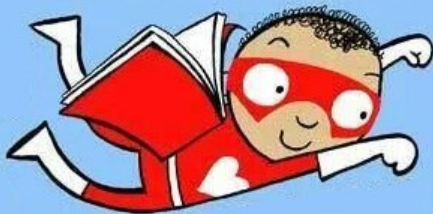
# Agendabookshop

# The roles of the librarian

*Continued from p.1*

**The reference interview.** A librarian is strictly a mediator between the world of information and the ones seeking information. Quite often, patrons are afraid to ask and librarians are reluctant to probe further into their queries. A reference interview done right however, can help the patron find the exact information in relatively less time and from the right sources. A reference interview is a brief, semi-informal question and answer session between the librarian and the patron so that the librarian can know exactly what type of information the patron really needs and to point the patron to the best sources.

**The librarian as teacher.** Physically, libraries can appear like a labyrinth to the new patron. To search for information using the right methods can be more baffling than getting to know the library space. Fortunately, librarians organise the collections in ways that the patrons find it relatively easy to walk around and find whatever they need. To top the organisation of libraries, training and demonstrations of how to use the library services take place frequently inside the library itself, by the library staff with walk-through explanation and hands-on practice for the new users. Sessions on information tools like the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and the use of online journals to which the library is subscribed, the use of digitised library material, and how to access and submit works in repositories among other things are also part of the librarian's tasks. This, is in addition to the daily one to one sessions on how to search through the right resources for specific topics needed by the users (refer to the **Reference interview** part).



**A trained librarian is a powerful search engine with a heart!**

**Tech-Savvy Librarian.** A picture is worth a thousand words. One of the meanings conveyed by this saying is that information comes in all formats. Information technology, as the name implies, brings information through technological innovations and it all boils down to the librarian to keep up-to-date with these technologies. One has to keep in mind that librarians extract information just like an investigator extracts data from the available evidence. It is sad how people still think that librarians just horde books on shelves. Little do they know that librarians horde information contained in books and other media systematically and with specific intent on shelves and other types of storage that they can muster. Digital media is not an exception and while many think of digital media as the internet it is not entirely correct. A digital medium is a medium that uses digital technology to project its data so that it can be read. The older brother of the digital medium is the analog medium which works with relatively simpler technology. Whatever the technology, a librarian should be able to work with it in order to extract the information from it and if possible reproduce the information to be projected from similar technologies. They should also understand how the technology works and most important its limitations in order to supply the user with alternatives and annexes to these technologies for the best results possible.

**The librarian as policy maker.** When one says "policy making" it means internal policies related to the collection and its development. That is to say, from the point of acquiring library items or collecting them from donors to the description of how to manage their bibliographic records, which methods to use, and where to store them if not processed or shelve them once ready for public use. The evaluation methods of the collection, the book selection, the conservation and preservation methods, and the weeding (pulling books off the shelf for disposal) are also outlined. The acquisition of which formats and what material is to enter the library or not is discussed in the policy. Naturally, this policy should by no means be too short. In fact, it could be a collection of policies from different departments and book-collections of the library bound in one volume.

Other policies can be related to the human resources, funds, health and safety and the maintenance of the library building itself.


*Mark Camilleri is an Assistant Librarian at the Valetta Campus Library*



Interested in joining a book club? Book Clubs are a great way to discuss and gain new insights on books, as well as an opportunity to make new friends!

For more information on Book Clubs, come visit us at the Library!

BookClubs currently held at the Library Activity Room:



**Poetry & Short Fiction Club**


*"Poetry is when an emotion  
has found its thought  
and the thought  
has found words!"  
- Robert Frost*

If you are interested in Poetry and Short Stories, sign up for the JC Poetry & Short Fiction Club. You'll be able to not only discuss a variety of works but also meet up with other students with similar interests!

Meetings include:

- Readings
- Extra-curricular activities,
- Talks,
- Poetry Cakes,
- Valentine and Xmas activities,
- Video-Clips & many more ...

Meetings are held at the Library Activity Room starting from the 18th October. Every fortnight on Tuesdays at 10am. For more information visit the Library Face Book Page



Coordinated by: Dr. Abigail Zammit & Mr. Charles Sammut in collaboration with Junior College Library

### Poetry and Short Fiction Club

Held every fortnight on Tuesdays at 10 am

**Klabb tal-Letteratura**



Thobb taqra bil-Malti?  
Thobb titkellem dwar awturi u kotba Maltin?

Inghaqad maghna fl-ewwel Erbgha tax-xahar fl-Activity Room tal-Librerija fill-11am.

*Opportunità tad-deheb biex titkellem fuq il-passatemp tiegħek ma' studenti oħrajn.*

**Narawkom!**

Organizzat mis-Sur David Alakalo  
b'kollaborazzjoni  
mal-Librerija tal-Junior College



### Klabb tal-Letteratura

Held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11am.



**One Stop Search**  
through all the Library's  
print and online resources

## 6 BOOK CHALLENGE

### Love reading?

Why not take part in the Six Book Challenge? All you have to do is to read 6 books from October till March.

Great Prizes to be won!

Check out the Fiction section for your next read!

Please contact the Library staff for more information.



### Useful Links

Compound Interest:

<http://www.compoundchem.com/>

Compound Interest is a site that aims to take a closer look at the chemical compounds we come across on a day-to-day basis. It also provides graphics for educational purposes, both for teacher and student use.

The First World War Poetry Digital Archive:

<https://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/>

The First World War Poetry Digital Archive is an online repository of over 7000 items of text, images, audio, and video for teaching, learning, and research. The heart of the archive consists of collections of highly valued primary material from major poets of the period, including Wilfred Owen, Isaac Rosenberg, Robert Graves, Vera Brittain, and Edward Thomas.

# Lichens....hey there you might well be sitting on them!

By Jennifer Fiorentino



Every day as I enter or leave the Junior College grounds I always see scores of students sitting on the low walls which line the ring road. Many of these walls have not been plastered for quite a number of years. Consequently it is likely that they have served as the ideal substrate for lichens to grow on. Lichens?

The first time you are about to use these low walls as a seat, stop for a second and have a close look at the surface. You will probably observe a patchwork of crusty growths in various shades of grey, black, brown and white often interrupted by bright orange-brown rosettes. These are crustose lichens. You need to have a closer look though. So if you are not carrying a magnifying glass just use a smartphone app which allows you to magnify and observe these growths more closely. This will reveal some interesting detail.

Let me clarify a couple of things about these growths. You do not need to be studying biology to have heard about fungi. These organisms include mushrooms (faqqiegħ), mould (moffa) and yeasts (ħmiera) amongst many others. All fungi have one thing in common. They need to acquire ready-made food from an external source in order to survive. Well, very much like you and me, but with the difference that we ingest our food while fungi have to be actually growing on the medium that feeds them. Many fungi have solved the problem of getting food by associating with organisms that actually synthesise food with the help of light. Most of you have immediately thought of the process of photosynthesis and green plants. However many organisms other than plants can synthesise sugars by this process. These include tiny unicellular green algae as well as the even smaller photosynthetic bacteria termed cyanobacteria (yes, not all bacteria are pathogenic). So these fungi get their food by forming associations with unicellular green algae or cyanobacteria. The association is rather convenient for both partners and gives rise to a structure known as a lichen. Not surprisingly, the fungi involved in these partnerships are termed lichenised fungi

Have a close look at some of these crusts. Do you see tiny rounded structures growing on their surface? These are the fruiting bodies of the fungal partner. They produce spores which on release are carried by air currents and may fall on other walls in the College grounds. Nothing happens unless a spore encounters the right photosynthetic partner in the form of algal spores. When this happens the fungal spore germinates by growing very thin filaments known as hyphae being provided with sugars from the activated algal cells. The hyphae attach to the calcareous surfaces of the wall and the lichen will grow and develop into a crust as long as it has the right conditions of substrate, light and humidity.

Pigments are often produced by the fungal hyphae to protect against strong sunlight. This explains why lichens tend to be coloured. And why do different lichens exist? That is because there are different species of fungi which are capable of forming such partnerships.

Even if you are not a biology student you should still stop, observe and ponder about the wonders of nature around you. Who knows...you might be actually sitting on College lichens while you are reading this article!

(All photos, taken by the author, show lichens found growing on stone walls in the Junior College grounds)

*Ms. Jennifer Fiorentino is a senior lecturer at the Junior College Biology Department*

# DID YOU KNOW?

## Why do books have a smell?



### References:

1. Strlič, M., Thomas, J., Trafela, T., Cséfalvayová, L., Kralj Cigić, I., Kolar, J., & Cassar, M. (2009). Material degradomics: on the smell of old books. *Analytical Chemistry*, 81(20), 8617-8622.
2. What Causes the Smell of New & Old Books? - <http://www.compoundchem.com/2014/06/01/newoldbooksmell/>

Admit it ... you're guilty ... you are a book sniffer! Don't worry, you're not alone, many people are intoxicated by the smell of books, especially old books. The reason behind it? It all boils down to chemistry.

In a recent study, scientists described 'old book smell' as "a combination of grassy notes with a tang of acids and a hint of vanilla over an underlying mustiness, this unmistakable smell is as much part of the book as its contents"<sup>1</sup>.

Books are made up of mostly organic materials such as paper, leather, glue, string etc... all of these elements deteriorate with time. Through the process of deterioration, they release volatile chemicals which in turn produce a particular odour. Lignin, a major component of paper, is mostly responsible for this smell and also for the yellowing of paper. Books published after the mid-1800's emit more furfural, which increases at a faster rate than older books which were mostly made up of cotton or linen paper.

Books also absorb smells from their surroundings such as cigarette smoke, which in time becomes integrated with the book's natural smell.

New books differ from older ones, simply because their chemical makeup is different. 'New Book Smell' is in part due to the paper, ink and the adhesives used during the book-binding process.

Apart from its allure however, scientists have put this aroma to good use. They were able to measure the rate of deterioration of the book by taking into account the type of chemicals it was releasing.

So remember, every time you sniff a book, just tell yourself you are conducting a scientific experiment.

Next time you're in the Library, sniff away ... we won't judge, promise!



## RESEARCH TIP

### Citing your work.

Why cite? Citations are a quick way to show that you used ideas, images and texts from sources other than your own. Compiling a bibliography at the end of your assignment not only shows that you've done your research well, but also that you are giving credit to the original authors and their ideas. Citing also avoids plagiarism and helps your reader track down the sources you have used.

<http://libguides.mit.edu/citing>

# GETTING TO KNOW

## Andrea Camilleri (1925-)

Andrea Calogero Camilleri was born on the 6th September 1925 and is best known as the author of the Inspector Montalbano Series. Camilleri is originally from Porto Empedocle in Sicily but currently lives in Rome. In 1944, he started his studies at the Faculty of Literature but ended up not finishing them. At the same time he was writing and publishing poems and short stories.

Camilleri studied stage and film direction at the Accademia Nazionale d'Arte Drammatica from 1948-1950. He started to work as a director and screenwriter, taking a special interest in directing works by Luigi Pirandello. In 1977, Camilleri returned to the Accademia, holding and occupying the chair of Film Director for 20 years.

Andrea Camilleri is a late bloomer when it comes to writing and wrote his first novel *Il Corso Delle Cose* in 1978. This was followed by *Un Filo di Fumo* in 1980. After 12 years, Camilleri returned to writing by publishing *La Stagione della Caccia* which turned out to be a best-seller.

*The Potter's Field* (translated by Stephen Sartarelli) was announced as 2012's Crime Writer's Association International Dagger.

In 1994, Camilleri introduced a new character, Inspector Salvo Montalbano in *La Forma dell'Acqua*. Based on Manuel Vázquez Montalbán's character Pepe Carvalho, the Inspector Montalbano is named after the Spanish author as an homage. This series of novels feature Montalbano as the main character in an imaginary Sicilian town called Vigàta. Throughout the novels you meet with an array of characters, which you start to think of as family, once you start reading the novels. Camilleri writes in Italian, but uses the vernacular Sicilian when characters are speaking to one another.

Montalbano's popularity increased mostly due to RAI's TV adaptation of the series, starring Luca Zingarelli. His popularity increased to such a point that Porto Empedocle officially changed its name to Porto Empedocle Vigàta

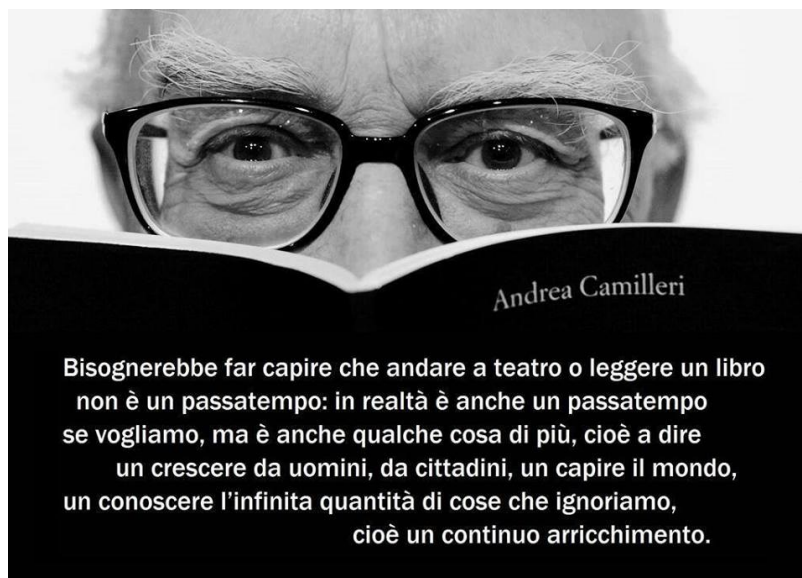
His latest Montalbano novel *L'Altro Lato del Filo* was published in 2016 by Sicilian publishers Sellerio.

As to when the series might end, Camilleri states "I finished him off five years ago. That's to say, the final novel in the series of Montalbano is already written and deposited at the publishing house. When I get fed up with him or am not able to write any more, I'll tell the publisher: publish that book. Sherlock Holmes was recovered but it will not be possible to recover Montalbano. In that last book, he's really finished."<sup>1</sup>

Interested in starting the Montalbano series? Check out both the Italian and the English translations at the Library!

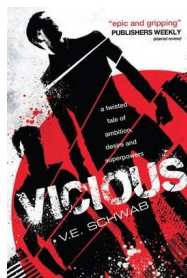
### References:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2012/jul/06/andrea-camilleri-montalbano-life-in-writing>
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrea\\_Camilleri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrea_Camilleri)



# LIBRARIANS' CHOICE

## Recommended readings from our bookshelves



### Vicious by V.E. Schwab

Victor and Eli, due to a research project gone wrong, become ExtraOrdinaries with supernatural powers. Ten years later Victor escapes from prison, determined to get his revenge on the man who put him there, while Eli has spent the years hunting down and killing other EOs. Driven by the memory of betrayal and loss, the arch-nemeses have set a course for revenge...

### Il cane di terracotta by Andrea Camilleri

Il cane di terracotta opens with a mysterious tete-a-tete with a Mafioso, some inexplicably abandoned loot from a supermarket heist, and some dying words that lead Inspector Montalbano to a secret grotto in a mountain cave where two young lovers dead fifty years and still embracing are watched over by a life-size terracotta dog. Montalbano's passion to solve this old crime takes him, heedless of personal danger, on a journey through the island's past and into a family's dark heart amid the horrors of World War II. Andrea Camilleri's Inspector Salvo Montalbano has garnered millions of fans worldwide with his sardonic, engaging take on Sicilian small-town life and his genius for deciphering the most enigmatic of crimes. 'The novels of Andrea Camilleri breath out the sense of place, the sense of humour, and the sense of despair that fill the air of Sicily. To read him is to be taken to that glorious, tortured island' Donna Leon 'Both farcical and endearing, Montalbano is a cross between Columbo and Chandler's Philip Marlowe, with the added culinary idiosyncrasies of an Italian Maudit' Guardia

### Let it snow : three holiday romances by John Green, Maureen Johnson and Lauren Myracle

Three interconnected stories from three bestselling authors. A Christmas Eve snowstorm transforms one small town into a romantic haven, the kind you see only in movies. Well, kinda. After all, a cold and wet hike from a stranded train through the middle of nowhere would not normally end with a delicious kiss from a charming stranger. And no one would think that a trip to the Waffle House through four feet of snow would lead to love with an old friend. Or that the way back to true love begins with a painfully early morning shift at Starbucks. Thanks to three of today's bestselling teen authors John Green, Maureen Johnson, and Lauren Myracle the magic of the holidays shines on these hilarious and charming interconnected tales of love, romance, and breathtaking kisses.

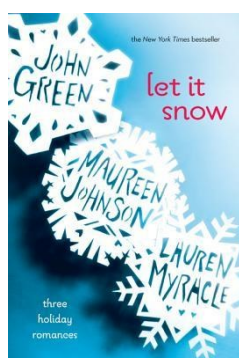
### 200 Christmas Recipes

The essential companion for a mouthwatering Christmas, Hamlyn All Colour Cookbook: 200 Christmas Recipes contains delicious ideas for festive mealtimes, both traditional and alternative. Why not impress friends and family with roast goose with spiced apples and figs, roasted parsnips with thyme butter, or perhaps some ginger and hazelnut ice cream? The book also contains recipes for classic cakes and cookies, edible gifts and even left-over turkey - allowing you to banish those endless turkey sandwiches!

Andrea Camilleri  
Il cane di terracotta



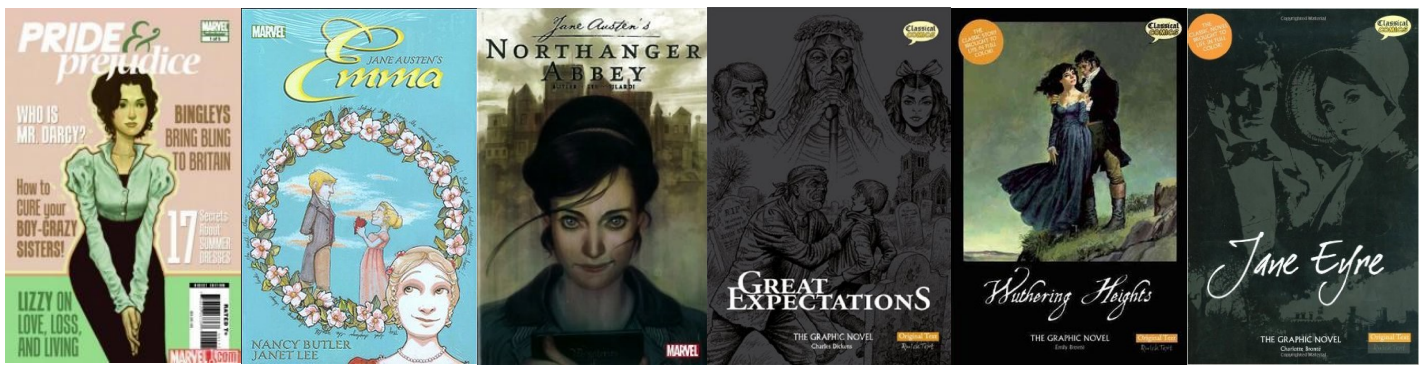
Sellerio editore Palermo



hamlyn | all colour cookbook  
200 christmas recipes







## Graphic novels : a teaching and learning medium

by Ryan Scicluna

Graphic novels are a unique medium for storytelling. They combine prose with illustrations to create a complex narrative and add layers to a story. Graphic novels are collected single issue comics, published in the form of a trade paperback. They can even be original stories, too complex to be published monthly like a normal comic book, and instead published as a single publication spanning several pages. Comics and graphic novels are an excellent entertainment medium for anyone who likes a good narrative and complex characters. They do not limit themselves to just superheroes, in fact, one can find a number of genres in the graphic novel medium such as, biographies, fiction and nonfiction stories, horror, action, adventure, science fiction, comedy, romance etc...

Graphic novels can be used by educators to talk about complex or abstract subjects while making a subject interesting to students. The use of comics in an educational context is not a new discovery, in fact one can find multiple articles outlining how comics are used in fields of study such as English language (James, 2007), Mathematics and Social Sciences (Boerman-Cornell, 2013), Media (Doyle, 2008), etc... Comics are also being featured in University degree courses both as undergraduate or post-graduate studies. For example, the University of Florida in the US has a comics studies credit where students and professionals study and teach comics; The University of Oregon, also in the US, has a whole faculty dedicated to comics and cartoon studies; The University of Dundee, Scotland, offers a unique masters in literature in comics studies and students can pursue their studies further after completion of the master with a PhD in comics studies.

Comics may enhance readers' understanding of material and abilities to work with language, visual literacy and the more far-reaching critical literacy. Comics motivate readership and encourage creativity (Duncan, 2009). In this regard getting students to first read the comic and then build on that scaffold, will turn them into lifelong readers. While also developing the critical-literacy skills they need to negotiate diverse systems of meaning (Jacobs, 2007).

Due to the multimodal nature of graphic novels there is no either/or dichotomy because words can take on properties of images and vice versa. It is the reader, however, who must synthesize these elements to make meaning (Gillenwater, 2009). Decoding information and creating new knowledge is another way comics can be of use in accruing information literacy skills. Learning how to decode involves developing an understanding of the conventions of the medium and gaining experience synthesizing image and text-based information (Hoover, 2012).

A number of graphic novels have been recently added to the Junior College Library. These can be searched on the library catalogue by using the following keywords within inverted commas..."Comic books, strips, etc." As a Librarian I encourage students to make use of them and lecturers to use graphic novels as a teaching medium.

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