



the ORLA newsletter.

DECEMBER 2021

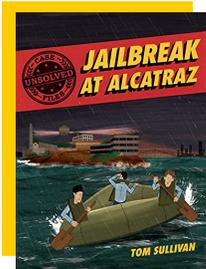


THE GRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE

Why We Should All Be
Reading Graphic Novels



NON-FICTION



JAILBREAK AT ALCATRAZ

TOM SULLIVAN

"What a fascinating little read! *Jailbreak at Alcatraz* tells the real story of John and Clarence Anglin and Frank Morris' escape from the California prison. The second entry in the *Unsolved Case Files* series, author Tom Sullivan prefaces this historical mystery with necessary

background information on Alcatraz such as who it was built for and previous escape attempts. The book then goes into detail about the incredible effort and ingenuity the prisoners put forth in their escape plans and their realization. The illustrations are wonderful and really give off the vibe of the time period in which the escape happened. There are even real evidence photos at the end of the book that were great to see after seeing the illustrations of the same evidence! It was a nice reminder that this graphic novel is a non-fiction story. I

also enjoyed how the author presented the facts of this mystery and did not spend time vilifying the prisoners. This graphic novel had me thoroughly engrossed from the beginning and I learned a lot about this unsolved mystery! Though meant for a younger audience, all ages can enjoy and learn something new." -- *Emily Kluck, Oil City Library*

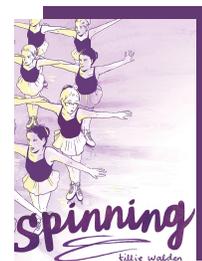
STAFF — Graphic Novels — PICKS

MEMOIR

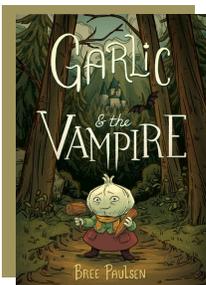
SPINNING

TILLIE WALDEN

"This memoir in graphic novel format chronicles Tillie Walden's life in her teen years, when figure skating was the only constant she knew. I thought this was going to deal more with the pressures and expectations of figure skating, but instead it is an insular story that conveys her struggles with the traumas and uncertainty of adolescence. Tillie knew she was gay as early as five years old, and as she gets older and begins to have romantic relationships, she begins to question where she fits in with the closed minded world of figure skating. Skating has been there for her through a move halfway across the country, bullying, and strained relationships with members of her family (particularly her mother, who is rendered as unsupportive and distant), but ultimately Tillie lets go of skating and turns toward her art as she finds her community. The artwork is spare, but effectively portrays the loneliness of adolescence and the pressure to fit in somewhere - anywhere. While this memoir felt subdued, it's a compelling portrayal of the roller coaster of emotions and conflicts of the teen years." -- *Annie Welsh, Oil Region Library Association*



JUVENILE



GARLIC & THE VAMPIRE

BREE PAULSEN

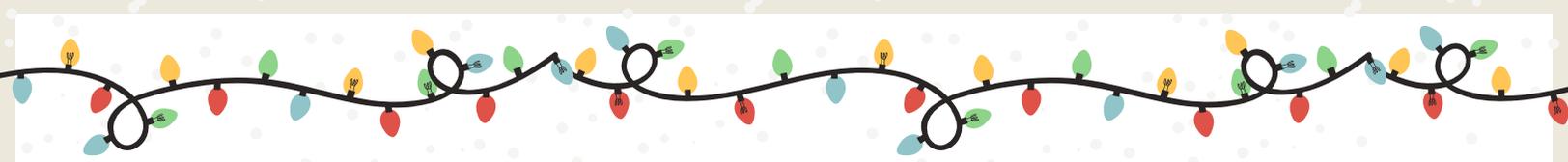
"This little, cozy story was perfect to delve into on a chilly, fall afternoon under some warm blankets. Garlic is an anxious little vegetable bulb (who's ALWAYS late to the Farmer's Market every morning!) living amongst other fruits and veggies helping Witch Agnes tend to her garden. Garlic's nervous and clumsy tendencies make her feel like an outcast, living in the shadows of the other produce. When a vampire is suspected of taking refuge in a nearby castle, Garlic is elected to drive him out for the safety of the village. Feeling scared and overwhelmed, but determined to prove herself worthy, Garlic agrees and embarks on a brave journey to destroy the vampire. What she finds is not quite what you'd expect, but is sure to pull at your heartstrings and give you a good chuckle. Filled with beautiful and aesthetic illustrations, as well as some advanced vocabulary and context, *Garlic & the Vampire* is an adorable tale about bravery and friendship that both kids and adults will certainly enjoy!"

-- *Natalie Cubbon, Oil Region Library Association*



WANNA SUBMIT YOUR OWN BOOK REVIEW?

Email a review of a book you read recently (good or bad!) to promotions@oilregionlibraries.org to be featured in a future issue of the ORLA Newsletter!



Holiday HAPPENINGS



CHRISTMAS PAST
Sat. Dec. 4th / 9am - 3pm
Oil City Library

Join us at the Oil City Library during Oil City's 21st Annual Christmas Past. We'll have free Snowman Crafts (including make-your-own Snowman Stuffie while supplies last!) & books for kids, as well as PAWS 4 A Cause therapy dogs, both from 12pm - 2pm. You can also stop in to see the Student Art Show from 9am - 3pm!



HOLIDAY ORNAMENT MAKING
Thurs. Dec. 9th / 5pm - 7pm
Cooperstown Public Library

Retired Library Assistant Terrie Grove will be providing a free Ornament Making program at the Cooperstown Library this month. This program is free and all materials will be provided. Call the library at (814) 374-4605 to reserve your spot!

WINTER WORKSHOP
Sat. Dec. 18th / 11am - 2pm
Oil City Library



Make a gift for someone special at Oil City Library's first Winter Workshop! Visit multiple stations to make homemade gifts, including beaded bracelets, gnome ornaments, marbled ornaments and book snowmen at no cost. All ages are welcome and all materials will be provided while supplies last. No registration required!

THE 2ND ANNUAL
**WINTER OF
READING**

read. track. win.

**COMING
SOON!**

The next ORLA-wide reading challenge is almost here! Use our app, ReaderZone, to track how many minutes you read this winter for a chance to win some cool prizes! Stay tuned for more information soon.



THE GRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE

Contrary to popular belief, superheroes & villains aren't all that graphic novels have to offer. Graphic novels are read by all ages & cover a plethora of topics. Here's some benefits of reading graphic novels:

★ BROADENING VOCABULARY

Although graphic novels tend to contain less words than a typical novel, more challenging words are chosen for maximum impact.

★ FORCE TEXT INTERACTION

Throughout a graphic novel, readers continuously have to figure out the relationship between the text and the images, strengthening reading skills.

★ AIDING IN LEARNING

For an individual who doesn't like to read, graphic novels often act as a gateway to reading by providing readers with a greater sense of accomplishment due to their fast pace.

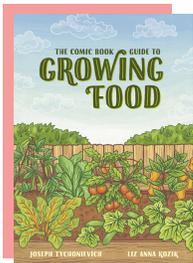
★ REINFORCEMENT OF HARD TEXT

Many classics, like Shakespeare plays, have been adapted into graphic novel format so that readers can gain a greater understanding of the work.

Check out some of these Graphic Novel picks available through any ORLA location!

 Also Available on OverDrive & Libby

THE COMIC BOOK GUIDE TO GROWING FOOD



JOSEPH TYCHONIEVICH & LIZ ANNA KOZIK

If you are a visual learner, beginning gardener, looking for something new, or have struggled to grow vegetables in the past, you'll find this unique illustrated format ideal because many gardening concepts -- from proper planting techniques to building raised beds -- are easier to grasp when presented visually, step by step.

KILLING AND DYING: SIX STORIES

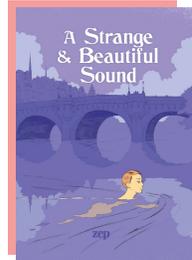
ADRIAN TOMINE



With *Killing and Dying*, Adrian Tomine presents six new stories unlike any he has told before. Unpredictable, darkly funny, and deeply moving, they display an exceptional range of focus and technique. The Village Voice called Tomine "one of the most masterful cartoonists of his generation," and this is his most ambitious and empathetic work to date.

A STRANGE & BEAUTIFUL SOUND

ZEP



William chose silence 25 years ago by joining the Carthusian religious order. When an inheritance forces him to leave the monastery for Paris, he must master a whole new world & question certainties forged long ago. He meets Mery, a young woman whose days are numbered due to an incurable illness & who is resolutely decided on making the most of the time she has left. This forces William to face new questions & complicate his choices in a powerful story that truly addresses the meaning of life.

EL DEAFO

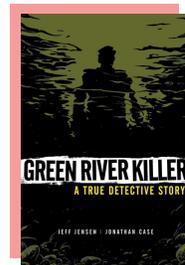


CECE BELL 

Starting at a new school is scary, even more so with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! This funny, perceptive graphic novel memoir about growing up hearing impaired is also an unforgettable book about growing up, and all the super, super embarrassing moments along the way.

GREEN RIVER KILLER: A TRUE DETECTIVE STORY

JEFF JENSEN & JONATHAN CASE



Throughout the 1980s, the highest priority of Seattle-area police was the apprehension of the Green River Killer, the man responsible for the murders of dozens of women. In 1990, with the body count numbering at least 48, the case was put in the hands of a single detective, Tom Jensen. After 20 years, when the killer was finally captured with the help of DNA technology, Jensen spent 180 days interviewing Gary Leon Ridgway in an effort to learn his most closely held secrets -- an epic confrontation with evil that was every bit as disturbing and surreal as can be humanly imagined.

RUN: BOOK ONE

JOHN LEWIS, ANDREW AYDIN, L. FURY & NATE POWELL



To John Lewis, the civil rights movement came to an end with the signing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. All too often, the depiction of history ends with a great victory. But John Lewis knew that victories are just the beginning. In *Run: Book One*, John Lewis gives us an astonishing graphic novel to tell an often overlooked chapter of civil rights history.

AMULET: THE STONEKEEPER

KAZU KIBUISHI



After the tragic death of their father, Emily and Navin move with their mother to the home of her deceased great-grandfather, but the strange house proves to be dangerous. Before long, a sinister creature lures the kids' mom through a door in the basement. Em and Navin, desperate not to lose her, follow her into an underground world inhabited by strange creatures, robots, and talking animals.

JUVENILE

CAMOUFLAGE: THE HIDDEN LIVES OF AUTISTIC WOMEN

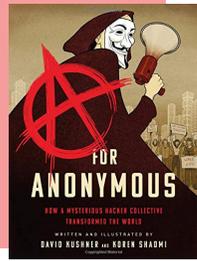
DR. SARAH BARGIELA



Autism in women and girls is still not widely understood, and is often misrepresented or even overlooked. This graphic novel offers an engaging and accessible insight into the lives and minds of autistic women, using real-life case studies. The charming illustrations lead readers on a visual journey of how women on the spectrum experience everyday life, from metaphors and masking in social situations, to friendships and relationships and the role of special interests.

A FOR ANONYMOUS

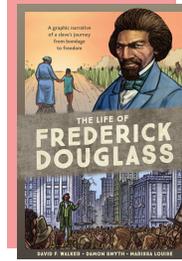
DAVID KUSHNER & KOREN SHADMI



A for Anonymous shows how a leaderless band of volunteers successfully used hacktivism to fight for the underdog, embarrass their rich and powerful targets -- from Sony & PayPal to the Church of Scientology & Ferguson Police Department -- all in the name of freedom of speech & information. Their exploits blurred the distinction between "online" and "reality," and help shape our contemporary world.

THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

DAVID F. WALKER, DAMON SMYTH & MARISSA LOUISE



Taking you from Douglass' life as a young slave through his forbidden education to his escape and growing prominence as a speaker, abolitionist, and influential cultural figure during the Civil War and beyond, this autobiographical graphic novel presents a complete illustrated portrait of the man who stood up and spoke out for freedom and equality.

GHOSTS

RAINA TELGEMEIER

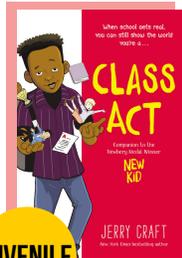


Cat & her family have moved to the coast of Northern California for the sake of her little sister, Maya, who has cystic fibrosis. Cat is even less happy about the move when she is told that her new town is inhabited by ghosts, & Maya sets her heart on meeting one. Raina Telgemeier has masterfully created a moving & insightful story about the power of family & friendship, & how it gives us the courage to do what we never thought possible.

JUVENILE

CLASS ACT

JERRY CRAFT

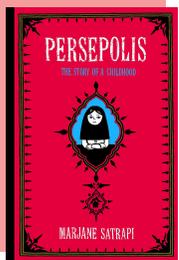


New York Times bestselling author Jerry Craft returns with a companion book to *New Kid*, winner of the 2020 Newbery Medal, the Coretta Scott King Author Award, and the Kirkus Prize. This time, it's Jordan's friend Drew who takes center stage in another laugh-out-loud funny, powerful, and important story about being one of the few kids of color in a prestigious private school.

JUVENILE

PERSEPOLIS

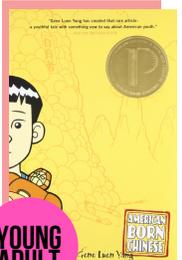
MARJANE SATRAPI



In powerful black & white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages 6 to 14, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, & the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent & outspoken only child of committed Marxists & the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.

AMERICAN BORN CHINESE

GENE LUEN YANG

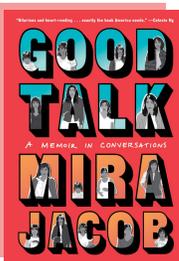


All Jin Wang wants is to fit in. When his family moves to a new neighborhood, he suddenly finds that he's the only Chinese American student at his school. Jocks and bullies pick on him constantly, and he has hardly any friends. Then, to make matters worse, he falls in love with an all-American girl...

YOUNG ADULT

GOOD TALK: A MEMOIR IN CONVERSATIONS

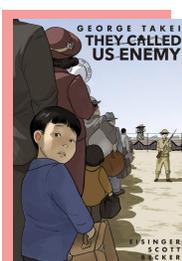
MIRA JACOB



Mira Jacob's touching, often humorous, and utterly unique graphic memoir takes readers on her journey as a first-generation American. At an increasingly fraught time for immigrants and their families, *Good Talk* delves into the difficult conversations about race, sex, love, and family that seem to be unavoidable these days.

THEY CALLED US ENEMY

GEORGE TAKEI



A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor, author & activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon -- and America itself -- in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.

BEST OF 2021

As the current year comes to an end, we're counting on you to give some of the best books of the year the recognition they deserve! **Vote now** for your favorite in each of the following categories:

BIOGRAPHY

SCI-FI

MYSTERY

FICTION

NON-FICTION

YOUNG ADULT

KIDS FICTION

KIDS GRAPHIC NOVEL

PICTURE BOOK

Vote online or in-person at the Oil City Library during December. Winners will be announced in January.



Annual ORLA Fund Drive Beginning This Month

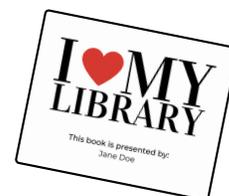
This month, we're sending out our annual appeal fundraising letters to library users & supporters in order to keep making improvements & enhancements to your library services for the 2022 year! 2021 was a great year for the Oil Region Libraries. We made important strides in service delivery, facility enhancements & more because of supporters like you, including:

- **Ditching overdue fines** for good in order to increase access & function more efficiently.
- **Expanding partnerships** with organizations like Drake Well Museum & the Oil City Heritage Society.
- **Updating our spaces** with new furniture, paint & technology to make areas more welcoming & functional.
- **Creating a Strategic Plan** to set the framework for the future.

Last year, we raised \$30K thanks to your generosity. Can you help us reach our goal of \$35K this year? Thank you in advance for your continued support! We're excited to see where 2022 takes the Oil Region Libraries.

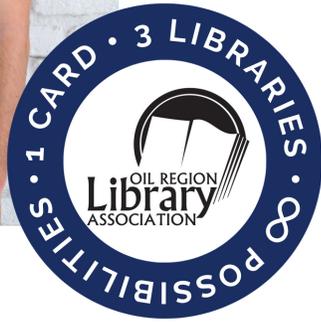
New Bookplates Launch at All ORLA Locations

Honoring a friend or a loved one with a library book just became a lot more personalized with ORLA's new bookplates! You can now select a custom, full-color bookplate when placing a memorial or honorarium at your library. Choose from several designs available for various occasions, including birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, or even 'just because'! Visit your library soon to browse all designs.



ORLA Locations to Close Temporarily, Implement New Technology in Collections

Oil Region Libraries will be gradually making the switch to RFID (radio-frequency identification) technology in the coming months. This switch will enable both staff & patrons to complete the check-out & check-in process more quickly, efficiently & accurately. We'll also be offering updated self-checkout options for a more individualized experience. In order to implement the new technology as efficiently as possible, Oil City Library will be temporarily closed from December 24th - January 3rd. We apologize for any inconveniences this may cause. Franklin & Cooperstown locations will do the same at a later date, to be announced.



ORLA T-Shirts & Stickers Now Available

Show your love for your library by sporting a new ORLA t-shirt or sticker! You can now purchase ORLA t-shirts & vinyl stickers at any ORLA location. T-shirts are available in both adult & youth sizes. Adult sizes are \$15.00 and youth sizes are \$12.00. The 2 inch vinyl stickers are \$1.00 each and are perfect for water bottles, laptops, notebooks & more! All proceeds benefit your local library.

'Writer's Flock' Coming to Oil City

A new group specifically for writers is coming to the Oil City Library this month. The group, dubbed Writer's Flock, will meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 6:45PM - 7:45PM to discuss ideas & offer feedback on each other's writing. The group's first meeting is set for December 20th at 6:45PM in the Oil City Library. Hope to see you there!

2021 Hidden Heritage Collections Being Sold

The Oil City Heritage Society is offering a one-of-a-kind collection of quirky and unique history articles and photographs in time for holiday giving. A total of 15 issues of Hidden Heritage, a history compilation launched last spring, will be available for sale in a collection. The print editions include a variety of stories and artwork that tell the city's historic legacy. The cost will be \$25 for each collection. No advance orders or mail orders will be accepted. All proceeds will benefit the Oil City Library. The collections will be sold from 9AM to 1PM on Saturday, Dec. 11th, at the Oil City Library. A limited number of editions will be available for sale.

Upcoming Workshops



CUSTOMER SERVICE ESSENTIALS
OIL CITY LIBRARY
10AM - 11AM
FREE

Join us for a Customer Service Essentials Workshop courtesy of PA CareerLink! Learn the fundamentals of good customer service and how to communicate effectively with customers and resolve customer complaints. This workshop is free to attend & is open to anyone. CareerLink will also stick around after the workshop to offer any extra help to those who'd like it. To register, visit the Oil City Library or call (814) 678-3072. Walk-ins are okay too!



RESUME DO'S & DON'TS
OIL CITY LIBRARY
10AM - 11AM
FREE

Join us for a Resume Do's & Don'ts Workshop courtesy of PA CareerLink! Learn the basics of resume writing. This is an information session only, but we can schedule follow-up individual resume assistance appointments per request. This workshop is free to attend & is open to anyone. To register, visit the Oil City Library or call (814) 678-3072. Walk-ins are okay too!

FEATURED DIGITAL RESOURCES

Available at www.oilregionlibraries.org

Brand New This Month on **kanopy**



Stream these & more for free with your library card.

FEATURED LIBRARY EQUIPMENT

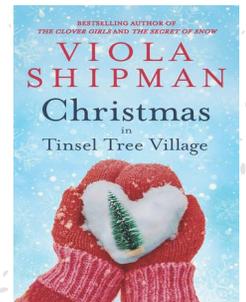
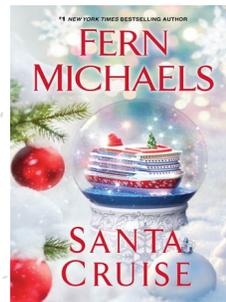


CUBELETS CURIOSITY SET

Cubelets make it easier than ever to explore robotics, coding, and other big ideas. Snap together the magnetic faces to build hundreds of robot constructions. Use the Bluetooth Hat to pair with the free companion app to remote control robots or change the way your Cubelets behave. Check out the Cubelets Curiosity Set today for FREE with your library card!



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