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ignored until you have some “spare” time. Always focus on your mission and fulfill that part of the job. Yes, the book repair box will be overflowing and might eventually need to become a weeding box but your mental health must be the number one priority. In order to continue loving your job, you will need to take a step back and accomplish the things that really matter for your well-being, for your students and colleagues. Remember, managing your time also includes deciding when and if you are able to introduce new initiatives...take your own time for this!

Dear Rita,

I see more and more of my readers heading for the graphic novel shelves in the library. I am becoming interested in using graphic novels in my library program. Can you give me an idea of where to start?

Drawn to this Form (LOL)

Dear Drawn,

Graphic novels almost need no promotion and imagine how engaged your students would be during reading class! Through collaboration, you could encourage the use of graphic novels across the curriculum. I have been chatting with other TingL board members about using graphic novels in the library and we have come up with a few ideas.

Literature Circles: Select 3 or 4 titles and offer the use of these titles to interested class teachers. Start with investigating the terminology/language of graphic novel parts. Next, introduce the titles

with book trailers and a prediction exercise. Have students then read and reflect on curriculum related content with small group discussions as they read. Students could be expected to read two of the titles in order to compare.

Superhero Standoff: Collect an assortment of superhero graphic novels and promote a vote for the “BEST” Superhero story. This might be organized within class or as an extracurricular activity. Tracking might be a Nutrition/ Lunch or after school meeting or might just be a chart with student names and the book titles with a place for a score to be written... or in the case of younger students a sticker for the books they like.

Art: Graphic novel illustrators offer a variety of styles of art in both colour and black and white. Perhaps classes could investigate different styles of drawing and the use of line and colour in the work. The students will want to draw like their favourites.

Graphic Novel Book Club: Offer an opportunity for fans to share and chat about their reading.

Brainstorm with your colleagues to decide how else you might introduce this format of reading into the library program and keep reading our Drawn to the Form column in future Teaching Librarian issues.

Dear Rita and Teaching Librarian editors,

I enjoy reading the articles in this magazine and I am wondering if the issues are

available online. I would like to share some of the articles with a group of educators I meet with. I am trying to go paperless.

Digital T-L

Dear Digital,

Thank you very much for the feedback and yes, our back issues and current issues are online. The link is: www.accessola.com/publications (click on *Teaching Librarian*). ■



Editor's note:

Access, OLA's official magazine, has changed its name to *Open Shelf* and gone completely digital. Check it out or submit an article at www.open-shelf.ca.