

# HISTORY OF THE GRAPHIC NOVEL



**1895:**

*The Yellow Kid*  
by Richard F. Outcault – 1<sup>st</sup> single panel cartoon to gain wide spread attention in US

**1940s:**

Comics explode with creation of **Superman** comics by Siegel & Schuster, superhero comics become popular

**1954:**

*The Seduction of the Innocent* leads to Senate hearings on comic books & youth: **Comic Code Authority** developed

**1978:**

Will Eisner coins term “**graphic novel**” for his book *A Contract with God and Other Tenement Stories*

**1992:**

Spiegelman wins the **Pulitzer Prize** for *Maus*.

**1994:**

LC adds graphic novel as subject heading

**2005:**

Graphic novel reviews and columns are now present in several library journals



**1930s:**

First comic books published as reprints of newspaper comics

**1934:**

*Famous Funnies* (1st modern comic book) printed

**1950s:** Rise of

McCarthyism and interest in romance, funny, horror, & crime comics (*MAD Magazine*)



**1960s:**

Revival of the superhero, growth of fan base, rise of underground comics

**1970s:**

Birth of comic book store, some serial comics now in book form

**Mid 1980s:**

Stigma of graphic novels is fading, rebirth of gritty heroes (*Dark Knight*, *Watchmen*), rise of non-superhero stories (*Bone*), & popularity of Manga

**2002:**

YALSA sponsors “Get Graphic at Your Library” @ ALA Conf.



**2007:**

YALSA adds “**Great Graphic Novels for Teens**” list, Printz Award to Yang’s *American Born Chinese*, Sibert Honor to Siegel’s *To Dance: A Ballerina’s Graphic Novel*