

**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**GRAPHIC NOVEL ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
SUBMITTED FOR LIS5577 GRAPHIC NOVELS
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Biographical Graphic Novels

For this annotated bibliography I chose to research and assemble a list of biographical graphic novels. Each graphic novel featured on this list is a biography of a historical figure. As an avid reader, I have always been interested in biographies. Biographies give us a glimpse into a world occupied by someone else's thoughts, emotions, passions and actions. By looking at graphic novel biographies of historical figures, we see an illustration of their personal lives full of obstacles and successes.

The intended audience for this bibliography is for ages 12 and up. There are a few graphic novels listed that are specifically designed for a younger audience but could be read by someone of any age. Anyone who enjoys reading biographies or likes history would be able to find a graphic novel suited to their preferences. Furthermore, the historical figures chosen for this list range from sports figures, actors and celebrities, political figures, adventurers and explorers, and spiritual figures.

In order to choose some of these graphic novels, I referenced Dr. Latham's powerpoint presentation on biographies that was given in class. I also used the University of Michigan's research guide by Dr. Dave Carter to help me find some of the more obscure graphic novels. Furthermore, I conducted my own research through reputable booksellers such as Amazon.com and GoodReads. The criteria I used to choose the books was dependent upon whether the biography featured a prominent historical figure and also whether there was a value to learning of this great person's life. For instance, many of the titles are biographies of one specific event that occurred in their lifetime. This was important as these specific events often shaped the way these figures carried on in their future endeavors.

I read many of the graphic novels on this list and found them all to be interesting and enjoyable. My personal favorites are *Shackleton*, *The Boxer*, and *Houdini*.

Resources mentioned above:

1. Carter, Dave. (2015). *Comic Books and Graphic Novels: Biography and Memoir*. Retrieved from: <http://guides.lib.umich.edu/c.php?g=282879&p=1888259>
2. Latham, Don. *Nonfiction – Part 1*. July 21, 2015.

Annotated Bibliography for Biographical Graphic Novels

1. **Citation:** Bertozzi, Nick. *Shackleton*. New York: First Second Books, 2014. Print

Annotation: Sir Ernest Shackleton is famous for his many expeditions to and across Antarctica, setting many different world records. This graphic novel details the obstacles he faced on his most famous expedition that occurred between 1914 and 1917. Readers who enjoy adventure stories full of suspense and rewards will find this biography of Sir Ernest Shackleton thrilling!

2. **Citation:** Brown, Box. *Andre the Giant: Life and Legend*. New York: First Second Books, 2014. Print.

Annotation: Andre the Giant was a larger than life wrestler and actor with an even larger heart. He suffered from acromegaly and gigantism causing him to age prematurely and grow to be seven foot-four inches tall and weigh over 500 pounds. This graphic novel details his life in different stages; we see Andre growing up, learning to wrestle, becoming an actor and most of all the love, kindness and generosity he showed others.

3. **Citation:** Geary, Rick. *J. Edgar Hoover: A Graphic Biography*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2008. Print

Annotation: J. Edgar Hoover was the first director of the FBI. This graphic novel gives us a glimpse into inner workings of one of America's most powerful men. Geary provides the reader with not only a look Hoover's most accomplished moments but also at many of his more secretive missions. Anyone looking for a history lesson on the grittier side of politics will enjoy this biography of J. Edgar Hoover.

4. **Citation:** Himuro, Isao, and Kotaro Iwasaki (illus.). *Albert Einstein*. Gardena: Digital Manga Publishing, 2006. Print

Annotation: Albert Einstein is most famous for his revolutionary Theory of Relativity. In this graphic novel we get to see how Einstein has always had a fascination with natural science and

how that passion remained till the very end of his life. Guided by Astro Boy and his sister, the reader will experience Einstein's journey to discover the world around him.

5. **Citation:** Jacobsen, Sid, Ernie Colon, and The Anne Frank House. *Anne Frank*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2010. Print

Annotation: In this graphic novel, readers get to experience the harrowing and all-too-short life of Anne Frank in a completely new format. This graphic novel depicts young Anne's life of growing up in Germany, her immigration to Amsterdam and her fight for survival while living in the Secret Annex. This is a great way to get young readers interested in one of the most delicate and important primary sources of history during World War II.

6. **Citation:** Jones Sabrina. *Isadora Duncan: A Graphic Biography*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2008. Print

Annotation: The ultra-talented Isadora Duncan is known as the Mother of Modern Dance. This graphic novel takes the reader on her journey as she travels from her poor California home to the dance halls of palaces. The illustrations capture Isadora's graceful and beautiful movements of dance.

7. **Citation:** Kleist, Reinhard. *The Boxer: True Story of Holocaust Survivor Harry Haft*. London: SelfMadeHero, 2014. Print

Annotation: This graphic novel tells the true story of Harry Haft, an Auschwitz survivor and professional boxer. The story details his time in a concentration camp where he was forced to box to the death, his eventual escape and his time as a professional boxer in the U.S. It is an inspiring story of survival.

8. **Citation:** Kleist, Reinhardt. *Johnny Cash: I See a Darkness*. New York: Abrams Publishing, 2009. Print.

Annotation: Johnny Cash the Grammy winning, beloved outlaw and rebel of country music comes to life in this graphic novel by Reinhardt Kleist. Kleist illustrates some of Cash's most famous moments in history such as the Folsom Prison Concert in 1968 and his lifelong love for June Carter Cash. This is a great graphic novel about one of the greatest musicians in our time.

9. **Citation:** Lambert, Joseph. *Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller*. Hartford: Center of Cartoon Studies, 2012. Print

Annotation: This graphic novel details the inspiring and strong relationship between Helen Keller and her tutor Annie Sullivan. The illustrations give an insight into how young Helen Keller perceived the world around her before Annie Sullivan was able to teach her finger-spelling, braille and lip reading. Not only does this graphic novel provide a history lesson on two of the most inspirational figures of our time but it also shows just how important it is to have a teacher who loves and supports his or her students.

10. **Citation:** Lutes, Jason, and Nick Bertozzi (illus.). *Houdini: The Handcuff King*. New York: Disney-Hyperion, 2007. Print

Annotation: Witness the magic and mystery of one of Houdini's greatest tricks in *Houdini: The Handcuff King*. This graphic novel explores one particular trick that Houdini performed – the leap into the Charles River in Boston in 1908. The story gives us a glimpse into the relationships with his wife, his job and the American public that shaped his career and life.

11. **Citation:** Quinn, Jason, and Sachin Nagar (illus.). *Gandhi: My Life is My Message*. New Delhi: Kalyani Navyug Media, 2013. Print

Annotation: Mahatma Gandhi is one of the most famous religious figures of the 20th century. His love for his people and all human lives led him to be one of the first leaders to use nonviolent civil disobedience to affect change in his country. This graphic novel is told from Gandhi's perspective looking back on his childhood all the way up to his death in 1984. Throughout the

graphic novel Quinn is able to show significant events that shaped how Gandhi came to be the peaceful, respected leader he was known as.

12. **Citation:** Quinn, Jason, and Amit Tayal (illus.). *Steve Jobs: Genius by Design*. New Delhi: Kalyani Navyug Media, 2012. Print

Annotation: Steve Jobs is the genius we all have to thank for many of the technological innovations we hold in our hands, that sit on our desks and that allow us to communicate with people all over the world. This is the story of this innovator's life. From his childhood where it only took the encouragement of one teacher for him to realize how special he was to his creation of one of the biggest tech companies in the world. This graphic novel tells it all!

13. **Citation:** Saiwai, Tetsu. *The 14th Dalai Lama*. Los Angeles: Emotional Content, 2008. Print

Annotation: This graphic novel tells the story of young Tenzin Gyatso who at the age of two was determined to be the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama. This story tells the fascinating tale of one of the most extraordinary spiritual leaders of this century. The illustrations provide a sense of the wonderment, love and compassion that the Dalai Lama has for his people and his country.

14. **Citation:** Santiago, Wilfred. *21: The Story of Roberto Clemente*. Seattle: Fantagraphics Books, 2014. Print

Annotation: This biography of Roberto Clemente illustrates the struggles he faced as a young boy in the Dominican Republic to his rising stardom as a player for the Pittsburgh Pirates in the MLB. The illustrations are vivid and bring to life the talent that Clemente brought to the game of baseball. A great read for any sports fan!

15. **Citation:** Taylor, Sarah Steward, James Strum, and Ben Towle (illus.). *Amelia Earhart: This Broad Ocean*. New York: Disney-Hyperion, 2010. Print

Annotation: In 1928 Amelia Earhart set the record as the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. This graphic novel details this amazing event in Earhart's life. As a young girl

she was always interested in flying and throughout out her life she pushed the limits. She was able to successfully open the doors to women all over the world so they could pursue their wildest dreams. This graphic novel illustrates her ambition and drive and her desire to never give up on her dreams.