A reader from Orleans read *The Crow* by James O'Barr: This is the latest version of this graphic novel, dedicated to the memory of Brandon Lee, who died during the making of the movie.

A reader from Hanover read *Deep As the Sky, Red As the Sea* by Rita Chang-Eppig: An interesting story about female Asian pirate.

A reader from Foxborough read *Stone Fruit* by Lee Lai: I had no interest in reading a graphic novel. This was new, and received a good review in the NYT. I am glad I read it but doubt I will ever read one again. I do not like constant pictures and little dialogue.

A reader from BEVERLY read *The Okay Witch* by Emma Steinkellner: This story was fun, but I did not love the illustrations. I couldn’t get past the noses! Why were they different colors??
A reader from Somerville read *Lore Olympus (Volume One)* by Rachel Smythe: A modern adaptation of the story of Hades and Persephone in graphic novel format. While I found the artwork to be beautiful and the story to be cute, I realized that graphic novels are not for me. I was finding it difficult to absorb both the art and the text at the same time. While technically this is an adult graphic novel, I feel like it would be great for teens because it covers some complex topics in a way that I think teens might find helpful. That being said, I was sort of hoping for it to be a little bit more of a grown-up story, but it reads like a teen novel. So, clearly not my favorite for me, but I do think that Smythe is a fantastic artist and handled some tough subject matter really well.

A reader from East Otis read *Relish: My Life in the Kitchen* by Lucy Knisley: I've read a lot of food-related memoirs, but never one in graphic novel format. This book was a great read in both ways!

A reader from New Bedford read *Bingo Love Volume 1: Jackpot Edition* by Tee Franklin: I enjoyed the story. I usually read much longer books. But between the artwork and storyline it still felt like a satisfying read. I hope to read even more of the author's work. Romance isn't usually my jam, but her characters felt endearing. Perhaps because they were black women like me.

A reader from Dracut read *Hey Kiddo!* by Jarret Krosoczka: I actually enjoyed reading this; my first graphic novel.

A reader from Roslindale read *Maker comics: grow a garden* by Alexis Frederick-Frost: Stumbled upon this graphic novel from my child’s school library. Filled with lots of educational content on gardening, composting, etc. and presented in a fun way.

A reader from Chelmsford read *fantastic four and old man logan* by bagley & allred and berzerker: Both disappointing as mostly violent scattered stories and went back in time which made it very hard to follow.

A reader from Northfield read *Logicomix* by Apostolos Doxiadis and Christos H. Papadimitriou: Logicomix was recommended to me by my son, who is a mathematician, software engineer. The story is based on the life of philosopher and mathematician Bertrand Russell and his pursuit of truth. I found the story hard to follow and throughout the book, I was asking myself "what is the point that the authors are trying to make?" I found some of the mathematical concepts difficult to understand and not well explained or illustrated. I would recommend this book to other readers with a strong interest in mathematics and/or logic. Overall, I found this book to be thought provoking and I am glad that I read it.

A reader from Mashpee read *Impossible People* by Julia Wertz: This was the first graphic novel I have ever read. I truly believe that graphic novels have a place and for some that is the only way they can read a book, but it truly is not a format that I enjoyed.

A reader from North Brookfield read *Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands* by Kate Beaton: Incomplete but I didn’t want to forget the name of the book I chose for my May selection.
A reader from Middleboro read *Wake the hidden history of women-led slave revolts* by Rebecca Hall: For one I'm not a comic reader. But I took that out of the equation and read the words on the pages. I found out through this book at least 4 women staged a revolt. However only 2 of them were found guilty and sentenced to death. The other 2 were found not guilty. I thought all my life that only men slaves revolted. So this book opened my eyes up about the women slaves. It showed how they were treated on the slave ships. I did enjoy the book. Would recommend to schools to have students read this book. Found out there is little documentation on women led slaves revolting. It was powerful book.

A reader from Amherst read *Blankets* by Craig Thompson: A poetic meditation on growing up, finding your voice, and reconciling with the past, this graphic novel offers morsels of illumination, food for thought and more profound questions than it does easy answers.

A reader from Mattapoisett read *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman: First time reading a graphic novel. I was certainly intrigued right until the end.

A reader from Beverly read *I Will Judge You By Your Bookshelves* by Grant Snider: While this book is not a novel, it is designed in a graphic style. It is a very funny and entertaining book about the love of books and reading and writing. Bibliophiles will enjoy it immensely.

A reader from Dartmouth read *Coraline* by P Craig Russell: Graphic novels are not my favorite but it was nice to try something different.

A reader from MASHPEE read *MAUS II* by ART SPIEGELMAN: A sequel to MAUS, MAUS II is a timely reminder of the horrors of The Holocaust. It’s also teaches an important lesson to the world in 2024. We need to learn from history so it’s not repeated.

A reader from Dartmouth read *Robin Na* by Almost Americn Girl: Having never read a Graphic novel, I was reluctant to begin this adventure. Unfortunately, I am not impressed. It took 3 books before I managed to complete even 1. This entry was written by an author who had lived the experience and had to become adapted to the US ways of life. She is a talented artist and told her story of teenage angst and adapting with compassion and understanding. Her adventure had a good ending and for her I am glad. As for me, I won’t jump at the chance to read another graphic novel.

A reader from Melrose read *embroideries* by Marjan satrapi: it was like talking with girlfriends about sex.

A reader from Plymouth read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: An insightful memoir from Iran.

A reader from Fairhaven read *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman and P. Craig Russell: Not my usual genre. It was a quick and fun read.

A reader from Belchertown read *Jupiter’s Legacy* by Mark Millar: First real foray into this genre; that’s it.

A reader from Bourne read *Advocate* by Eddie Ahn: I enjoyed reading Eddie Ahn's insightful commentary on pressing social issues, such as inequality, systemic injustice, and the power
dynamics at play in society. This is my first experience reading a graphic novel, and while it's not my first choice for a book format, I was pleasantly surprised how much I enjoyed his account of his life and advocacy as well as the humor through which he tells his stories through the lens of the graphic novel format. Overall, "Advocate" is a poignant novel with stunning artwork and a compelling story of a person who is brave enough to do the selfless work advocating contemporary societal issues.

A reader from Boston read Can't we talk about something more pleasant: A Memoir by Roz Chast: I thought all Graphic Novels were just longer Comic Books with the usual "Super Hero" story. Which don't really interest me. I know...the Reading Challenge should stretch my reading choices, and it does quite often. But "comics"?? Then I found all kinds of fully illustrated full length books...such as this one. Having recently survived an "aging parent" situation, I wanted to read this to add comic relief to real life, to take comfort in knowing I'm not the only one seeing both the struggle and the joy in this tough situation.

A reader from Sharon read Always Never by Jordi Lafebre: This is my first adult graphic novel. After each short chapter, I was puzzled. Now that I’ve read the entire book, I’d like to reread it because I’m still confused. Maybe I’ll just read other genres.

A reader from Sharon read Star Wars: The High Republic: Blade by Charles Soule: This graphic novel does a nice job giving more background to one of the Star Wars: The High Republic characters.

A reader from Scituate read X Biography of Malcolm X by Jessica Gunderson: Very enlightening.

A reader from Blackstone read Anya’s Ghost by Vera Brosgol: I’m not a graphic novel reader so this was new for me. It had an unexpected plot twist and seeing the change in the character arcs was really interesting.

A reader from Melrose read Let's Make Ramen by Hugh Amano: Seeing this complex process as a graphic novel makes it just a little less intimidating and is very informative.

A reader from Rindge read Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney: I chose the book because I got to a lot events at this local bookstore in MA. I will say I found it cute and the kid is definitely a typical middle schooler. The cartoons were funny and added to the story.

A reader from Melbourne read Maus by Art Spiegelmai: One of the early banned books in Florida and I welcome anyone to explain WHY this book was banned. It is a moving, personal, first-hand account of nazi Germany in the early 40's. This graphic novel shows mice as the Jewish victims and cats as the nazis, which is clever. The story uses the cat and mouse dynamic as the Jews try to negotiate a dangerous political takeover of their homes and businesses by the nazis.

A reader from Plainville read Lunar New Year Love Story by Gene Luen Yang: This graphic novel was the best one I have read over the years. I really loved reading about Val’s joys and struggles. May is a busy reading month for me and a graphic novel fit right into my goals this month!
A reader from Spencer read *Yuyu Hakusho volume 2* by Yoshihiro Togashi: Good story and very quick read. This is the second book in the series and it's ending, like the first makes me want to read the next one. This style of book takes some getting used to reading but I love the art and story.

A reader from North Attleboro read *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel: Coming of Age story about a girl who lives with her family in a funeral home and discovers her own homosexuality while also learning about her father who is battling his own demons and has his own secrets. I did not particularly like this book although the basic story line was good. It was my first graphic novel and I was surprised to discover they are not just for kids or poor readers.

A reader from Somerville read *Trickster: Native American Tales, A Graphic Collection* by Matt Dembicki: Not the best. I appreciate the effort it took to compile all the short stories, but the stories themselves were only okay.

A reader from South Hadley read *Over My Dead Body* by Sweeney Boo: A very quick, witchy graphic novel with heartwarming characters!

A reader from Arlington read *Renegade Rule* by Ben Kahn: A fun, fast-paced, queer story of competition, joy and teamwork!

A reader from Middleboro read *The Prince and The Dressmaker* by Jen Wang: A very short and sweet story about acceptance and being true to yourself. The artwork was beautiful!

A reader from Amesbury read *Super Chill* by Adam Ellis: While some of the comics were funny and relatable, many we're just weird or not really funny.

A reader from SOUTH HADLEY read *The Long Way Down* by Jayson Reynolds: This book took me by surprise. I don't usually read graphic novels, so I took a couple suggestions from people. I have a few more I now want to read but this book was poignant and relevant and brought tears to my eyes. I'm so glad I read this one. I thoroughly enjoyed this and appreciate the emotions that the book stirred up.

A reader from Salem read *Twelve Percent Dread* by Emily McGovern: I have really enjoyed Emily’s other work, including the webcomic My Life as a Background Slytherin and Bloodlust & Bonnets. However, this one just didn’t hit. I don’t know if it was the formatting of the really tiny panels, or that I wasn’t really drawn to any of the characters- except Alicia, which is amusing, as she’s on the surface, the flattest. I also felt that there wasn’t enough of a resolution, I’m fine with unsatisfying resolutions, this one just kind of ended. I do really like Emily’s work though, so I will try again with her next book!

A reader from Milton read *Global* by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin: An interesting plot between two young protagonists, living in separate parts of the world, confronting the impacts of climate change. I enjoyed the alternating plots and how there was a link, albeit hard to believe, between the two protagonists.

A reader from Basking Ridge read *Lore Olympus Vol 5* by Rachel Smythe: love this series.
A reader from Attleboro read *I will Judge You by Your Bookshelf* by Grant Snider: Graphic novels are not typically a favorite of mine, so I tried to find one that would be fun. This book did not disappoint. It is humorous, insightful, smart, and very entertaining.

A reader from Braintree read *Bloom* by Kevin Panetta: A cute book and enjoyable read.

A reader from Wellesley read *Hidden: A True Story of the Holocaust* by Kati Preston, Dilleen Marsh (illus.): Graphic novels and I don’t usually get along, but the graphic novel was the perfect medium for this story. It starts when Kati is 4.5 years old, and the illustrations are perfect for showing her pre-war life and then her experiences during the war. A child’s story needs to be illustrated, even if it’s written when she’s an adult! This is the first Holocaust memoir I’ve read by someone who was so young at the time or someone who came from a mixed family, so I also appreciated the new perspective on a subject I’ve read a ton about throughout my life.

A reader from Chicopee read *Always Never* by Jordi Lafebre: Not a graphic novel reader but a friend suggested this to me. It has a wonderful storyline about a love that has lasted over a lifetime. The artwork is whimsical and reflects the story.

A reader from Dracut read *Hey, Kiddo* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka: A child's perspective of being taken from an addicted parent to live with grandparents and persevere. A subject near to my heart and a story we hear too often. We'll done Mr. K!

A reader from Belchertown read *Festival of Shadows: A Japanese Ghost Story* by Atelier Sento: Wow, I really enjoyed this book! It's the first graphic novel I've read, and I really enjoyed both the story itself and the interplay between the artwork and the text. I could really see how both parts were equally necessary to the story. I am so glad I have been introduced to this genre and would like to read more by this author.

A reader from Billerica read *Heartstopper Volume 5* by Alice Oseman: As always, Oseman delivered an exceptional portrayal of love. She is so good at portraying important issues in a beautiful light and is amazing at showing emotion and tension throughout her drawings.


A reader from Amherst read *american born chinese* by Gene Luen Yang: I was confused at first of how the three stories were connected, but when it all came together at the end, I marveled at how deep and beautiful the symbolism was. Very inspiring book!

A reader from Worcester read *unicorn boy* by Dave Roman: Super cute & fun. Will keep an eye out for sequels.

A reader from Worcester read *Ashes* by Álvaro Ortiz: Interesting adventure with some mystery & rid bits of cremation history.

A reader from Pepperell read *I Will Judge You by Your Bookshelf* by Grant Snider: This was my first time reading a graphic novel, however I enjoyed it! I related to the subject matter as well. I'm glad I tried it!
A reader from Yarmouth Port read *Poe Stories and Poems* by Gareth Hinds: I chose this book because of the familiarity of Poe's work. I found the pictures and graphics distracting to the beauty of his poetry.

A reader from Wilmington read *The Sandman: Book One* by Neil Gaiman: Totally engrossing and hard to put down. A deep, twisted story with lots of details that reconnect and weave a tale that spans from the past to the present as well as thoroughly immerses itself in biblical lore, various ancient mythologies, and the DC Comic universe. Was not expecting to like it as much as I did, but would definitely recommend to those who like a grittier story and art style that still had moments of levity.

A reader from Melrose read *White Bird* by R.J. Palacio: My 5th grade son recommended this book to me. The author is also the author of "Wonder", which I loved. This is a fictional history based account of a Jewish child in hiding during WW2. It was well done.

A reader from Boston read *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe: The idea of a parasite baby also makes me want to vomit!!

A reader from Oxford read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: Interesting to read Satrapi's recollections of Iran in the 1970s and 80s. I liked. Persepolis 2 even better.

A reader from WEST BOYLSTON read *Sunshine* by Jarrett Krosoczka: You’ll find this book in the YA section of your library or book store, but it’s a must-read for adults, too. The book chronicles Jarrett’s experience working at a summer camp for seriously ill kids and their families. Jarrett is the author of children’s picture books, the Lunch Lady series for older kids and the graphic memoir, Hey Kiddo. He came to our elementary school for a presentation and wowed our students and teachers.

A reader from Dudley read *Stone Blind* by Natalie Haynes: I was a bit lost looking for a graphic novel. I did enjoy this story learning more about Medusa's background. It depicts her humanity and femininity wonderfully. The ending is ultimately tragic, but one that so many women can relate to. She is a character of strength, sin, and sorrow.

A reader from Berkley read *Fangs* by Sarah Andersen: Fangs is about a love story between a vampire and a werewolf. It is sweet and very funny. It is also a quick read, an enjoyable tidbit of a book.

A reader from Essex read *British Ice* by Owen Pomery: The subject matter is British colonialism and it’s damaging effects on a remote arctic island.

A reader from Hudson read *Lies My Teacher Told Me* by James W. Loewen & Nate Powell: While not a big fan of graphic novels, I gave this genre a try. This graphic rendition of the best-selling book on American history brings to light the many myths that make up our country's legacy. At times, it was quite the eye-opener. The illustrator incorporated current political figures into the graphics, which for me reflected on our present-day state of affairs and how they are a result of what came before. Well done!
A reader from Foxborough read *The Witcher v1 House of Glass* by Paul Tobin: Not sure where it falls in the mythology, but intriguing story and excellent art.

A reader from Salem read *In Limbo* by deb jj lee: This is a multi-cultural coming of age graphic memoir that reminds you that human suffering can take many forms and you just never know what people are going through. As a teacher I find it helpful to remember this and how important it is to teach empathy.

A reader from South Weymouth read *Jane* by Aline Brosh McKenna: I loved it. I was surprised that I enjoyed a graphic novel, but I loved the modern take on Jane Eyre.

A reader from Stoughton read *Lunar New Year Love Story* by Gene Luen Yang: In honor of AAPI Heritage Month I chose a graphic novel from my shelf about a young Vietnamese American woman who loved Valentine's Day until one year it brought heartbreak, after which she has to decide if she is going to accept that her family is cursed in love or follow her own fate by rekindling her love of dance (via lion dancing at festivals) and being honest about her relationships.

A reader from Salem read *Keeping Two* by Jordan Crane: This is an intense look at the fragility of a relationship on a seemingly mundane day. It's beautifully illustrated.

A reader from Mattapoisett read *Courage to Dream: Tales of Hope in the Holocaust* by Neal Shusterman: I picked this up because the author was Neal Shusterman. It is a blend of Holocaust history with Jewish folklore. Beautiful, sad, humorous (in places, especially the Fools of Chelm); I'm glad I read it. Artwork by Andres Vera Martinez.

A reader from Dracut read *the Giver The Graphic Novel* by Lois Lowry, illustrated by P. Craig Russell: Really good adaptation, the visuals really drove the message.

A reader from Sandwich read *Ink Girls* by Marieke Nijkamp: In a Medieval city in Italy three newfound girlfriends unite to fight corruption within the royal family exposing the deceit to the entire town and bringing justice to all. The printer's apprentice leads the way with help from the royal princess and a streetwise self-made pirate lass. The detailed illustrations are beautiful.

A reader from Springfield read *The Complete Persepolis* by Satrapi, Marjane: I'd been meaning to read this for ages so this was the perfect opportunity to do it! I read it in one sitting and I quite enjoyed it. It felt like a series of vignettes in some ways, but with overarching themes like war, trauma, and coming of age. Definitely worth reading.

A reader from Belchertown read *Issunboshi: A Graphic Novel* by Ryan Lang: Graphics were beautiful. I wish it were a longer book, because it felt rushed.

A reader from Watertown read *A Guest in the House* by Emily Carroll: Not really sure what was going on in this one!

A reader from South Hadley read *The Stone Man Mysteries - Book One - Stone Cold* by Jane Yolen and Adam Stemple: Not a fan of graphic novels.
A reader from Wakefield read *Relish: My Life in the Kitchen* by Lucy Knisley: This was the first graphic novel I've read and I really enjoyed it.

A reader from Holyoke read *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang: Boy, am I glad that I knew the general tone of this book before I started. The sudden introduction of the incredibly racist stereotypes part of the way through were jarring and almost made me put down the book and walk away. But having friends who highly recommended this book made me persevere, and I'm so glad I did. Having recently read 'Journey to the West', I loved the modern expressions and tone the author added while still keeping true to the original story. This was a quick and (mostly) fun read that did what it set out to do - and maybe even more.

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *Clyde Fans* by Seth: This is a long (400 page-ish) "picture novel" about a real Toronto business, Clyde Fans, founded in 1937 and eventually driven out of business by the widespread adoption of air conditioning. It is told alternatively by the 2 sons of the founder. It is deeply reflective and elegiac about the nature of work, how it affects us, and how we adapt (or don’t) to changing circumstances. I never read graphic novels, so this was a treat to step outside my norm.

A reader from Haverhill read *Ghosts* by Raina Telgemeier: Definitely for younger readers, but it was a very sweet story! Excited to share it with my students!

A reader from Spencer read *The Secret to Superhuman Strength* by Alison Bechdel: This memoir provides an interesting examination of exercise as escapism, particularly existential escapism. Bechdel uses exercise as a panacea for all her ills from youth into adulthood, frequently convincing herself that physical health equates to emotional and psychological health. I had never given serious consideration to this element of fitness regiments, and I appreciated her approachable and insightful writing.

A reader from Oxford read *silent partner* by Jonathan Kellerman: Great story. I love his books. I didn’t really care for the graphic novel design. Lots of trouble reading it. No color all black and white. Plus the illustrations of the characters not what I had envisioned.

A reader from Wakefield read *A Guest in the House* by Emily Carroll: Okay so I was not excited to read graphic novels. I’ve never liked them. Never liked comics. But the description of the book intrigued me. It was interesting but kinda got weird toward the very end. I felt like it ended very abruptly and I don’t really understand what happened.

A reader from Beverly read *Diana My Graphic Obsession* by Sivan Piatigorsky-Roth: Graphic Novels ... kind of like expensive comic books, yes? Started the classic "Maus" but decided to pick this one up instead ... what was the point of this? It left me NOT wanting more of the genre ... not my cup of tea!

A reader from Amherst read *The Exile* by Diana Gabaldon: I am a big fan of the Outlander books, but it did not transfer well to this graphic novel. I was expecting more of a new story, but most of it was a rehash of the first book without the beautiful writing we’re used to. The illustrations were nice, but I had trouble differentiating between some of the characters. This was not my favorite.
A reader from Webster read *Camouflage, the hidden lives of autistic women* by Dr Sarah Bargiela: Interesting, illuminating, short and informative.

A reader from South Hadley read *A Fade of Light* by Nate Fakes: A 'heartbreaking and heartwarming' graphic memoir about the author's stepfather, this book was a wonderful read. I finished it in one evening and was deeply moved as well as newly informed about Pick's disease, or frontotemporal dementia, which afflicted the author's stepfather. Graphic novels are a challenge to me because I find the colors and conversation bubbles distract me from the story line, and I feel overwhelmed by all that is happening visually on each page. "A Fade of Light" however is only in black, grey and white with lots of narrative and few frames per page, sometimes only 1 per page. I highly recommend this book for a great story that is easy on the eyes.

A reader from North Attleboro read *Jane Eyre: The Graphic Novel* by Amy Corzine: I thought this would be fun since my January read was the original Jane Eyre. I'm not sure what to say about this. It was my first graphic novel and it felt like I was reading the cliff notes. I suppose it is a good way to expose younger people to the classics, if they are not inclined to read them. The illustrations were very good.

A reader from Florence read *March (The Trilogy)* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell: Beautiful, accessible, important story for all of us.

A reader from Dracut read *Squished* by Megan Wagner Lloyd: Graphic novels are not for me. Read it for the challenge. These are good for kids.

A reader from Dedham read *The Keeper* by Tananarive Due: The Keeper is an adult graphic novel by African American horror author, Tananarive Due. I was excited to read this graphic novel because I love her novels. She writes African American horror novels and short stories. It was a decent story over all, but I think it could have had more detail, more character development, and backstory. I was disappointed because I was expecting more from an author that I admire and enjoy reading. Also, the novel is cataloged as an adult graphic novel, but with the story as is, it read more like a young adult graphic novel.

A reader from Woburn read *Black Panther: Shuri - The Deadliest Of The Species* by Reginald Hudlin: I enjoyed this graphic novel very much.

A reader from Wilmington read *The Baby-Sitters Club: Stacey's Mistake* by Ann M. Martin: I love graphic novels. I read them faster than other books and I really enjoy them.

A reader from Montague read *The Prince and the Dressmaker* by Jen Wang: A story in pictures, with minimal words, but it conveys the spirit of the characters and society's feelings about gender issues, especially cross dressing.

A reader from No. Chelmsford, read *Heart to Heart* by Patrick McDonnell: Using words by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the author, along with the art work, depicts how fragile our planet is, and all that is encompassed here on earth. In story tale form, how His Holiness and a friend share the the beauty and also the destruction of our planet unless we become more responsible in
caring for it. I am not a fan of Graphic Novels but the library where I volunteer helped me find this book, which I enjoyed so very much!

A reader from Melrose read *Dying is Easy* by Joe Hill, Martin Simmonds (Illustrator): This dark, humorous graphic novel made me love Joe Hill's writing ever more so. The illustrations made the graphic novel come alive.

A reader from Salem read *huda F are you?* by huda fahmy: Enjoyed.

A reader from southborough read *Qualification* by David Heatley: a graphic memoir. Graphic novels are a challenging genre for me to read. and this especially has so much personal angst that the illustrations really need to be examined.

A reader from Erving read *Chivalry* by Neil Gaiman and Colleen Doran: This is a lovely book. Gorgeous illustrations and a sweet but yet poignant story. Has a bit of whimsy and wisdom mixed in. Take time to really look at the illustration and read the notes from the illustrator at the end, including her sketches.


A reader from Belchertown read *Wash Day Diaries* by Jamila Rowser and Robyn Smith: Absolutely loved this graphic novel. It was light and fun at moments and heartbreaking at others.

A reader from Monson read *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum Eric Shanower, Scottie Young: This was a book written to please children of today: a modernized fairy tale. I was not familiar with the graphic novel genre and was not sure if this book would appeal to me. However, I enjoyed the updated version of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. The graphics were unique and worked well this adaptation.

A reader from Burlington read *Kristy’s Great Idea* by Ann M. Martin: I am not interested in graphic novels at all, so I was having a hard time choosing one to read. I decided to go with this version of an old favorite childhood series of mine. It was fun to read one of these books that brought back some memories, but I do not think that graphic novels are in my future reading plans. :)

A reader from Somerville read *Archival Quality* by Ivy Noelle Weir: I'm not big on graphic novels, and not that it's representative of the entire genre, but unfortunately this book did not change my mind. I chose it because as a librarian and archivist, I was excited to read about a spooky haunted museum and archives. However pretty much immediately I realized that the author did not have even a basic grip on what goes on inside of archives. The book also didn't have much of a story and I was just bored and let down by the anticlimactic ending.

A reader from Maynard read *They Call Us Enemy* by George Takei: Takei writes his memories of the American Japanese internment at age 4 with his family. They are forced to sell their belongings and business and are moved away from LA to camps in Arkansas and then Northern
California because they were considered ‘radicals.’ The book includes the family’s return to LA, assimilation, George’s acting career (Star Trek), & his social justice activism.

A reader from Dighton read *The $500 million Heist* by Tom Sullivan: My first graphic novel! Story of the theft at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston MA in March 1990. Well written, interesting illustrations, and factual - a very quick but enjoyable read.

A reader from Feeding Hills read *The Secret to Superhuman Strength* by Alison Bechdel: This was the first graphic novel style book ever, for me. I doubt I ever would have dipped my toe into the genre if it weren’t for the challenge. To choose a book I just blindly selected from the suggested titles. Serendipitously I found this was autobiographical and that the author had many similarities in her upbringing, family dynamics etc and even attended the same tiny college in the Berkshires that I had! The sketches that accompanied the story were captivating, and the arch of the author’s life followed the evolution of her attitudes toward exercise and physical pursuits (hence the title). It was a fun read and nothing I would have ever chosen for myself previous to reading it! I am thinking of selecting another graphic novel, maybe a work of fiction, to round out the month because this was a quick read and there is still some May left before starting the next book of the challenge!

A reader from Salem read *Cryptid Club* by Sarah Andersen: Graphic novels are not really a genre for me, but always worth the opportunity to broaden my horizons. This quick tome was chock full of fun vignette's about cryptids' social lives. My faves were the Kracken, Nessie (of course), and Cthulhu. The comment about dress pockets from the Flatwoods Monster was a hoot!

A reader from HOPKINTON read *Maids* by Katie Skelly: I am not a reader of graphic novels - this was my first. The only thing I liked about it was that it was brief. Thank goodness because I did not like the story.

A reader from Attleboro read *The Golden Age Book 1* by Roxanne Moreil and Cyril Pedrosa: I liked the concept of the story. Intrigue, battles, betrayal, a sense of mystery. However, I found it a bit hard to follow the story in some parts because of the color used in the illustrations. The changes in lighting and colors sometimes made it difficult to know which character was which. The last page of the book left me wondering which character is depicted on the page. Could be me, but I prefer clear drawings when the drawings help carry the story.

A reader from Gloucester read *Numb to This: A Memoir of a Mass Shooting* by Kindra Neeley: This book centers around the author's story of being involved in a mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Oregon. This occurred in October 2015. She recalls her experiences with the events and her struggles with anxiety and PTSD afterwards. This story was heartbreaking, but also hopeful.

A reader from Marblehead read *The Complete Maus* by Art Spiegelman: I've never read a graphic novel before. This work was a compelling way to tell the horrible story of the Holocaust as well as a sad communication of the relationship between generations.
A reader from Reading read *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* by Roz Chast: Tragic and really funny. I was shaking with laughter looking at the drawings, which often told more of the story than the text did.

A reader from Andover read *Emeralds of Castafiore* by Hergé: I submitted this incorrectly for April! Love TinTin!

A reader from Pittsfield read *The Complete Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: I chose to read Persepolis for this month because I have heard so much about it. Many of my colleagues teach it in their classes. Though it was well done and interesting, it was too much for me. I found that the black and white pictures were too overwhelming combined with the text. I often did not know where to look or what to look at. I do not think I got as much out of this as I would have if it had just been a memoir without pictures. From reading this, I have realized that graphic novels are not my favorite way to read. I feel that this important topic and story was lost in the combination of picture and text. But if you do like graphic novels, I think it is an important book to read as the author's story is incredible.

A reader from Southampton read *MAUS* by Art Spiegelman: This was a 1992 Pulitzer Prize Winner. Today and yesterday, as a father and son try to walk a painful road together. The son is the possible oracle of his father's remembrances of horrors, death, starvation, tortures, betrayals and existing in the Third Reich as a Jew. They always return to today in New York. That existence is not pleasant or happy. Maus --I did not put it down until completed. I felt caught in their lives and times.

A reader from Topsfield read *American Splendor: The Life and Times of Harvey Pekar* by Harvey Pekar: I love this slice of life book, where the author finds the beauty, humor and depth in everyday interactions as a working-class guy in Cleveland.

A reader from Chicopee read *Going Remote: A Teacher's Journey* by Adam Bessie & Peter Glanting: This is the story of one teacher's experience with remote learning during Covid. The time in the teacher's life is even more difficult because he is fighting cancer.

A reader from Agawam read *The Tea Dragon Society* by Kaite O'Neill: This is such a heartwarming and fun read! It uses dragons in a way that I haven't seen before and is just absolutely beautiful!

A reader from Worcester read *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang: This was the first graphic novel I'd ever read. It's not a medium I gravitate, too, but in reading this I realized it was also something I unintentionally avoided. I really enjoyed this book. The seamless weaving of the three stories made for a captivating, one-sitting read. I will definitely seek out other graphic novels as a result.

A reader from Webster read *Sunshine* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka: I really enjoyed this month's pick! It was a pleasant surprise because I went into it blind -- I picked this one off the suggested reading list for the May category posted on the website, and I had no idea whatsoever that the author was not only from Massachusetts, but from the very same city my husband was born and raised. I love the way this graphic novel was essentially a heartfelt memoir -- it made me want to
go and pick up "Hey, Kiddo" to read that next. Jarrett has a way of both directly and indirectly showing the audience the reality of terminal illness, but also the hope and innocence that prevails. I found myself wishing there were more and wishing for more than the beloved characters of his life's story ultimately got. Most precious of all from this graphic novel is the display of: human connection. That which is so precious but becoming so rare in this world...

A reader from Plainville read Can We Talk About Something More Pleasant by Roz Chast: I’ve never read a graphic novel before but this one I enjoyed. The author had a great way of combining something pretty dark (the decline and death of her parents) with humor. I liked this graphic novel so much I also picked a second one to read this month!

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read French Milk by Lucy Knisley.

A reader from WAKEFIELD read Four-Fisted Tales: animals in combat by Ben Towle: First Graphic Novel I've ever read; enjoyable.

A reader from Blandford read And Now I Spill The Family Secrets: an illustrated memoir by Margaret Kimball: I found the layout of the pages beautiful. The art really adds substance to the story being told. The subjects of divorce and mental illness are throughout this book. It’s nice to see the perspective that is given by Margaret.

A reader from Wakefield read Nimona by ND Stevenson: I read this after watching the movie and so I already knew the story a bit. Still a fun read and graphic novels are a different experience for me! The characters are all interesting and really well-written and the story had a great balance of light-hearted moments with violence.

A reader from Northampton read Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant? by Roz Chast: The graphic novel format is perfect for Roz Chast's memoir of her years coping, as best she can, with her stubborn, aging parents. Chast's witty cartoons, revealing photos, sketches and hand printed narrative prose show her frustrations, humor and love. Do you have elderly parents? Are you on your way to being the elderly parent? Even if everything is perfect in your world - read this, it's funny, it's sad and it's a good story.

A reader from North Billerica read Maus by Art Spiegelman: My first graphic novel. I prefer books...

A reader from Berkley read Fun Home by Alison Bechdel: Excellent graphics, very expressive. Autobiography. Many, many classic literary references, that piqued my interest. Enlivened with humor. Worth re-reading a few times. I'll return to this again, I'm sure.

A reader from Chelmsford read The Many Deaths of Laila Starr by Ram V: I liked the color palette for the illustrations. The concept of the story was cool. Overall, a good read though graphic novels are not my favorite format for reading.

A reader from North Dighton read 1984: The Graphic Novel by George Orwell with Fido Nest: This was my first graphic novel and may well be my last. I’ve read 1984 and was interested to read it again in this format, but I found the illustrations to be unsettling and the storyline hard to
follow as the frames seemed to jump around. I can appreciate how others may enjoy reading a story in this form but it wasn’t for me.

A reader from Natick read *Stage Dreams* by Melanie Gillman: A fun queer western. Really enjoyed this!

A reader from Randolph read *Amulet* by Kazu Kibuishi: This book was a story about life and all of its emotional upsets. I chose a teen graphic novel because I couldn’t find an adult graphic novel I cared to read. Reading a graphic novel forced me back into using different cognitive skills. Pictures haven’t been part of my reading for years. I liked the book but not enough to read the second in the series. Perhaps another time if I find an adult story line without the multi-dimensional travel.

A reader from Hopkinton read *Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant?* by Roz Chast: A graphic memoir. The author writes and draws about her relationship with her parents during their final years. Sometimes humorous, sometimes sad, poignant, and moving. Roz is brutally honest about her feelings through the whole process.

A reader from Rockland read *Locke & Key Vol 1* by Joe Hill: Really enjoyable graphic novel.

A reader from Sunderland read *Timid* by Jonathan Todd: This is the first graphic novel I’ve read, and it was fun to follow the story in both words and drawings. The story was very touching, about a black, shy, middle school boy trying to find a way to fit in at his new school after moving to Massachusetts from Florida.

A reader from Bolton read *The Complete Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: Very good book and quick to read. It felt very authentic and relatable despite being from a very different time and place than my own upbringing.

A reader from Gardner read *Demon in the Wood* by Leigh Bardugo: This graphic novel is a short story prequel to the Grishaverse series. I love that the author chose to do a graphic novel instead of a traditional novel like the rest of the series.

A reader from New York read *The Complete Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: I really enjoyed this book and the way it was written. It was honest, interesting, funny, and relatable even though it was such a specific experience.

A reader from Leominster read *Munch* by Steffen Kverneland: Great graphics. I couldn’t get into the style of the book. I’ve never enjoyed cartoons. But I’m glad I was given the opportunity to explore it. Looking forward to seeing other readers’ opinions.

A reader from Santa Cruz read *Grimes Fairy Tales Presents: Neverland* by Joe Brusha: Excellent retelling of Peter Pan with beautiful illustrations. The facial expressions add so much to tale.
A reader from Weymouth read *Stitches* by David Small: Very interesting but sad story. It was nice to see him pull through his difficult childhood. The drawings were a little creepy but effective at helping to tell the story.

A reader from Dudley read *Hey Kiddo* by Jarret Krosoczka: Despite it being a graphic novel, this was not an easy or light read. It tells the true story of heroin addiction and how it impacts a family. Growing up in the area, it was really interesting to read a story that takes place in Worcester and the surrounding towns. I enjoyed the aspect of knowing the places mentioned in the book.

A reader from Spencer read *Kakegurui* by Homura Kawamoto: Interesting manga about a private school that highly values gambling ability. The kids have sorted themselves into a caste system based on gambling prowess.

A reader from Melrose read *Be Gay, Do Comics!* by The Nib: I liked this book a lot, though it's better as an e-book than a printed old-fashioned book (to better zoom in). There is a wide variety in quality, theme, length. I appreciated the breadth of queer experience and thought.

A reader from Dracut read *Kimiko Does Cancer* by Kimiko Tobimatsu: This was an important, raw and insightful cancer memoir. Candidly told. Extreme vulnerability and openness from the queer perspective.

A reader from North Easton read *Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands* by Kate Beaton: I will start off with I do not like graphic novels. It was hard to choose since again, I don’t like them. I did some research and this book had great reviews and seemed interesting. I enjoyed it. It was different but also had aspects of reading I enjoy - nature, truth and a story. This is the authors story of working and living on the oil sands and how she did this for two years and made enough money to pay off her student loans. The sacrifices people will make to have money for their families. And what they give up emotionally as well. It was very well written in graphic novel style and again, kept me interested. I really enjoyed Kate Beaton’s story. It can be tough to read certain parts of her story, just an fyi. It gets deep. She’s a strong woman filled with amazing talent - illustrator and author.

A reader from OXFORD read *Earthdivers Kill Columbus* by Stephen Graham Jones: First - I really liked the artwork, the characters and the maps. The concept of the story that about indigenous people that use a time travel portal to stop America happening by killing Columbus was something I had not expected. For me it was a little too violent with actual killing and torture depicted in the drawings. The cave was interesting but I had some difficulty with the back and forth time of the characters. Graphic novels aren't my favorite read but this might be one for fans of this genre.

A reader from Lowell read *Ashes* by Álvaro Ortiz: A quick read, but not my favorite. Graphic novels are not my thing!

A reader from Boston read *The Complete Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: This graphic novel is a history of revolution, war, and recover in Iran through the perspective of a young girl exploring religion, politics, drugs, music, and culture in the 80s.
A reader from Arlington read *V for Vendetta* by Alan Moore: I like the concept, and I liked the movie, but the book did not connect for me. I would have preferred to read this as a traditional novel. I also did not like the art.

A reader from Franklin read *MARCH ~ Book One* by John Lewis/Andrew Aydin/Nate Powell: I did not know what to expect from the graphic novel genre, but MARCH (Book One) was an excellent choice; I could not put it down! This novel tells the story of John Lewis's youth in Alabama, his awareness of the injustices of segregation as he grows up, and his involvement in the Civil Rights movement, including meeting MLK, Jr. The artwork is VERY powerful and really transports the reader to each scene in the novel. I'm glad I chose this work for my introduction to the graphic novel genre and I now want to read the other 2 books in the MARCH trilogy. And I really miss John Lewis, a great man.

A reader from Wrentham read *Parenthesis* by Elodie Durand: This graphic memoir detailed Durand's descent into epilepsy caused by a small brain tumor. The artwork matched Durand's slow and painful memory loss while non-sequitur panels showcased her confusion and pain. This was an excellent graphic novel and I am glad that I picked it up this month!

A reader from Whitinsville read *Fruits Basket, Vol. 1* by Natsuki Takaya: I enjoyed this sweet and silly manga! The comic relief of constant architectural destruction somehow hits just right for me, although the sexism of Tohru keeping house for a bunch of boys and men is kinda gross. Still looking forward to the Tohru-Kyo-Yuki love triangle and to getting to know Hana-Chan and her mysterious energy-reading powers.

A reader from Saugus read *Turtle Bread: A Graphic Novel About Baking, Fitting In, and the Power of Friendship* by Kim-Joy: What attracted me to this title is that I enjoy baking, I could somewhat relate to the protagonist, and that the author had appeared on "The Great British Baking Show." I really don't have much interest in graphic novels at all, but I did enjoy the story.

A reader from BREWSTER read *Number One is Walking* by Steve Martin: Part personal anecdotes, part delightful observations accompanied by illustrations by the amazing Harry Bliss.

A reader from Sandwich read *Brave* by Svetlana Chmakova: Loved it! My middle schooler chose it for me and I'm so glad he did. What a wonderful capture of this incredible hard and award moment in time. The illustrations are super emotional - the book worked BECAUSE it's a graphic novel. So good.

A reader from Ipswich read *Maus* by Art Spiegelman: Excellent graphic novel.

A reader from Worcester read *Gender Queer: A Memoir* by Maia Kobabe: Looking to buy a copy.

A reader from Everett read *The Sandman: Preludes and Nocturnes* by Neil Gaiman: Enjoyed it!

A reader from Amherst read *Persepolis* by Satrapi, Marjane: My first graphic novel about a girl's experience of the Iranian Fundamentalist regime and her time in Europe, where her parents sent her for safety. Funny, sad, with great drawings. It increased my admiration and compassion for the Iranian people. I recommend it, and will try more graphic novels.
A reader from Northampton read *Anne Frank* by Jacobson and Colon: A wonderfully written and illustrated graphic biography. Authorized by the Anne Frank House. Begins with the marriage of Anneb18's parents, then depicts the disturbing history of the time along with happy family moments, Continues to the deaths of Anne, her sister and mother in concentration camps, and later her father in 1980.

A reader from Hopedale read *Pillow Talk* by Stephanie Cooke/Illustrated by Mel Valentine Varga: Not my favorite genre but this young adult graphic novel kept my attention and was a fast read! Enjoyed the inclusion and it's something I wish I'd had when I was younger!

A reader from Salem read *HunterxHunter Volumes 1&2* by Yoshihiro Togashi: Not sure if manga counts as a graphic novel, but HunterxHunter is more wordy so I think it does. I already know the events of the story due to the show, but it's fun revisiting these early story beats! Gon is a great protagonist and it's fun seeing how the cast started out again, knowing what's going to happen in the future.

A reader from Franklin read *A Wrinkle in Time, Graphic Novel Adaptation* by Madeleine L'Engle: My daughter is reading the original for school so it was fun to read the graphic novel version. It was a change in reading roles for us.

A reader from Belchertown read *They called us enemy* by george Takei: This is a must read - not just for kids. I highly recommend it.

A reader from Boston read *Let There Be Light* by Liana Finck: This is probably my favorite read for the challenge yet. :) I'm already a big fan of Liana Finck's work. For such simple sketches (nothing elaborate and minimal, precise use of color), her work always makes me cry. I really loved this graphic novel. I recommend to everyone, but especially other Jewish people! It's just gorgeous.

A reader from Wilmington read *Avatar the last Airbender: The Promise* by Gene Luen Yang: Excellent continuation of the story of the show.

A reader from Brockton read *21: The Story of Roberto Clemente* by Wilfred Santiago: I enjoyed the story and timeline of this great player. The illustrations were terrific.

A reader from Bedford read *Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts* by Rebecca Hall: I'm not a big graphic novel fan, but I found this book so engaging.

A reader from Quincy read *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson: I have only read a few graphic novels as the experience is not something I am automatically drawn to, but this story is worth the read no matter the format. I think reading this story with illustrations enhanced the loneliness, fear and sadness felt by the main character, Melinda. Melinda is struggling with her high school experience; she is a freshman receiving no support from anyone in her life and she is dealing with a horrible event that took place in her life. A worthwhile read.

A reader from Northampton read *Lighter than My Shadow* by Katie Green: This was a great visual representation of how one must feel knowing that they have an eating disorder, but feeling powerless against it.
A reader from Colrain read *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien (David Wenzel and Charles Dixon): As far as I know, this is the only graphic novel adaptation of Tolkien's wonderful book, *The Hobbit*. It is entirely accurate, word for word adapted by Charles Dixon and has beautiful watercolor illustrations by David Wenzel. I highly recommend reading this!

A reader from WEST YARMOUTH read *Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451* by Tim Hamilton: This book was so powerful. 'Reading' the story through just images at times was brilliant. Some of the pages brought such an incredible range of emotions with no words. I love Ray Bradbury, and sadly, Fahrenheit 451 is probably more timely and way more poignant today than when it was written. I have never been much into graphic novels, this book has definitely changed my mind!

A reader from Newton Upper Falls read *Roaming* by Jillian and Mariko Tamaki: This graphic novel from 2023 looks back on a pair of college friends traveling to New York City in 2009 and how the addition of a third person to the mix leads to shifting relationships and conflict. The personal story of the characters is juxtaposed with rich imagery of New York: its tourist attractions, its streets, restaurants, and bars, and its subway system. Like most first-rate graphic novels, this is one you can visit again and again and see something new each time.

A reader from Sharon read *Moonbound: Apollo 11 and the Dream of Spaceflight* by Jonathan Fetter-form: A captivating retelling of the history of the development of NASA's space program. I was happy to see the contributions of a number of women highlighted.

A reader from Spencer read *Tintin volume 2* by Herge: The adventures of Tintin and his dog Snowy are well written and beautifully illustrated. A stolen museum piece, a mysterious island, and a plot to dethrone a king were all included in this volume of interesting mysteries.

A reader from TEWKSBURY read *Jim Henson's Tale of Sand* by Jim Henson and Jerry Juhl: Amazing and dark. I'm not a huge graphic novel fan but I am a huge Henson fan, and this sucked me right in. Gave vibes of Jumanji and Stephen King.

A reader from Wilmington read *King of the Birds* by Elise Gravel: I liked how it was fast to read.

A reader from North Reading read *the Secret Garden* by Ivy Noelle Weir: I didn’t enjoy this. Maybe because the original novel is so beautiful. If took a classic story and tried to make it too much of a comment on too many issues of today and too serious for a child reader.

A reader from Woburn read *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel: I've never read a memoir in graphic novel form. I had heard about the musical but honestly didn't know much about the story behind it. It was interesting, both a sad and funny look into family dynamics.

A reader from Harvard read *Days of Sand* by Aimee de Jongh: I once again hit the ALA recommendation lists to settle on Days of Sand for the May challenge. While there were many interesting graphic novels listed, I gravitated toward this tale about a NYC-based photographer who's been tasked by the government to take photos of the Dust Bowl. The photographer struggles at first to make the residents trust him enough, but he eventually becomes a part of the community, if even only on the periphery. The illustrations do a lot of heavy lifting to show us the photographer's childhood struggles and his emotional turmoil as he sees townspeople going
through hardship. Interspersed throughout are real images taken by Dust Bowl photographers, and a small amount of back matter provides historical context. This would be a good companion piece in high school classrooms that use The Grapes of Wrath in their curriculum.

A reader from Mattapoisett read Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas: This is a middle age graphic novel about a little girl named Bree who moves to Florida and is placed in swim class at school but she does not know how to swim. She meets some great friends, including an older neighbor who help her along as Bree ind her way in a new place and tackles the challenge of learning to swim. I enjoyed it.

A reader from Arlington read They Called us Enemy by George Takei: This was a visually heartbreaking and informative story about Japanese Internment camps. It was inspiring to see George and his family form a community in these terrible circumstances but also depressing knowing this shameful history of the United States Government's racism.

A reader from Milford read Blankets by Craig Thompson: "And that's my comfort--that someone else where there and experienced the same thing. How else could I know it was REAL, and not merely a dream?"

A reader from Shelburne Falls read Sunshine: How One Camp Taught Me About Life, Death, and Hope by Jarrett J. Krosoczka: Beautifully reaffirmed my faith in the power of summer camps! Having read "Hey, Kiddo," I was glad to read more of Jarrett's story.

A reader from barnstable read Anya's Ghost by Vera Brosgol: I appreciate the Mass Reading Challenge for pushing the category of 'graphic novel' otherwise I may never have read one! Technically a 'young adult' graphic novel, the message of my books is applicable to all ages: be true to yourself, don't hide who you truly are, believe in yourself. Really enjoyed the blend of graphics and dialogue as a means of telling the story and communicating emotion.

A reader from Vineyard Haven read Love Like Water by DE Malone: So so.

A reader from Vineyard Haven read Somehow by Anne Lamott: Loved it!!

A reader from Providence read Small Gods The Graphic Novel by Terry Pratchett / Ray Friesen: I can't remember the last time I read an illustrated book! Certainly a different experience than I'm used to. I am going to go read the not graphic novel version to see how they compare!

A reader from Waltham read Fights by Joel Christian Gill: Interesting and insightful. I'm glad the author event inspired me to pick it up!

A reader from Chelmsford read Hey, Kiddo by Jarrett Krosoczka: This graphic novel was a well-done memoir. I think it is marketed toward upper middle school to high school, but I enjoyed it as an adult read. The author details how he grew up with his grandparents as his mother struggled with addiction. It was nice to see how his childhood passion for drawing developed into his career as an author/illustrator of countless books including this novel. I also enjoyed reading about a local author as Krosoczka is from Worcester. I plan to read Sunshine, the follow-up to this book.
A reader from Chelmsford read *Sunshine* by Jarrett Krosoczka: This is a follow-up to Hey, Kiddo, but I think it can be read as a standalone. Great book about an experience volunteering at a camp for kids with cancer and their families.

A reader from Erving read *runaways* by marvel: It was surprisingly just like the show, but I think I like this novel way better! I actually read it fast lol I was locked in to what was about to go on. I know there’s a part 2 from how they ended it, so until I find the next one, I will b curious as to whether the parents really are villains, or if they have reasoning to do what they did and just want their kids on their side and to train them on how to use there powers!

A reader from Vineyard Haven read *Table for Two* by Amor Towles: Great read. Couldn't put it down.

A reader from Vineyard Haven read *Can't we talk about something different* by roz chast: An important topic, but I'm not a fan of graphic novels. Didn't enjoy this.


A reader from Ipswich read *Audubon* by Fabien Grolleau and Jeremie Royer: The graphics of this book were very good. I also was glad to learn some details of Audubon's life. I enjoyed the copies of his bird pictures. It was sobering to learn how many species have disappeared, and how the numbers of others have diminished.

A reader from Manchester read *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel: Not a big graphic novel reader, but was so impressed with the richness of the language in this novel.

A reader from Needham Heights read *Sheets* by Brenna Thummler: I like graphic novels the best when the illustrations become integral to the story and this is one of those books! This graphic novel is about grief, loneliness, connection, family obligations, growing up, and laundry.

A reader from Chelmsford read *The Black Dahlia* by J. Elroy, D. Fincher, Matz, M. Hyman: I rarely read graphic novels, but this month’s selection allowed me to read a great graphic novel and to read a novel on my to read list.

A reader from Chelmsford read *Spores* by Joshua Barkman: This was my first graphic novel, despite my tendency to always recommend this genre to reluctant readers! Spores was a gift from my son who is a fan of graphic novels. I didn't know what to expect so I was pleasantly surprised. I enjoyed reading Spores and would recommend it to readers of all ages. It's a quick and entertaining read and would be a good introduction to this genre.

A reader from Spencer read *The Good Neighbors* by Holly Black & Ted Naifeh: This was an interesting read about fairies. Are they good or evil? You'll have to read to find out.

A reader from Boylston read *Saga vol. 1* by Brian K. Vaughan: Amazing illustrations and original characters/story line. really excited to continue this series!

A reader from Weymouth read *Maus A Survivor's Tale* by Art Spiegelman: Maus A Survivor's Tale does a good job of documenting history.
A reader from Ashland read *Shubeik Lubeik* by Deena Mohamed: Beautiful, clever, heartbreaking and thought provoking. 5/5 stars.

A reader from Florence read *A Contract With God* by Will Eisner: What a great book! This is the first graphic novel I ever read, so I decided to start at the beginning with the very first graphic novel ever created. Written and illustrated by comic book artist Will Eisner in 1978, the edition I read (2006) contained two prefaces which really helped me to understand the process Eisner went through from creation, to coining the term "graphic novel" after having the work rejected by several publishers, to publication. The novel is made up of four rather gritty stories concerning tenants of a 1930s Bronx tenement. The art is brilliant and the stories are violent, sad and touching; you really get a sense of what it must have been like to live in these close quarters in the early 20th century.

A reader from Maynard read *A Story of Seven Lives* by Shirakawa Gin: This was a bittersweet story about the difference humans can make in the lives of homeless cats. Nanao and Machi were beautifully drawn and stole my heart.

A reader from Longmeadow read *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox, and The Horse* by Charlie Mackesy: I loved this graphic novel! There were so many little nuggets of wisdom to hold onto through life. The artwork is stunning!

A reader from Somerville read *Dungeon Mesi V.1* by Ryoko Kui: A delicious and funny read! Very excited to read the emotional twisty parts in the next volumes :) 

A reader from Grafton read *Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts* by Rebecca Hall: This is definitively an important story to tell! I’m glad I tried it, but overall graphic novels are not my thing.

A reader from Williamstown read *Speak, the Graphic Novel* by Laurie Halse Anderson: This was a truly haunting graphic novel -- about a young woman dealing with PTSD and depression after having been raped at a party and then completely ostracized by her entire school. Emily Carroll's artwork perfectly complements the text as the main character slowly finds her voice through an art class, taught by a sympathetic teacher who encourages her to explore her trauma.

A reader from North Oxford read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald: Not a fan of graphic novels but thus was ok. Artwork was nice.

A reader from Franklin read *Watchmen* by Alan Moore & Dave Gibbons: I've never read a graphic novel before so this was a whole new experience! I chose Watchmen because I really enjoyed the TV show from a couple years ago. The book was a lot more complex and ambitious than I was expecting and I was impressed with the combination of dialogue and images to tell the story. I still don't think graphic novels will be my genre of choice but I understand why people are drawn to them.

A reader from Beverly read *Class Act* by Jerry Craft: Great follow up to New Kid! I think this is a great book to show students the "windows" and "mirrors" - many students will see themselves somewhere in this book and learn something!
A reader from Sharon read *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe: Learned a lot from this graphic novel & would recommend it. Also read *Ducks* by Kate Beaton about the oil fields in Western Canada - would recommend this book too.

A reader from Boston read *Heartstopper vol. 1* by Alice Oseman: This was really cute but I don't think I will continue in the series. It was really short and ended very abruptly. I would watch the Netflix adaptation though!

A reader from Pepperell read *Why My Cat is More Impressive Than Your Baby* by Matthew Inman: My first graphic novel! I have tired to browse various graphic novels here and there and it is a genre that I j ust can't seem to get into. But this challenge got me to read one. When I stumbled upon this title I knew it would be the one! Given my babies are my two cats this jumped off the shelf at me! It was a cute fun easy read. :)

A reader from Wlbraham read *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant* by Roz Chast: Heartwarming, poignant story of one woman's experiences with aging, loss and death. A must read for any adult child.

A reader from Wrentham read *Nat Enough* by Maria Scrivan: My daughter read this book and really enjoyed it so I thought it would be a good graphic novel choice. It touched on many middle school issues but in a fun and easy to read way.

A reader from South Portland read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: Reading a graphic novel is not in my comfort zone, but I enjoyed this informative and engaging memoir.

A reader from Melrose read *Run: Book One* by John Lewis & Andrew Aydin: This book tells of the Civil Rights struggle after the Voting Rights Act was passed. It showed that the racial strife continued even though their right to vote was now guaranteed, Lewis remained faithful to his non-violent principles. Lewis died just before this book went to press. He was one of my political heroes.

A reader from Medford read *Hey, Kiddo* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka: I don't read a lot of graphic novels, but I'd been meaning to read this one and am glad this month's challenge compelled me to do so. This graphic novel is extremely well done and vividly evokes the author's experience of being raised by his grandparents because his mother was addicted to heroin and mostly away in rehab or prison. The author's family and friends are depicted quite fully, and one can really feel what Krosoczka was going through.

A reader read *Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands* by Kate Beaton: A well paced and thoughtful reflection of the author's experience working in the oil sands. The challenges of a young woman in that line of work are difficult, uncomfortable and they do not hide it.

A reader from Plympton read *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* by Alison Bechdel: An interesting read as a young girl recounts stories growing up in her family's funeral home. She recalls anecdotes of her parents' lives and their individual interests as she also explores her own coming out saga and learning of her dad's secreted life as well. An easy read.
A reader from Quincy read *Persepolis* by A: What an amazing work. So interesting to see such a complicated time in history interpreted through the eyes of a child.

A reader from Melrose read *Shortcomings* by Adrian Tomine: This was my first graphic novel so I was interested to try one. It was shorter than a regular book but there was a lot of content. I had mixed feelings about the story itself. The protagonist had many problems which ended up being mostly unresolved in the end. However, I did think it was thought provoking because it dealt with a variety of topics.

A reader from Reading read *A Guest in the House* by Emily Carroll: My first real experience reading a graphic novel and a horror novel. I found this book engaging and super creative.

A reader from Blackstone read *Heartstopper v.1* by Alice Oseman: This was my first graphic novel and I was not expecting to enjoy it as much as I did! I fell in love with the characters and read it in one sitting. I can't wait to continue this series and possibly explore more graphic novels. I never would have tried a graphic novel if it wasn't for this challenge.

A reader from Hopkinton read *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant* by Roz Chast: Humorous and poignant account, sometimes difficult, graphic memoir about caring for aging parents. Guilt, love, and more guilt adds to the complex relationship. Well done!

A reader from Salem read *Spidey and his Amazing Friends: Team Spidey Does it All* by Steve Behling: I read this to my nephew who loves Spidey and His Amazing Friends. It is not a genre I'd normally enjoy but we had fun!

A reader from Beverly read *WAKE The Hidden History of Women Led Slave Revolts* by Rebecca Hall: Very Interesting.

A reader from Woburn read *Saved By The Bell* by Joelle Sellner: I was both wary of and excited about this book, having grown up loving the show it's based on. It was pleasantly charming, and in no way anything like I expected.

A reader from Hyannis read *Owly Tiny Tales* by Andy Runtin: Great book.

A reader from Beverly read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: Excellent work on the genocide of native Americans. Heard it was a pretty good movie too!

A reader from Derry read *Maus* by Art Spiegelman: May's challenge did challenge me. I was pleasantly surprised how much I liked "Maus" by Art Spiegelman. It was way easier to read than I thought and finished it in one day. It's a story within a story. The author, Art Spiegelman, is a cartoonist. He documents his father, Vladek's account of he and his mother, Anja's survival of Nazi Germany and their imprisonment at Auschwitz. The characters are depicted as the Jews being mice and the Nazi's being cats. The story also portrays the present life of Art's relationship with his father after his mother's suicide when he was younger. It's obviously a heartwrenching tale but also heartfelt.
A reader from Northampton read *The Demon in the Wood* by Leigh Bardugo and Dani Pendergast: After reading and loving all of Leigh Bardugo's Grishaverse books, I discovered this graphic novel of the Darkling's backstory. So beautifully illustrated and fun to read. A treat!

A reader from Arlington read *Britten and Brulightly* by Hannah Berry: I had to get some librarian help for this month's reading challenge. I hadn't read a "graphic novel" since I was ten and engrossed in my favorite Superman comic. The librarian helped me understand this contemporary genre and then helped select an appropriate book. The novel, a noir piece of hard-boiled detective fiction, was well written and appropriately illustrated. There was no hero, only an honest man whose discoveries destroyed him. I had a bit of difficulty following the story in parts, but a second reading helped with this. Would I read another graphic novel by this author? I think I might.

A reader from Northfield read *The Odyssey* by Gareth Hinds: Dipping into the genre of adult graphic fiction was not a comfy thought. So help me, the colors on the cover of this book soothed my eyes and my wobbly familiarity with the plot gave me a measure of confidence that I could go my traditional rule follower route and comply. I've emerged unscathed, re-upped my relationship with the vast cast of characters and done serious head shaking over how perilous relationships can be whatever the combinations are between humans, deities and mythical characters. I also appreciated the through lines of familial loyalties and the acceptance of flawed natures as just that, natural. I was able to not torture myself to recall names as their illustrative representations were easier to recognize than, so help me, the spellings I can only get if I close my eyes and envision the letters! I did enjoy taking on a new format. Time will tell if I take the route again of my own volition.

A reader from Worcester read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: Can't believe it took me so long to read this. Already ordered Persepolis II from the library

A reader from Chelmsford read *Yona of the Dawn vol. 41* by Mizuho Kusanagi: This is one of my favorite manga series, I've been reading this series since 2016. It features a strong female protagonist, and the character growth over the series for all the main characters and main side characters has been truly wonderful to read. This volume was heart-pounding action, and I can't wait for the next installment.

A reader from Hanson read *Incredible Doom Vol 1* by Matthew Bogart and Jesse Holden: I already read Persephone, Maus and On Tyranny and loved them all. I randomly pulled out this book at the library, but found there wasn't enough text to satisfy me when I finished it. Interesting storyline though - a coming of age story about 4 teens having tough times in 1991 who use the newly emerging bulletin boards on dial up computers to engage with others like them.

A reader from Atkinson read *Puzzled: A Memoir about Growing Up with OCD* by Pan Cooke: Honest and educational. I loved this one for helping young folks who may be struggling with OCD.

A reader from Auburndale read *Wings Of Fire The Hidden Kingdom* by Tui T. Sutherland: The Braveness Of Dragons.

A reader from Boston read *The Tea Dragon Society* by K. O'Neill: This was a sweet cozy fantasy story about trying to find your place. It was middle grade. The illustrative styles were gorgeous and I loved the idea of little tea dragons who grow tea leaves from their horns.

A reader from Brookline read *In Search of Lost Time* by Stephane Huet: This confirmed again that graphic novels are not my cup of tea. I also found that all the characters visually resembled each other and they started to blend in together for me.

A reader from Westport read *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman: Sweet and fun.

A reader from South Hadley read *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel: Technically this is a graphic AUTOBIOGRAPHY not a novel but I think it fits the challenge. Bechdel unfolds her childhood as the daughter of a man who restored their home to its Victorian grandeur but who was unable to have a stable relationship with anyone. Bechdel describes her growing awareness of her sexuality while revealing to the reader that her father had many affairs with young men. This book is a difficult read but worth the effort.

A reader from Northfield read *Watership Down: The Graphic Novel* by Richard Adams: Not my genre but I did enjoy the book. The characters were endearing and the illustrations were beautiful. I'm so glad that this Challenge takes me out of my comfort zone and leads me to new adventures.

A reader from Quincy read *The Night Bookmobile* by Audrey Niffenegger: As a READER I loved the idea that heaven is a library, where one librarian devoted to you, keeps track of all the books you've ever read. And when you die you become a librarian for someone else just starting their reading journey.

A reader from Charlton read *The Old Guard Book One: Opening Fire* by Rucka, Fernandez, Miwa, Wynne: It was a story about love, friendship, betrayal, and finding a reason to live for everyday. The illustrations were great, I loved the characters, it was fast paced, and engaging.

A reader from Springfield read *Maus* by Art Spiegelman: Maus by Art Spiegelman is the biography of Spiegelman’s father, Vladek, and his experiences during the Holocaust. It is told through the conversations Spiegelman had with his father, not only showing their difficult relationship by why his father does what he does in his old age as you discover what he has been through in his youth. The reader also feels the hole left by Anja, Spiegelman’s mother, with their grief over her suicide and by the loss of her perspective because Vladek destroyed her diaries and journals in a fit of despair after her death. The illustrations and their symbolism add to the depth of this compelling and brilliantly told story. Everyone should read this book. We need to
remember the baseness and horror of humanity and also its capacity for kindness, survival, and hope.

A reader from Lynnfield read *Plain Jane and the Mermaid* by Bros gol, Vera: Pictures were detailed and were helpful illustrations of what took place in the story. Overall I would give this book three stars.

A reader from Milton read *The Color of Earth* by Kim Dong Hwa: The Color of Earth is part 1 of a graphic novel trilogy about a widowed mother and her young daughter who is coming of age in Korea. Both mother and daughter find romantic interests. After reading the inside cover description I was surprised that is was more graphic, forthcoming not offensive, than I expected since I found it in the teen section. The graphic novel isn't my favorite genre but the story was good and I am interested enough to plan to read the next book in the trilogy.

A reader from New Bedford read *Maus (Book 1 and 2)* by Art Spiegelman: I honestly wasn’t looking forward to reading a ‘comic book.’ I have to say, I’m so glad I read this. This book has me crying. It’s a book about the atrocities of the Holocaust. It’s the story of my ancestors. The suffering and murders is gut wrenching. But I also felt a kinship with the protagonists as Yiddish phrases were strewn in and the vernacular was so familiar and similar to that of my grandparents, and great uncles and aunts. Book 1 ends on a cliffhanger of sorts. However book 2 completes Vladek’s moving story. These books will forever stay with me.

A reader from Wakefield read *V for Vendetta* by Alan Moore & David LLoyd: I enjoyed the movie years ago so tried out the graphic novel it was based on. The book was darker and emotionally more powerful, but I enjoyed the movie characters more.

A reader from Somerville read *Runaways volume 1-6* by Rainbow Rowell and Kris Anka: This is a continuation of a long running series by marvel. I really enjoy the concept of kids having to decide if they want to be heroes or villains and choosing neither. Rainbow Rowell does a great job differentiating the characters with their own voice and individual storyline. This does end on a cliffhanger as Marvel scrapped the series but I really hope these characters come back some day!

A reader from Attleboro read *Guardians Of The Louvre* by Jiro Taniguchi: This is the first graphic novel I’ve ever read and it was quite good. I learned many things and plan to read more graphic novels in the Louvre Collection of graphic novels, as well as other graphic novels. This challenge has definitely inspired me to read books outside of what I typically read. Thanks!

A reader from Rockland read *Murder Book: A Graphic Memoir of a True Crime Obsession* by Hilary Fitzgerald Campbell: I am not a huge fan of graphic novels, and this book didn't change my impression. I had a hard time with the varied text styles and sizes. The content was just fine. Not my favorite.

A reader from Florence read *Maus 1 My Father bleeds History* by Art Spiegelman: I do not like graphic novel and made that decision the first time I read one for a book group. That said I read The Mysteries a young adult graphic novel by Bill Patterson and John Kasch about civilizations that come and go, BUT the mysteries remain. I read it in 10 minutes so I also read Maus 1 about
Jewish family trying to survive Hitler's Nazi regime. I saw the graphics as cluttered chaos that detracted from the narrative and was offered by the Jewish people being portrayed as rats. I love history and have read a lot about WWII, as well as historical fiction on the Holocaust basted on real people who lived and died and survived. They were well written and informative and I was always involved in the people and their stories of that awful time. I would not choose to read a graphic novel again.

A reader from Northampton read *Turning Japanese* by MariNaomi: This was a fun prompt for me because I have not read a graphic novel in a decade! Turning Japanese was on display at my library and I gave it a try and I’m glad that I did. MariNaomi is able to expertly convey the emotions of characters through both her writing and illustration which made for a very immersive read.

A reader from Stoneham read *Lore Olympus* by Rachel Smythe: This was an interesting take on the Persephone myth. Definitely painted Hades in a kinder light than I usually think of him but I enjoyed it!

A reader from NAHANT read *March, book one* by John Lewis: It took me a little while to get into the artwork, but I ended up reading this book in one sitting. I am a big fan of graphic novels. I loved reading this story in this format. I cannot wait to get my hands on books 2-3. I found the narrative to be powerful, uplifting, and informative all in one. The artwork grew on me.

A reader from Fairhaven read *A history of Japan in manga: samurai, shoguns and World War II* by Shunichiro, Kanaya: Wow! What an amazing and innovative way to teach history (or any other subject) to high school or older students! I feel like this format could be so beneficial to "non-traditional learners." More text books styled like this one please!

A reader from Quincy read *Invisible Emmie* by Terri Libenson: I read book 3 in this series a few years ago because the character has my name, and it was such a great story. I picked this one up since it was book one and have been wanting to read the rest of the books in the series for a while. This one was not good.

A reader from Webster read *The Life-changing Manga of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo: This was a fun graphic novel from which I also learned a lot about steps to take to have a neater, more organized home. Chiaki Suzuki is the main character whose housekeeping habits need an overhaul. Enter KonMari to teach and coach Chiaki on improving her less than neat ways of living. It was from this I learned my own ways of "tidying up" are not always the best or quickest. Great book. I've discovered I love graphic novels!

A reader from Turners Falls read *Hey, Kiddo* by Jarrett Krosoczka: Very much enjoyed this graphic novel.

A reader from Beverly read *X-Men/Fantastic Four: 4X* by Chip Zdarsky: The X-Men fight against the Fantastic Four to bring Franklin Richards, one of the most powerful mutants, to Krakoa where mutants are creating their own community; however, Franklin is having issues with the depletion of his powers and his father is unable to find answers. If you only know these characters through the movies, the characterizations aren't the same for every character.
A reader from Worcester read *French Milk* by Lucy Knisley: Loved this debut graphic novel by Lucy Knisley! Especially loved the way she wove comic frames and black and white photographs of her trip to Paris immediately prior to her 22nd birthday.

A reader from Scituate read *Naturalist: A Graphic Adaptation* by Edward O. Wilson (adapted by Jim Ottaviani): Loved this book especially given the brilliant illustrations. Found this book as it was next to the nature section. My son learned of E. O. Wilson at school in Alabama however I was unfamiliar with him. Now I want to learn more about him.

A reader from Hudson read *V for Vendetta* by Alan Moore and David Lloyd: A bit of a slog for me, but my daughter insisted I read it, and it is something I am glad to "have read"!

A reader from Sandwich read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: Well done story! The black and white graphics are exceptional.

A reader from Wakefield read *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang: It sounds good to read.

A reader from New Salem read *Spider-man Madame Web* by Various: I have not read a spiderman comic for ages and not much has change except way better graphics.

A reader from Foxborough read *Lore Olympus* by Rachel Smythe: I'm not really one for graphic novels, so this was a great prompt for getting me to read something different. While I don't think I'll pursue more graphic novels, I did enjoy the style of illustration.

A reader from Burlington read *1177BC: A Graphic History of the Year Civilization Collapsed* by Eric Cline and Glynnis Fawkes: I was very disappointed by this book. I knew a bit of the information already, but I still found it very confusing and not laid out in a way to be friendly to those who weren't already in the know.

A reader from Whitinsville read *Forbidden Scrolls* by Zun art by Moe Harukawa: This book was a bit hard for me to remember how to read the pages, backwards and Right to Left, may not be for me. I also read Lore Olympus by Rachel Smythe and Heartstopper by Alice Oseman. I loved Heartstopper.

A reader from West Boylston read *Hyperbole and a Half* by Allie Brosh: Absolutely hysterical - both text and sketches. A great quick read that made me laugh out loud. I make fun of my kids for reading graphic novels but this was a great break from my normal heavier reading.

A reader from West Boylston read *Coraline* by P Craig Russell: Fantastic sketches that really captured body language. Read it all in a few hours on a rainy day - great way to spend a day.

A reader from Worcester read *Lumberjanes #1: Beware the Kitten Holy* by N.D. Stevenson: I had fun reading this, especially because my daughter wanted to read it with me and we’ve continued to read the series together. The characters don’t get fleshed out much in this first volume, but it was an enjoyable introduction to the world and a taste of what’s to come in subsequent volumes.

A reader from Wrentham read *Stepping Stones* by Lucy Knisley: Graphic novels are not my thing, but I really like Knisley's work, so I picked this up. The illustrations were fantastic, and I gave a little internal cheer every time I saw drawings of the barn cats. But Walter, boyfriend to
Jen's newly divorced mom, was cringe-worthy. Knowing this book is largely autobiographical made me want to reach into the page and slap Walter for being so horrid.

A reader from Reading read *Huda F Are You?* by Huda Fahmy: This book was recommended by the librarian at the high school where I work. She is one of the Mass Challenge Reading Partners. I knew she would find me something good.

A reader from West Tisbury read *Can we talk about something more pleasant* by Roz Chast: Not typically a graphic novel reader but appreciated the dual use of text and images in this book. Roz shares her experience on this difficult topic of aging parents, that is filled with grief, guilt, and anxiety. The author is raw yet funny. You can empathize with her and she also shares the details that are usually left unsaid.

A reader from Orleans read *Fangs* by Sarah Andersen: Very enjoyable for an intro to graphic novels.

A reader from Cambridge read *Victor LaValle's Destroyer* by Victor LaValle: This is a retelling of "Frankenstein," but with a Black mother who reanimates her son who was killed by the police. I'm not normally into sci-fi or graphic novels, but this one was incredibly moving.

A reader from Hopedale read *Lighter Than My Shadow* by Katie Green: I haven't read a graphic novel since middle school. I thought they were all young adult genre, but this one was not. It was a fun, quick read even with the 500+ pages. I would consider more graphic novels in the future.

A reader from Beverly read *I Must Be Dreaming* by Roz Chast: Graphic Novels are not my thing. They leave nothing to the imagination - everything is a picture and the author shows you what the characters look like and what the environment is like. I did get out of my reading comfort zone but did not enjoy it.

A reader from Amherst read *Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts* by Rebecca Hall: Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts by Rebecca Hall is a stimulating and visually stunning graphic novel that is a perfect fit for readers who are passionate about uncovering the untold stories of women's history, exploring the complexities of slavery and its lasting impact, and seeking a deeper understanding of the courageous women who fought for freedom and equality throughout the ages.

A reader from Somerville read *The Umbrella Academy Vol. 1: Apocalypse Suite* by Gerard Way and Gabriel Ba: Interesting premise and I found the characters intriguing. With graphic novels the art style is always a factor and in this case it was....fine? But I didn't love it. To be honest, I went on to watch the tv show and I like it a lot better than the book.

A reader from Boston read *Hockey Girl Loves Drama Boy* by Faith Erin Hicks: Cute and easy to read--lovely way to decompress at the end of the day.

A reader from Greenfield read *Maus: A Survivor's Tale Part I* by Art Spiegelman: Would love to find and read more of this story. I went into reading it with expectations of how rough things might get (as it's a story about a Jewish family surviving Nazi Germany), but was still surprised at certain points.
A reader from Rockland read *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier: I read this because my youngest son (currently a 6th grader) loved it and the author’s other books. This just sums up that middle school is the worst. I never had to wear braces, but experienced a lot of the drama in the book and would never go back!

A reader from Boston read *The Watchmen* by Alan Moore: Had I read it when it came out I would have been more impressed. It was an early expression of the anti-hero super hero genre. I can see a lot of the themes and plot lines in more modern takes. It's in Saw, Avengers, The Boys etc... Ahead of it's time, but in 2024 a little tired.

A reader from Brewster read *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson: Such a fun read and one I could enjoy with my daughter as well.

A reader from Tewksbury read *The Magic Fish* by Trung Le Nguyen: This book was lovely. Illustrations were gorgeous and I loved the storytelling.

A reader from Chelmsford read *The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler* by John Hendrix: Pretty Good! (Graphic novel for May)

A reader from Amesbury read *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel: Excellent. A classic of the medium for a reason.

A reader from Beverly read *City of Light, City of Dark* by Avi: I really enjoyed this fantasy story. I liked the characters and the chance to review a little Spanish. One of my kids got it from a Scholastic book order years ago, and this was a perfect time to finally read it.

A reader from Seekonk read *Chivalry* by Neil Gaiman: Chivalry was the beautifully illustrated tale of Sir Galahad's search for the Holy Grail in modern day England. He finds the Grail and then must barter with the owner in order to complete his quest.

A reader from Groton read *Number One is Walking; my life in movies and other diversions* by Steve Martin: This was a quick, light read. As a fan of Steve Martin from way back, I enjoyed the short insights into his career. The illustrations by Harry Bliss were great.

A reader from Edgartown read *Lunch Lady and the Field Trip Fiasco* by Krosoczka, Jarrett: Book suitable for school age readers, but it was fun to read.

A reader from Tewksbury read *The Case Files of Jeweler Richard* by Nanaka Tsugimura: I have read and enjoyed a very few graphic novels such as the Maus series. This was my first foray into manga. Definitely not for me.

1. Characters too pretty
2. Conversation balloons confusing
3. When the characters are drawn in cartoony style, I cannot tell them apart
4. words for noises such as "thwok" and "swoosh" are unrealistic and don't appeal
5. Other than the plot, I couldn't find anything remotely enjoyable about manga
A reader from East Longmeadow read *Fahrenheit 451: The Authorized Adaptation* by Ray Bradbury: For this month's selection of a graphic novel I thought I would read a classic dystopian tale by arguably the greatest science fiction writer of the 20th century. As I zipped through the story I was shocked at the paucity and ineffectiveness of text. Admittedly Tim Hamilton's artwork was the highlight of this novel, and as I already knew the story I found myself rethinking Bradbury's original. Clearly there is no substitute for the written word (particularly by such a master as Bradbury) and one's own imagination. In my opinion, graphic novels are an inadequate way of telling a story; read the original!

A reader from Brewster read *The Secret of the Unicorn* by Herge: Written in Belgium many years ago "The Adventures of Tintin" are a series of 24 graphic novels. The hero is a young boy Tintin and he owns a little dog Snowy. In "The Secret of the Unicorn" Tintin buys an old ship's model in a flea market and in the little ship he finds a treasure map. Thus begins an exciting adventure on the high seas with pirates, a battle at sea and Tintin's friends - a troublemaker Captain Haddock and the bumbling detectives Thompson and Thomson. Colorful and fun this book as well as others in the series are good for reluctant readers of all ages.

A reader from Derry read *Heartstopper v4* by Alice Oseman: Great representation.

A reader from Danvers read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: First graphic novel in many years. Enjoyed the education about Iran, and Iraq from a young adult's experience.

A reader from Middleboro read *Diana: My Graphic Obsession* by Sivan Piatigorsky-Roth: I’m not usually a graphic novel person, but I thought my interest in Diana would be a good starting point. It wasn’t exactly what I expected but the POV was interesting and I really enjoyed it!

A reader from Andover read *Emily Carroll by A Guest in the House*: Abby, a quiet cashier meets a recently widowed dentist with a young daughter (about nine). Both are seeking a new start, and get married after a short courtship. After being married, conflicting stories emerge about the dentist's dead wife from him and his friends. Abby is doing her best to be a good wife and mother, but once the dead wife's ghost starts appearing, doubts spring up. Abby not only seeks the truth about the past, but also struggles with fears of going forward in this marriage and family.

A reader from Brewster read *Spinning* by Tillie Walden: I have never read a book like this but I thought it was clever telling a story with pictures. It was a bit more difficult following though. I didn't care much for the content. I prefer something with a bit more meat and this I think was made more for young people.

A reader from Quincy read *The Lightning Thief: A Graphic Novel* by Robert Venditti, Rick Riordan: This was a fun book! My kids are fans of the Percy Jackson series, but I had never read them. I enjoyed this.

A reader from Chelsea read *Avatar: The Last Airbender: The Search* by Gene Luen Yang: Growing up I loved watching Avatar: The Last Airbender, and over the last few years it has become one of the most popular shows ever. It has been great to see the original show reach a new generation of children, but for anyone who watched it as it aired on Nickelodeon like I did,
it was time for a burning question to be answered, which is what happened to Zuko’s mother? I recently started buying the comics, so I decided to skip over and finally find the answer. The comic included a forbidden love story, more exposure to the spirit world (helping set the stage for Legend of Korra), as well as references to the original cartoon, which was always very successful at allusion and foreshadowing. Nothing in this series was ever mentioned unless it would be important for later, and it was nice to see that they continued this pattern in their comics.

A reader from Somerville read *The Fox Maidens* by Robin Ha: I found out about this book when I saw the cashier at All She Wrote Books was reading an advanced copy. I knew it was going on to my ‘To Read’ list when they said it was a graphic novel. This book was good and taught me about Korean lore and history which I am not familiar with. I loved that all the main characters with power were Korean women. Would recommend for those that like strong and/or monster women books :D

A reader from Brewster read *They called Us Enemy* by George Takei: This was a wonderful novel. Touching stories about a man’s childhood but with his adult words and thoughts. Shocking.

A reader from South Hadley read *Delicious in Dungeon, Vol. 11* by Ryoko Kui: It feels odd to submit the 11th book in a series for this challenge, but I have been devouring the whole series over the course of the last few months, and the 11th volume packs some phenomenal new twists that change the shape of the narrative in exciting ways. Over all, this series is a fantastic exploration of food, hunger, and community. It’s silly and yet absolutely committed to the reality of its premise.

A reader from Northfield read *POE stories and poems* by Gareth Hinds: I am not a fan of graphic novels, i was having a very hard time finding one that i thought i would enjoy. my husband found this online as he knew poe is on of my favorite authors. i immediately enjoyed this. It made the tell tale heart far more interesting, and annabell lee, more loving.

A reader from Chelmsford read *The One Hundred Nights of Hero* by Isabel Greenberg: This was such an enjoyable read! I genuinely loved every story.

A reader from Stoneham read *Step Aside Pops* by Kate Beaton: I don’t like graphic novels. There aren’t enough words to pull me in. This is a collection of short pieces. Everything else at the library looked dreary.

A reader from Belchertown read *Dog Man: The Scarlet Shedder* by Dav Pilkey: We read thus as a family. The kids loved it, very cute!

A reader from Hanover read *Lunar New Year Love Story* by Gene Luen Yang and Leuyen Pham: "Lunar New Year Love Story" by Gene Luen Yang and Leuyen Pham is a graphic novel about Valentina whom as a child absolutely loved Valentine’s Day, but now as a teenager is not sure if love is within her reach. It seems that love is cursed in her family. The book shows many forms of love in the form of protection and friendship. Valentina gives herself 1 year before she will give up on love and pursuing love. Will true love please stand up! P. S. I learned about lion
dancing which I realized I knew absolutely nothing about. Great tribute to Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

A reader from Pepperell read *Ride On* by Faith Erin Hicks: A sweet, gentle graphic novel about friendship, courage, and a love of horses. This brought me back to my childhood days of riding and my obsession with Archie comics. Loved her drawing style, especially the artwork at the stable and the way she captured the main character’s connection with horses and their movements & mannerisms.

A reader from Springfield read *Dear Body* by Lea Bordier: This graphic novel about how the bodies of women are viewed and how women themselves feel about their bodies is beautifully done. I loved how all of those who collaborated for this project used their section as a way of displaying these feelings.

A reader from Franklin read *Enlightened* by Sachi Ediriweera: I enjoyed the illustration style in this retelling of the Buddha's life and could see myself sharing it with my kids when they're a little older.

A reader from Sandwich read *Watership Down* by Richard Adams/adapted and by James Storm and Joe S: This was a great visual interpretation of the original story. The themes of home, survival, loyalty, morality and friendship are beautifully represented in this graphic novel.

A reader from Mashpee read *Shubeik Lubeik* by Deena Mohamed: The book *Shubeik Lubeik* is a graphic novel that takes place in Cairo. In this novel, people live in a world where wishes exist, but not all wishes are equal. This novel has rules, corruption, greed, morals, challenges, and twists. The story follows three characters' adventures with the opportunity to make a wish with the highest form of wishes and the results of their decision. Shubeik Lubeik was my first time reading a graphic novel as an adult, and I couldn't put it down. I found myself drawn into the struggles the characters were experiencing and constantly wondered what I would do. Shubeik Lubeik is a book I recommend and would read again.

A reader from Berkley read *Emma* by Jane Austen (adapted by Stacy King & Crystal Chen): Graphic Novels are not really my style by this was a cute adaptation.

A reader from Amherst read *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe: A moving graphic memoir about growing up queer. I recognized many of the questions that the author asks emselv as e tries to compassionately understand eir identity. Colors by Phoebe Kobabe.

A reader from South Hadley read *Shuna's Journey* by Hayao Miyazaki: The quest for the golden grain - so many metaphors. The Japanese might refer to the version translated by Alex Dudok De Wil as an illustrated story. We would find it as a graphic novel for young adults. I found the story simply beguiling and the artistry stunning.

A reader from Amherst read *New Kid* by Jerry Craft: Love this book! A middle school student faces many challenges as he is sent from his community school in an under served area to a prestigious private schhol rekonned for its academics. Can he stay true to his culture and neighborhood friends while crossing over to a non-diverse world he is unfamiliar with. All the
middle school angst along with the pressures of trying to establish himself in one world while keeping true to his roots.

A reader from Springfield read *The Girl from the Sea* by Molly Ostertag: Very sweet story with a meaningful message about caring for the planet.

A reader from Longmeadow read *Afternoon on the Amazon* by Mary Pope Osborn: This is a Magic Treehouse book that my granddaughters enjoyed reading. It was an easy and informative read. I was surprised how much I liked reading a graphic novel. Also it was a cliffhanger that left me wanting to read the next book in the series. I really enjoyed reading this and would recommend reading the series with the kids or grandkids in your life.

A reader from Wakefield read *The Fox Maidens* by Robin Ha: I loved this one! What a compelling and heartfelt read with beautiful art. It was cool learning a little about Korean mythology too.

A reader from Braintree read *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier: This was my first graphic novel. The story was very relatable.

A reader from Andover read *Victory Parade* by Leela Corman: I had not tried a graphic novel before and this was was recommended in the New Scientist. I thought it was a powerful way to tell a powerful story.

A reader from Peabody read *What was Pete Seeger?* by Noel McCarry: The famous folk singer was banned from radio and never appeared on television, however, 15,000 came to Madison Square Garden to honor and sing for him as he turned 90.

A reader from Sandwich read *Here I am, I am me* by Cara Bean: This graphic novel is an illustrated guide to mental health for ages 12 and up. It's beautiful, informative and engaging! I recommend it for everyone!

A reader from East Sandwich read *Squished* by Megan Wagner Lloyd and Michelle Mee Nutter: A very sweet story for middle school-age readers, which I enjoyed myself. This was my first graphic novel. Having just completed two heavier novels, I wanted something light.

A reader from Scituate read *maus ii* by Art Spiegelman: Having read *Maus I* for this challenge I realized I couldn’t stop until I learned the rest of Vladek’s story and his relationship with his son Artie. The relevancy of this story is not lost on me, as it is may 2024 and there is a genocide developing in Gaza and a man running for president of the US who promises to run the country as a dictator. We cannot go back.

A reader from Scituate read *maus i* by Art Spiegelman: This is my first time reading this book. It was as powerful as I expected it to be and more powerful than I could anticipate. Filled with survival and the deep trauma that follows.

A reader from Boston read *Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka: This was the first graphic novel I read and I can’t say I’m planning to read more of them. Through
reading this medium I can say I much prefer a novel, but I am glad I got the opportunity to try out a type of reading that I would never have picked up on my own.

A reader from Easton read *Lighter than my shadow* by Katie Green: This was my first graphic novel. I liked that it was easy to read in one sitting. The illustrations helped make the subject matter clearer.

A reader from Whately read *I Must Be Dreaming* by Roz Chast: This book is a collection of the author’s dreams. Each chapter is a different category. The cartoons made the book quite entertaining and some dreams were pretty funny. It was an easy read.

A reader from Andover read *Wake* by Shelley Burr: This book was one I could not put down I did not see the end coming and wish I knew what happens to Mina and Lane going forward.

A reader from Harwich read *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Y. N. Harari: This is a graphic novel version of the “speculative representation” of human history by Y.N. Harari. Based on his university lectures, and conflating natural and social sciences, it is an interesting, although not always scientifically or historically accurate depiction of human history.

A reader from Chester read *Revenge of the Librarians* by Tom Gould: Better than most graphic novels.

A reader from Worcester read *Persepolis* by MARJANE SATRAPI: I read many graphic novels so I wanted to pick up something new. My boyfriend recommended this classic and I think the author did a great job built the world and educated the reader from her own childhood perspective. 4/5

A reader from Wakefield read *Majnun and Layla: Songs from Beyond the Grave* by Yann Damezin: Gorgeously illustrated. I've long been curious about Persian poetry, this was an enlightening introduction.

A reader from Weymouth read *Don Quixote* by Miguel De Cervantes images by Variety Art Works: The novel was presented in the exciting format of Japanese manga. The images were detailed and the characters visually presented their emotions. Don Quixote follows his dream no matter what anyone else thinks. On his adventure he and Sancho are met by other characters that want Don Quixote to abandon his quest to right all wrongs but he stays true to himself and his pursuit.

A reader from North Chelmsford read *Palestine* by Joe Sacco: Man, is this still relevant 20 years later.

A reader from Spencer read *The Hardy Boys: The Opposite Numbers* by Scott Lobdell: The teenage brothers typically fight crime and solve mysteries, but this time they’re being framed for attempted murder. Stuck on a train, they must protect the other passengers while figuring out who is the killer and why they are being set up.

A reader from Norton read *Aldous Huxley's Brave New World* by Fred Fordham: I've never read this classic novel, and wow, totally different than I expected!
A reader from Wilmington read *Good Eggs* by Phoebe Potts: Great book, but I learned I am not a big fan of graphic novels.

A reader from Amherst read *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* by Alison Bechdel: This is the first of her books I have read, and I was completely involved in the story. The combination of drawn illustrations and story line were involving, touching, and very well done. I will read other books by Bechdel now. Calling it a tragicomic was perfect—it is both comical and tragic.

A reader from Attleboro read *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: The Omnibus Edition* by Allan Moore: Alan Moore has gathered Mycroft Holmes, Mina Harker, Allan Quartermain, Jekyll/Hyde, Captain Nemo, The Invisible Man, Dr. Moreau, and Dr. Moriarty in his compilation of two, six-part graphic novels, one of which is a story of The War of the Worlds. I found myself examining each frame of artwork from Kevin O'Neill which was quite detailed, because I did not want to miss anything. I borrowed the Omnibus from my local library. I want to own the volume because it also contains the artwork from the original monthly comics and additional lengthy, prose stories from Mr. Moore that include many other literary characters.

A reader from Woburn read *X-Men: Manifest Destiny* by various authors: The first story was great, but the others, especially the Iceman one in the middle, were not as interesting. Not bad overall, but it was hard because the best story was the first in the book.

A reader from Wilmington read *Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka: Quick fun read on a different/ordinary type of person/occupation.

A reader from Wrentham read *When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson: I learned a lot about refugees and refugee camps.

A reader from Ayer read *Menopause a comic treatment* by MK Czerwiec: Yuck.

A reader from Melrose read *BLAME! Vol. 1* by Tsutomu Nihei: The art was great but I did find the story a little hard to follow at times, dropping the overall rating to 4/5.

A reader from Wakefield read *Tangles* by Sarah Leavitt: Beautiful, poignant glimpse at life as a child of someone with Alzheimer’s. Heart-wrenching.

A reader from Shrewsbury read *March* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, Nate Powell: For my first graphic novel, I chose March and readily drawn into reading all three books. Fascinating way to remind me of trials and perseverance of the Civil Rights Movement thru the eyes of Congressman John Lewis. Has peaked my interest in reading other graphic novels!

A reader from Attleboro read *Fall Through* by Nate Powell: They had me at:

"Love and Rockets meets Russian Doll in this original, full-color graphic novel about an underground punk band caught in a loop of an eternally repeating tour from National Book Award-winning cartoonist Nate Powell."

Being a music-lover, a Russian Doll fan, and trying a graphic novel for a different presentation of a good story, I was excited to read this book. The story was circular and got a little repetitive, but some of that was the point of the story so that was OK. By the end, I sort of figured I had gotten
everything out of the story I needed - it didn't leave me wanting more. I definitely got the feeling the author NEEDED to write this story, and NEEDED the therapy it provided as he finished it during Covid lockdown. Good for him, and I would possibly read other stories of different subjects.

A reader from Attleboro read Calling Dr. Laura by Nicole Georges: I very much enjoyed this book! The author's ability to illustrate her story was impressive. I would highly recommend it - it was easy to read and interesting.

A reader from Hadley read I'm So Glad We Had This Time Together by Maurice Vellekoop: I wish the end was a bit more drawn out and lingered over, as the beginning is.

A reader from Weymouth read Why She Wrote: A Graphic History of the Lives, Inspiration, and Influence Behind the Pens of Classic Women Writers by Lauren Burke, Hanna K. Chapman: Graphic nonfiction book about classic female authors such as Bronte, Austen, Alice Dunbar Nelson, Wollstonecraft and the moment in their lives that made them become a writer. It was good and a quick read but graphic books just aren't that interesting to me. But if you love graphic books and are interested in female classic authors, you'll enjoy this.

A reader from Weston read Kristy's Great Idea by Raina Telgemeier: This is the first book in what has become one of my favorite series. Four friends join together to take care of little children. It makes me think of how much I like to take care of kids. I hope everyone who reads it, likes it as much as me.

A reader from Weston read Dogman Grime and Punishment by Dave Pilkey: The book is funny at the beginning, when they are giving the chief a medal and they are digging up the roses and the trellis collapses. I also like it because it is a fliporama. I think everybody would enjoy this book. It made me laugh!

A reader from Groton read Lunch Lady and the Summer Camp Shakedown by Jarrett Krosoczka: My kids have both read this series at one point in time. I have only read one of the books with my younger daughter so it was fun to pick out a different one. It reminded me of the kid oriented mystery shows that I used to watch such as Scooby Doo or Inspector Gadget. I can definitely see the appeal to this series.

A reader from Woburn read Through the woods by Emily Carroll: I thought it was interesting to have visual while reading scary stories.

A reader from Boston read Frontera by Julio Anta and illustrated by Jacoby Salcedo: My first time reading a graphic novel and so glad I did.

A reader from Hadley read Berserk: volume 41 by Kentaro Miura: Miura’s Berserk manga series has been in progress since 1988, and it is still an exciting event when new volumes come out. While my favorite story arc so far is much earlier in the storyline, the new installments still deliver amazing art and interesting plot twists and turns. Recommend for those who enjoy dark fantasy.
A reader from Chelmsford read *Bea Wolf* by Zach Weinersmith: Based on Beowulf, this book was an excellent story to read as a family. It was entertaining for all ages. I loved how, in the author notes, the author gave a short history of the original Beowulf story and some background on Old English and then showed how he adapted those for this book.

A reader from Dracut read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho: Fun short drawn depictions that compliment the strong imagery and deep themes - loved reading this one!

A reader from Salem read *JEDI Academy* by Jeffrey Brown: This book was a fun easy read.

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe: Fun read! Love the representation and learning about what other people go through.

A reader from Hopkinton read *maus* by Art Spiegelman: A WW2 story in graphic form. The people are portrayed as animals. The story is about a son’s telling of his parents situation during the holocaust.

A reader from Parkland read *Animal Farm The Graphic Novel* by George Orwell and Odyr: This was an interesting take on Orwell's political satire from the 1940's. With appropriately dark, impressionistic visuals by the artist Odyr, the pigs and farm animals came to life with their concept of Animalism and attempt to eliminate their enemy: Man. Having not read Animal Farm since high school, this was an eye-opening reminder of the dangers of a tyrannical leader........

A reader from Dracut read *unseen* by Chad Allen: Even visually impaired people can have a graphic novel. In this case an audio one.

A reader from Springfield read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: This was a book I'd been meaning to read for some time now. I was quickly immersed in the beautiful and witty story, and realized how much I appreciate narratives from outside of the West.

A reader from Foxboro read *Maus* by Art Spiegelman: I never had the chance to read this book in high school, and I'm thankful to have read it now. The story within the story and character depictions make it easier to digest. I definitely will have to look into reading the second novel.

A reader from Reading read *The Great British Bump Off* by John Allison: Cute, but a little hectic.

A reader from Rockland read *Heartstopper: Volume 1 through 5* by Alice Oseman: This was my first experience with a graphic novel and I could not put them down. I started with volume 1 and read the rest of the volumes within the next 3 days. They were so fantastic!

A reader from Longmeadow read *49 Days* by Agnes Lee: Not my favorite.

A reader from Newton Highlands read *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei: Powerful.

A reader from Turners Falls read *Star Wars the original trilogy* by Lucasfilm press: So much fun reading this I have never really read a comic or graphic novel. Enjoyed and will definitely read more.

A reader from Newton read *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* by Roz Chast: Eye opening journey of the slow decline of aging parents.
A reader from Springfield read *The Sandman* by Neil Gaiman: My wife read this series several years ago. When I mentioned that May’s theme was graphic novels, she said I had to read The Sandman series by Neil Gaiman. I am not disappointed at all with her recommendation. This is a great series. Fully immersed in the world within the first chapter. Very impressed with the illustrations. It’s just overall amazing.

A reader from Wenham read *Akim Aliu: Dreamer* by Akim Aliu: This was an interesting view into the world of ice hockey and the racism found there. I wish the book had been longer and more in-depth, but it was well written for the intended audience.

A reader from Worcester read *Lunar New Year Love Story* by Gene Luen Yang, Leuyen Pham: Lunar New Year Love Story uses color and image not just to enhance the words but to carry a good portion of the storytelling (as a good graphic novel should). Not just having a color palette for the story but having different color palettes depending on each chapter’s theme. And that doesn’t even get into the complex and layered story about different kinds of love and lose and the trauma it can cause. Another Yang masterpiece of storytelling and Pham’s art is amazing!

A reader from Attleboro read *striking distance* by Sarah Reis Brennan: I was surprised the story was about two gay boys at an elite high school.

A reader from North Bethesda read *When Stars are Scattered* by Omar Mohamed: A middle grade graphic novel that was a finalist for a National Book Award, this is the true story of the author's 15 years in a refugee camp in Kenya, after fleeing war in Somalia. His father dead, his mother missing, and the care for a younger brother with special needs falling solely to him, the author finds a way, while also feeling ground down by his circumstances. Heartbreaking and also hopeful, it was an important read and I think written appropriately for 5-7th graders. I hope you share it with the middle graders in your life.

A reader from Roslindale read *Watchmen* by Alan Moore: Brilliant, thought-provoking, with visuals that heighten the storytelling in a way pure text would not accomplish. Both a fascinating reflection of the stress of American life in the 80’s, it also provides an interesting lens to look at our contemporary superhero-obsessed media. A classic of graphic novels for a reason, would highly recommend.

A reader from Quincy read *Yes, I'm Hot in This* by Huda Fahmy: I've been meaning to read this for a while and circumstances worked out - I had challenged myself to read a graphic novel this month, and Fahmy’s book magically appeared as a suggested read at my local library. It was a quick, funny, but disappointing (in terms of the real-life microaggressions and stereotypes that Fahmy endures) read.

A reader from East Falmouth read *Nimona* by Noelle Stevenson.: A fun and entertaining graphic novel with a thought provoking dark side.

A reader from Wakefield read *This One Summer* by Mariko Tamaki: A nice coming-of-age tale. I was a bit dissatisfied with the ending.
A reader from Brighton read *The Only Girl in Town* by Allyson Condie: I haven't read a graphic novel in a long time, so I enjoyed reading one again.

A reader from East Bridgewater read *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe: Graphic novels are not something I gravitate towards naturally, however, the MA Reading Challenge for the month of May is to read a graphic novel and, since this one has been highly discussed and widely challenged in the library community, I decided it was the perfect opportunity to read it. I am glad to have experienced it first hand and do not find it to be pornographic, offensive, or obscene (as categorized by narrow minded individuals) but rather see it as a great resource for anyone looking to understand their own or someone else’s feelings about being nonbinary or asexual. It is a poignant memoir and I found it to be enlightening, heartfelt, and vulnerable. I would not hesitate to recommend this to anyone who is curious about gender identity and sexuality.

A reader from Northampton read *Going Into Town* by Roz Chast: Roz Chast is the funniest, and now I miss Manhattan.

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Passport* by Sophia Glock: This was my first graphic novel (it was actually a memoir), so I don't have anything to compare it to. I read it in one sitting and thought the story was interesting and the art was simple but good, almost calming with the colors and style. I will probably try out a few more graphic novels but it's not a style that really appeals to me.

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Heartstopper - Volume:3* by Alice Oseman: It helps one understand different people and the struggles they go through.

A reader from Palmer read *Things In the Basement* by Ben Hatke: A friend recommended this juvenile graphic novel, and I enjoyed it quite a bit!

A reader from Weymouth read *Brooms* by Jasmine Walls: Brooms is a historical fantasy graphic novel about illegal broom racing in Mississippi in the 1930s. It was so compelling and the art was beautiful. There was so much diversity in the book as well!! 10/10 would recommend!

A reader from FALL RIVER read *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History* by Art Spiegelman: Read both book 1 and 2. His father does not move words!

A reader from Tewksbury read *March Volume 1* by John Lewis: I learned a lot about John Lewis’s life.

A reader from Hatfield read *Buzzing* by Samuel Sattin & Rye Hickman: A fascinating story about a young boy with OCD, his efforts to cope in the world, and the roadblocks that well-meaning people put in his way. The graphic novel element was especially illuminating for the intrusive thoughts he constantly dealt with. (The thoughts are represented by bees buzzing around him.)

A reader from Chelsea read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: I love this book. I grew up in a refugee family in a neighborhood of Boston so my middle school teacher assigned it hoping it would resonate with our class composed of 90% immigrants and refugees. For this months challenge I decided to reread it and it took my breath away. I think reading it as an older women it changed my perspective compared to when I read it as a 13 year old.
A reader from Wrentham read *Maus* by Art Spiegelman.

A reader from Rochester read *Plain Jane and the Mermaid* by Vera Brosgol: Jane has just lost her unloving parents and is about to lose her home as well unless she can get married. Known for her plainness, she wants to marry a local man known for his beauty. He agrees, but then gets swept up by a mermaid who also admires his beauty and wants it all for herself. It's up to Jane to save him! In the end, she saves much more in this exploration of love, beauty, and courage in vibrant, graphic format!

A reader from SOMERSET read *Shubeik Lubeik* by Deena Mohammed: Book was good but more hard content than I was expecting.

A reader from Lowell read *Black Hole* by Charles Burns: I did not enjoy the plot of this book but did appreciate the level of detail and emotion in the artwork. Glad this month's prompt made me try something new.

A reader from Beverly read *Woman, Life, Freedom* by Marjane Satrapi: I had previously read Marjane Satrapi's book "Persepolis," which was excellent, so this was an obvious choice for me. Satrapi and several collaborators wrote and illustrated a narrative about the protests in Iran related to the beating death of Mahsa Amini for the "crime" of removing her hijab. It is a remarkable book, with a look at Iran's history, the horrific recent events, but with an optimism among the Iranian expats that the young people in Iran will be able to effect positive changes in the country.

A reader from Lawrence read *Lore Olympus Vol. 6* by Rachel Smythe: May: read a graphic novel.

A reader from Gloucester read *Good Eggs* by Phoebe Potts: I only read this because the 2024 Massachusetts Library Challenge’s May genre was a graphic novel. I didn’t want to read a graphic novel at all. I didn’t even know of any and hadn’t heard of any good ones other than the few that had been recommended to me for my middle school students. I checked the MA library’s suggestions and chose this one because I live in the same town as the author, met her twice (in her role as a Hebrew School teacher, and saw her do stand up comedy). Even with all that, I didn’t want to read a graphic novel. And I am so glad I did. This story was amazing; touching, funny, engaging AND it was made better by the illustrations. Read it; you’ll love it.

A reader from Arlington read *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* by Alison Bechdel: This was my first graphic book, and I was pleasantly surprised at how interesting it was to read. There was a lot of detail in the drawings that added a lot to the narrative, so it felt very multilayered. Bechdel’s book is a memoir, so it was also a personal look into the author's life. Fascinating! Note: I chose this book because I had seen the musical that was based on this book; seeing the musical made me curious to read the source of the story on which the musical is based.

A reader from Salem read *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman: Such a great story about high school love.
A reader from Gill read *Penny* by Karl Stevens: A humorous "graphic memoir" imagining of the thoughts of the author's pet cat. Episodic, not plot-driven, with a soft and colorful drawing style.

A reader from TEWKSBURY read *Buzzing* by Samuel Sattin: Great book about someone living with OCD!

A reader from SOUTH HADLEY read *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel: I enjoyed this graphic novel, even though graphic novels are not really my thing. Bechdel's conflicted feelings for her late father are shown in poignant detail as she relives her childhood and young adulthood in this tragicomic memoir.

A reader from San Leandro read *Tomboy* by Liz Prince: I loved this graphic memoir and related to it deeply. It explores themes of gender expression and identity throughout childhood and into adulthood. It was witty and personal, bringing up questions and conundrums that so many kids (and adults) struggle with. In essence, it's a simple story, but I continue to ruminate on it. As the themes continue to arise in my daily life, I'm realizing that it's a more layered, complex story than I originally thought. The graphics were simple, black-and-white cartoons, and illustrated the story beautifully. Highly recommend, especially for all the self-proclaimed 'tomboys' out there.

A reader from Seekonk read *A Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds: I'm a huge fan of Jason Reynolds and his words always sparked vivid images from his lustrous words. The graphic novel version of this quintessential book in verse is everything.

A reader from Middleboro read *In Utero* by Chris Gooch: I read a few graphic novels this month including Sapiens (an anthropology book on early humans) and Squire (a medieval fantasy). But I finished the book In Utero fairly quickly last night and liked it the most. It's a story of a 12 year old girl befriending a newly hatched kaiju. The monster retains memories of being inside of its mother and then an egg as it confronts another terrifying creature.

A reader from Edgartown read *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant* by Chast, Roz: This is a genre that I was not looking forward to (at all), but I absolutely LOVED this book.

A reader from Stoughton read *Bad Dreams in the Night* by Adam Ellis: Great drawings and stories.

A reader from Reading read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: I don't usually read graphic novels, so I am glad a friend recommended this one. My son said he also read it in college this year for a class. I learned so much about Iran and the people there. I like to keep learning about this part of the world.

A reader from HOPKINTON read *Twelve Patients: Life and Death at Bellevue Hospital* by Eric Manheimer: I had watched the tv series and wanted to read the book. I am glad I did.

A reader from Sandwich read *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang: The 3 graphic stories which portray the Monkey King, Jin Wang and "Danny" (formally Jin Wang) described stereotypes of Chinese and Asians. Each tries to become something he is not. These stories remind me of a famous quote "To thine own self be true."
A reader from Haverhill read *Anais Nin: A Sea of Lies* by Leonie Bischoff: The illustrations were absolutely beautiful, but it was a much heavier read than I was expecting.

A reader from Haverhill read *Liebestrasse* by Greg Lockard: A graphic novel that follows the relationship between two gay men in Berlin during the rise of the Nazi regime. While the subject matter is obviously very dark, there are sweet and sensual moments interspersed throughout the narrative that really humanize the characters and make the book a romance as much as it is a work of historical fiction. I really appreciated the bibliography and notes on the research process included at the end.

A reader from Florence read *Maus I & II* by Art Spiegelman: A very graphic, graphic novel. I have read many books about the holocaust, both fiction and non-fiction so most of the story was familiar, but it was the format of graphic novel and voice of both father and son that made it interesting.

A reader from Topsfield read *Sheets* by Brenna Thummler: Enjoyable, thought-provoking!

A reader from Duxbury read *Here* by Richard McGuire: loved it! Very different than any other graphic novel I'd read before.

A reader from Barnstable read *Okga* by Elisa Gravel: My teen read this years ago and loved it so I checked it out for my 10 year old and we read it together. Funny and different, especially from what I usually read!

A reader from STOUGHTON read *The Prince and the Dressmaker* by Jen Wang: Loved this book!

A reader from Hartland read *Across the Tracks: Remembering the Tulsa Race Massacre and Black Wall Street* by Alverne Ball: Art by Stacey Robinson.

A reader from pepperell read *The Little Sisters of Eluria* by Stephan King, Robin Furth, Peter David: I have read many of King's Gunslayer series but this was a first time as a graphic novel.

A reader from Beverly read *Naturalist: A Graphic Adaptation* by Edward O. Wilson: I really enjoyed this. It took me a while to get through because I spent so much time analyzing the illustrations. Glad to have this in my collection.

A reader from Chelsea read *Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide* by Quintero, Isabel: This book was responsible for my discovering a photographer that I had not been aware of prior.

A reader from Plainville read *Good Talk* by Mira Jacob: Beautiful. Will definitely be seeking out more of her writing.

A reader from Reading read *I Will Judge You By Your Bookshelf* by Grant Snider: Great graphic novel about all kinds of books for all those who love reading! Highly recommend!

A reader from Attleboro read *The Girl Without a Face* by Tearontaron: I am not a fan of graphic novels. I didn't care for this book. I am glad I tried it, as I always like to try new genres, but I didn't care for the book. I found it hard to follow because it was a Japanese Anime style, which I
didn't realize until I checked out the book from the library. I wasn't comfortable reading it "backwards." But I am glad to have had the experience.

A reader from Beverly read *The Heartstopper Yearbook* by Alice Oseman: I loved hearing about the behind the scenes of Nick and Charlie’s coming about. I also loved the character quiz and the profiles of the characters!

A reader from Beverly read *Persepolis* by Maryjane Satrapi: Not a huge fan of graphic novels outside of the fantasy genre, but this memoir was a timely, fascinating and a unique lens through which to view the treatment of women in Revolutionary Iran.

A reader from FOXBOROUGH read *Unterzakhn* by Leela Corman: First graphic novel for me. It was a beautiful yet unflinching look at women's lives. The author wrote with grace, care and skill. Totally enjoyed it!

A reader from Seekonk read *Power Born of Dreams: My Story is Palestine* by Mohammad Sabaaneh: An incredibly beautiful and raw account of the reality for so many Palestinians. From the execution to the storytelling, Sabaaneh's imagery is ripe with powerful compositions and symbolic imagery. I have not been able to stop thinking about Sabaaneh's decision in creating all imagery carving linocut (which is an absolute feat unto itself) but choosing to do so to honor those whose carved names he looked upon during his time in prison. Palestinian voices need to be heard and amplified now more than ever.

A reader from Braintree read *March Graphic Novels Trilogy* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, Nate Powell (artist): This three part autobiographical graphic novels of John Lewis in the 1960's as a young participant and leader of the nonviolent fight for civil rights are powerful and thought provoking regarding what has been accomplished and what has been reversed and what must be done. The black and white art perfectly adds to and illuminates the stories of the past along side John Lewis attending President Obama's inauguration.

A reader from Naples read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: Winner of the Lambda Literary Award for LCBTQ YA in 2020. Debut graphic novel, telling a difficult story with humor, compassion, and love. "I know I’m not gay. Gay boys like other boys. I hate boys. They’re mean, and scary, and they’re always destroying something or saying something dumb or both. I hate that word. Gay. It makes me feel . . . unsafe."

A reader from Belchertown read *They Called us Enemy* by George Takei: I usually struggle reading graphic novels, but I really enjoyed this one! I learned so much I didn’t know both about the author as well as about the time period and the war. The illustrations provided a lot of details I’m used to reading in text form, and it was a lovely example of how words aren’t always necessary to get your point across. The book was accessible, fascinating, and humbling (as an American). Great read, and I highly recommend it!

A reader from Holden read *White Bird* by R.J. Palacio: White Bird was written by the author of the New York Times bestseller, Wonder, and is the story of a Jewish girl in France who is hidden by a classmate when Germany occupies her town. This a beautiful story of friendship and
sacrifice during a dark time in history. It would be a good introduction to the Holocaust for younger readers, I think. I really enjoyed reading it!

A reader from Beverly read *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman: This was my first graphic novel and I really loved it! It was a very sweet and uplifting story.

A reader from Florence read *Fun House* by Alison Bechdel.

A reader from Holyoke read *Good Eggs a Memoir* by Phoebe Potts: This was the first graphic novel I’ve read. The drawings are amazingly detailed, and the story is both funny and poignant. I’m glad I chose this as my first graphic novel & it makes me want to read more of them by this same author!

A reader from Eden Prairie read *Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery": The Authorized Graphic Adaptation* by hyman, miles: A picture may be worth a thousand words, but Shirley Jackson's words are priceless. I still got a pit in my stomach looking at this graphic novel rendition of Jackson's haunting tale, because I vividly recalled the original author's prose. I would only recommend this book to someone who has already been to the village square on June 27th. To the uninitiated, this graphic is woefully lacking.

A reader from Attleboro read *Two Tribes* by Emily Bowen Cohen: The book was good. I liked the lessons that were woven in for the MC and those around her to learn, but some of them felt a little forced were cheesy.

A reader from East Sandwich read *Majnun and Layla* by Yann Damezin.

A reader from Lynnfield read *Hockey Girl Loves Drama Boy* by Faith Erin Hicks: Liked the characters and LGBTQ+ representation, as well as the Canadian setting, but I didn't understand why blue was the only color used besides black and white. Also, some of the drawings of faces looked messy. An easy 3 stars.

A reader from Brookline read *Persepolis I & II* by Marjane Satrapi: Persepolis has been on my shelf for years -- big thanks to the Reading Challenge for helping me motivate to finally read it. It is an incredibly well told, illustrated and moving account of a young girl growing up in Iran during the revolution (at the same time I was of a similar age growing up in very different circumstances in the US.). Highly recommend to all!

A reader from North Reading read *Monica* by Daniel Clowrs: Not my favorite book but certainly a crazy ride!

A reader from Reading read *Heartstopper* by Oseman, Alice: so sweet and wholesome!!

A reader from Sharon read *Shuna's Journey* by Hayao Miyazaki: Beautifully illustrated story which touches on themes of hubris and shows an alternate view of the typical "hero's journey' where the hero gets himself into trouble and has to be saved by the heroine.

A reader from Worcester County read *Hey, Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt With Family Addiction* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka: Raised by his grandparents, Jarrett knew his mother as unstable, his father as a complete mystery. This beautiful memoir does not sugar-
coat the difficulties—yet you can share in his hard-won realization that he WAS loved (albeit by imperfect adults) and share the joy when he tracks down his absentee father and his half-siblings. The book was wonderful, and so rooted in Worcester.

A reader from Boston read Lure by Lane Milburn: Beautifully illustrated dystopian story about humans moving to a different planet (called Lure) due to climate change and the destruction of earth. Very trippy, but characters were kind of boring.

A reader from Forestdale read The Exile by Diana Gabaldon: I have read the Outlander series and it was fun to see the characters in this graphic novel. The art work was wonderful!

A reader from Melrose read March Triology by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, Nate Powell: John Lewis’ first person account of the civil rights movement of the 1960s adapted to a graphics format. The format really brought home the dangers faced and the courage of Lewis and his companions.

A reader from Yarmouth Port read Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson: I had heard this was a must-read and it truly was. Heartbreaking, strengthening, important - this is graphic novel that I wish I had read sooner.

A reader from Andover read Frankenstein by Mary Shelley: The graphic novel seemed too short and incomplete.

A reader from Hampden read revenge of the librarians by tom gould: Every page has different ‘cartoons’ of books. Historical, science fiction, new word definitions. Good humorous book if you’re a library user or a reader in general. This was my first time reading a graphic novel.

A reader from Billerica read American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang: Really creative graphic novel! I enjoyed the story and the illustrations brought the creator's message to life in a way that words alone could not.

A reader from Amherst read Sandman (vol. 1) by Neil Gaiman: Dark but lovely, and really made me want to watch the Netflix show now!

A reader from Danvers read Chivalry by Neil Gaiman & Colleen Doran: This was so sweet! Perfect for my busy, busy month.

A reader from Woburn read Tomboy by Liz Prince: This book spoke a lot to the inner workings of my life.

A reader from Ercing read The Junction by Norm Konyu: I started another book, Hyoerbole and a Half, and couldn’t get into it. I didn’t do much better with this book. I would say graphic novels are an acquired taste, and I have NOT acquired the taste! The plot was strange - people coming back from the dead (sort of like the musical Hadestown); the illustrations were funky. The good news is that I finished it.

A reader from Quincy read The Magic Fish by Trung Le Nguyen: A really beautiful graphic novel. I really appreciated learning more about Vietnamese fairytales.
A reader from Weymouth read *Pride of Baghdad* by Brian K. Vaughn: An interesting point of view of what is like for animals living in an area that is at war. Also makes you think about what it means to be free.

A reader from Wilmington read *Shuna's Journey* by Hayao Miyazaki, Alex Dudok de Wit (Translator): Miyazaki is known as a filmmaker and the "walt disney" of Japan for many, many animated classics over the years such as My Neighbor Totoro. I saw this during a search for Miyazki books and I thought it was simply the manga version of his Nausica films because the cover looked so similar, but after reading it... BOY WAS I WRONG! This is the only original manga in print by Miyazaki and I really wished he did more. The story is a loose adaptation of Tibetan myth where a traveler frees a slave, which then in turns helps the traveler later on. The story is very much a myth and how helping someone can karmically help yourself in the future. First, the artwork is very much a masterpiece, that is no surprise. Miyazaki's extremely talented. Second, the reason I thought this was a printed version of Nausicca is because the central figure and MANY of the imagery drawn here bears a LOT of resemblance to the films of Miyazaki and also ties to his own Nausicaa printed material as well such as the lone figure on an animal in a wasteland, giants, spirits and the army/men imagery. I wonder if this myth actually inspired a lot of things in Nausicca as both works were done in the 80s and before, so it's been something that has been ruminating and cooking in his mind for quite a long time. Unfortunately, we don't really have a huge insight into his creative process...but it wouldn't surprise me if that were the case. All in all, great mythology and great graphic novel by the great Hayao Miyazaki. highly recommended if anyone is on the fence about reading this one.

A reader from North Dighton read *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* by Alan Moore: This entire run is an excellent twist on the standard "superhero" format. Moore's stories are equal parts grit, alternative history, and speculation. Classics in every sense.

A reader from Brooklyn read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: I appreciated the historical perspective from a young teen about the Iranian Revolution and its effect on citizens. Great writing and visual accompaniment!

A reader from Woburn read *Wash Day Diaries* by Jamila Rowser: I thought I would like this more than I did.

A reader from North Andover read *Can’t we talk about something more Pleasant* by Roz Chast: Fun read.

A reader from Hull read *Embroideries* by Marjane Satrapi: Satrapi continues to tap into the personal in this enjoyable read that centers the stories of women from her inner circle. Nothing is off topic here for this group from various generations. Satrapi’s illustrations with their minimal use of line and color also give you a sense of familiarity, as if you also know these women. The book makes you wonder about the many unsaid desires and regrets of those around you, too.

A reader from Newport read *Brooms* by Jasmine Walls: This was a fun one. Queer story mixed with Indigenous and Black historical perspectives as viewed through access to magical broom races.
A reader from Boston read *Japanese Notebooks* by Igort: I rarely choose books just by browsing, but this one jumped out at me after I tried and failed to convince myself to try manga for the first time. It’s written by one of the rare (I think) Western manga creators, and it’s very much an outsider’s view of the industry (and country). An interesting glimpse, but nothing like an immersion. Maybe someday.

A reader from Dover Foxcroft read *White Bird* by R.J. Palacio: Great book. Not a fan of graphic novels but this might change my mind. A story of a Jewish grandmother's survival of Nazis occupied France during WWII as told to her grand son.

A reader from Gill read *The Magic Fish* by Trung Le Nguyen: Interesting.

A reader from Hull read *The Incantations of Daniel Johnston* by Scott McClanahan & Ricardo Cavolo: This was the most bizarre thing I've ever read. I thought it was a book by Daniel first then realized it's about his life. It had a lot of interesting facts about him I never knew but also it was so manic and bizarre like Daniel's life. Very interesting! The images were wild and beautiful and scary. Daniel would have loved it.

A reader from Southampton read *Displacement* by Kiku Hughes: A moving story of lost history and generational trauma. It's a challenging period of history to read about, but I'm glad more stories about it are being told.

A reader from Lowell read *The Sprite and the Gardener* by Rii Abrego & Joe Whitt: Never having read a graphic novel before I consulted someone at my local independent bookstore for suggestions {did not realize I could look for readers comments here!}. Though I enjoyed this particular book I probably should have read something more appropriate to my age. Maybe I will do that at some point in the future.

A reader from Berkley read *the seeds* by Ann Nocenti and David Aja: Just plain dumb. If I ever had the desire to read graphic novels this one confirmed, they are not for me. What little story existed was depressing and stupid. I will stick to conventional novels. So tried it, hated it and completed May 2024 reading challenge.

A reader from Groton read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: The setting of the 90s for this book was really nostalgic. It was emotional and the characters felt real.

A reader from Seekonk read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: Although I'm not a fan of graphic novels, I had wanted to read this book so was glad this type of book was on the list for this year.

A reader from Hanover read *Hockey Girl Loves Drama Boy* by Hicks, Faith Erin: Fun graphic novel, especially if you're a hockey fan! As a YA title, it could have used a 'trigger disclaimer' - rage, bullying, and domestic violence are clearly depicted.

A reader from Sutton read *Every Little Kindness* by Marta Bartolj: A sweet little book with lovely illustrations and a worthwhile message for all.

A reader from SCITUATE read *Palestine* by Joe Sacco: This is a re-release of a book which, in 1996, won the National Book Award. It is the graphic narrative of the history of Palestine. Sadly,
this piece of "graphic journalism" is needed more today than it was in 1996. Graphic books have the ability to put the reader in the midst of the story. We each need to be there.

A reader from Easthampton read *Snapdragon* by Kat Leyh: A sweet story of unexpected friendships and supernatural powers.

A reader from East Bridgewater read *I Must Be Dreaming* by Roz Chast: This is a genre I have only very rarely read. However, I previously read a more serious book by Roz Chast about the challenges related to aging parents, which definitely struck a chord. This one is much lighter and more fanciful, primarily about the author’s own dreams. It did resonate since, although I rarely remember my own dreams, I often remember fragments, and sometimes even write them down. It helps me recognize the themes of my worried brain. In addition, a recent course I took on worldwide myths by Professor Curtiss Hoffman (The Seven Story Tower), concerned itself with dreams as a major feature of mythology. Roz Chast’s final pages on how other cultures have interpreted dreams, and modern explanations for why we have them was interesting. I’m not MORE likely to pick up another graphic novel, but this was an easy and light-hearted read.

A reader from Dartmouth read *The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse* by Charlie Mackesy: Loved this book! Great for any age. Would highly recommend this beautifully written book.

A reader from Bellingham read *Here* by Richard McGuire: 'Here' is a novel about the same corner of a room and the people who were there, from millions of years in the past to hundreds of years into the future. Often, using overlapping windows, you get multiple views throughout time of the same situation. the words are minimal so 300 pages can go by fast, but the beauty of the art will keep you around for longer. Definitely worth checking out!

A reader from Pembroke read *Lighter Than My Shadow* by Katie Green: Easy read. A teen and beyond dealing with anorexia.

A reader from Worcester read *Spinning* by Tillie Walden: I had read this book half way through and then got sidetracked a couple years ago. This time I started over and read through pretty quickly since I was so engaged by the story. Beautiful illustrations!

A reader from Plainville read *The Best We Could Do* by Thi Bui: A beautifully drawn and illustrated graphic novel memoir! This has been one of my favorite books this year. I learned a lot about not only the author’s life but the history of Vietnam. I would highly recommend this book.

A reader from Belmont read *The Life Changing Manga of Tidying Up: A Magical Story* by Mari Kondo: I have trouble keeping my life tidy and organized. I end up wasting time that I would rather use for other things. This is a sweet story that encourages me to go for it and get things in order once and for all.

A reader from Dartmouth read *Maus* by Art Spiegelman: This monthly challenge of reading a graphic novel was outside my comfort zone. Maus was interesting and a very different way to read about the Holocaust. I enjoyed how the author wrote himself and his relationship with his father into the book. Being a graphic novel, it did not have the details I normally enjoy, but it was a good book regardless.
A reader from Canton read *Kindred* by Octavia E Butler: The book was good. The second book I've read by this author and I liked the other one better.

A reader from Beverly read *White Sands Volume 1* by Brandon Sanderson: I've been looking for an excuse to read white sands! It's fun to see another setting of the cosmere in this form! Currently reading volume 2 and volume 3 next!!

A reader from Dennisport read *The Adventures of Lulu* by Louise Hay: This book by self-help guru Louise Hay had 3 short stories with wonderful illustrations. Stories were positive & uplifting, encouraging self-esteem, courage & unconditional love.

A reader from Billerica read *What Happened to Nina?* by Dervla McTiernan: A great suspense novel, well written, the plot was engrossing and ever changing, and the characters were well-rounded. Fast-paced, with plenty of twists and thought provoking from beginning to end. The ending of each chapter made you want to start the next one. I finished this book in one sitting, that was how vested I was in finding out what happened to Nina. The Point of View changes throughout the story. We go from Nina's parents LeeAnne and Andy and Simon’s parents, Jamie and Rory, additionally another POV is from Detective Matthew Wright this keeps the momentum going and allows you the see what each set of parents and detective are thinking. A very gripping novel that was realistic to what you might read in the newspaper. The ending was the perfect conclusion and totally changed everything. Nina and Simon have been dating all through high school. They are now in college and haven’t seen each other in a while, so they decide to go away to Simons family’s vacation home in Stowe, VT for the weekend. When Nina’s mother doesn’t hear from her, Leanne calls Simon’s parents but they tell her that Simon is home. Leanne starts to worry and asks Simon what happened to Nina. Simon said that he had a big fight with Nina, and he left the cabin under Nina’s direction. He also said a friend of Nina’s would pick her up and take her home. No one has seen Nina since that weekend, that is when suspicions start, and rumors begin about both families. Read and find out what happened to Nina.

A reader from Billerica read *The Girls We Sent Away* by Meagan Church: Well Thought out and research novel. You had different narrators which added to the tension of the story. The plot is well developed and drags you into the story. Church blows you away with the topic of this historical fiction. During the 1960’s many young unmarried pregnant girls were told or forced to give up a child, so that their families weren’t embarrassed about this mistake. You can see through reading this story that the author did plenty of research on this subject. We have Lorraine, a brilliant young lady who had plans to go to college and be an astronaut one day. These dreams are taken away from her because she became pregnant in her senior year. Her parents send her away to have the baby and then give it up for adoption. We then experience this time in which Lorraine meets and makes friends and realizes that maybe she might be able to keep this baby. Read about Lorraine story and how it changed her life. You will have moments of tears, determination, secrets and some happiness. I highly recommend this historical fiction by Church.

A reader from North Andover read *Maia Kobabe* by Gender Queer: I read this book because I heard it was one of the most banned books in the country.
A reader from North Weymouth read *Anne of Green Gables: a graphic novel* by Mariah Marsden: Very enjoyable. Read it the first time for the text; the second time, for the illustrations.

A reader from Ipswich read *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* by Marjane Satrapi: I didn’t know anything about the Iranian revolution and this was a beautiful way to learn about it.

A reader from Springfield read *On a Sunbeam* by Tillie Walden: An incredible graphic novel that makes excellent use of the format! Was blown away by the creativity of some of the panels.

A reader from Paxton read *sunshine* by jarrett j krosoczka: My kids are big fans of JJKs books so I thought his graphic novel Sunshine would be perfect for May. It was a wonderful, beautiful, sad, and special book.

A reader from Winchester read *Diana My Graphic Obsession* by Sivan Piaktigorsky-Roth: I loved this graphic novel; thanks for the suggestion! It was so readable and fun and yet had very deep reflections. I wish it were longer so I could read more. Will definitely reread.

A reader from Springfield read *Homebody* by Theo Parish: Very sweet and affirming book about one person's journey coming out as nonbinary.

A reader from Baldwinville read *Anna* by Mia Oberlander: I did not enjoy the plot but did like the illustration style.

A reader from South Pasadena read *Lunar New Year Love Story* by Gene Luen Yang and Leuyen Pham: Every page of this story had me grinning from ear to ear. Val and Jae’s love story is the most precious and pure that I’ve seen in a YA graphic novel in a while and I am so grateful that I got to witness it! I wish I could recommend this story to everyone that has ever questioned whether love of worth the pain because the answer is yes, every time it is.

A reader from Fitchburg read *Are You Listening?* by Tillie Walden: I won't forget this book any time soon. Stunning art work and an interesting story line. The unlikely but needed friendship that develops between Lou and Bea is wonderful to watch unfold.

A reader from Wilmington read *Stargazing* by Jen Wang: I'm not really a fan of graphic novels, but this one, that won a Mass book challenge 5/11, was interesting.

A reader from Danvers read *Toussaint Louverture: The Story of the Only Successful Slave Revolt in History* by C. L. R. James: I chose this graphic novel as many students coming to our school are coming from Haiti. I wanted to find a book that I could carry in my library that accurately depicts the history of their country. This book did a great job breaking down over a decade worth of history into a graphic novel format. It was informative and was able to weave the several countries involved throughout the novel.

A reader from Agawam read *Maus: A Survivor’s Tale: My Father Bleeds History* by Art Spiegelman: I read graphic novels all the time, but for this challenge I wanted to read something a little more thought-provoking than what I normally reach for. Being a memoir about Spiegelman’s father as a Jewish person in Europe leading up to and during World War II and the Holocaust, there are graphic and disturbing elements, but this is definitely a book worth reading.
A reader from Brookline read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: This is a must read!!! I’m not a history person and this is an amazing read as it shows a perspective that we don’t typically see in the west. I highly recommend everyone read this. Starting the second one this week!

A reader from Reading read *Tokyo On Foot* by Florent Chavouet: This is a uniquely charming travelogue of a stay in Tokyo with amazing illustrations and impressions of the city, off the beaten path.

A reader from Dracut read *Vincent, A Saint in the Age of Musketeers* by Jean Dufaux, Martin Jamar: It was well done.

A reader from Tyngsboro read *Anne of Green Gables* by Mariah Marsden: I really struggled to find a graphic novel to read. It seemed that every one I picked up has awful illustrations with outlandish style and color that I didn’t care for. Then I saw Anne of Green Gables. A familiar story with soft illustrations. I immediately chose this one and was glad I did. I always loved this book and the artwork was really good. You could feel the emotion in the illustrations. If you have to read a graphic novel (not my favorite genre), this is a good choice.

A reader from Newton read *When Stars Are Scattered* by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson: The graphic novel 'When Stars Are Scattered' is a really inspiring and uplifting book about Omar and his brother, Hassan, living in a Kenyan refugee camp after fleeing the war in Somalia. The two boys live with a very kind older woman in the camp who takes care of them, and Omar also decides to go to school in the refugee camp while also taking care of his brother, who has seizures and is nonverbal. The graphic novel tells the true story of Omar Mohamed's experiences, and in the end, Omar and Hassan get resettled to the United States.

A reader from Sutton read *The Sandman: Preludes & Nocturnes* by Neil Gaiman: Overall, this was pretty dark. Some parts were surprisingly nice. Overall, I enjoyed it. I like the mythical feel.

A reader from Hampden read *The Handmaid's Tale - The Graphic Novel* by Margaret Atwood: Recommended. This was my first graphic novel. I think that I prefer the full text narrative where the back story and more details are provided. Nevertheless, this is a good way to discover Margaret Atwood's story of a dystopian world which sounds eerily like too much about what could be happening today in America. Excellent graphics bring excitement to the reading.

A reader from Lynnfield read *From Hell* by Alan Moore & Eddie Campbell: Bit of a slow and confusing start for me, but eventually the story gets rolling and begins to take shape. A large amount of notes at the back of the book provides further insight and information to fill in some of the gaps and allusions made in the narrative.

A reader from Brookline read *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* by Roz Chast: This is Chast’s warm and witty memoir about her aging parents with universal themes of changing parent-child roles, changes in care and living situations, and the uncertainty that goes with all that. I especially enjoyed the description of The Crazy Closet and cleaning out decades of stuff - what to keep and what to toss. I could relate to the photos of all the stuff in her parents apartment - drawers full of pencils, clutter on the bureaus, old Band-Aids and petroleum jelly in the medicine cabinet. The cartoons, photos, and story are wonderful - made me laugh and cry.
This is one of her best. Also read I Must Be Dreaming, which was OK, and Going Into Town: A Love Letter to NY, which I also loved. Chast’s observations are spot on.

A reader from Wellfleet read The Handmaid’s Tale by Margaret Atwood and Renee Nault: I should preface what I write by saying that, when I first saw the list of challenges for this year my heart sank a little bit at "Graphic novel." Not quite so much as it did at "A well reviewed book in your least favorite genre" I'm not sure what I'm going to do about that December one but, still, it posed a bit of a conundrum. I'll say this for graphic novels: they're a quick read. But, otherwise, it's not a form that I gravitate towards. I did read and appreciate Maus and Alison Bechdel's books as well as Posy Simmonds' takes on Far From the Madding Crowd and Madame Bovary but that's pretty much the extent of my experience with graphic novels. To see where I might go with this I started looking at lists of the best graphic novels and didn't find a lot there that spoke to me. (Horror and science fiction would be right up there among my least favorite genres and they both seemed to be well represented on these lists) But eventually one list brought me to this. I've been reading Margaret Atwood since the mid-70's, starting with Surfacing, and once drove across the border and through a blinding snowstorm, to buy a copy of her novel Life Before Man, which, at the time, was only available in Canada. When she's at her best I think there are few writers working today who can better her. I first read the regular novel of The Handmaid's Tale when it was published in 1985 and I remember finishing the book, with it's memorable cover art by Fred Marcellino, in just a few days and being completely floored by it. It's reputation as a contemporary classic is well deserved. I've also seen some, though not all, of the recent series with Elizabeth Moss. So, being already familiar with the story, I thought this would allow me to really focus on the artwork in a graphic novel and see how well it did or didn't do in conveying both the plot and the tone of the novel. And it's fine. The artist and adapter Renee Nault did an excellent job of presenting the story visually and her adaptation retains enough of the events of the plot to tell that story completely and coherently. But, at the end of the day, I was still reminded of the old Classics Illustrated comics which I enjoyed as a kid. They were certainly fun and engaging but, in retrospect, the best part of them was that they often sent me to the library in search of the books they were adapted from. Maybe my problem with graphic novels is that I'm just more of a word person then a visual person and I'd rather create my own visuals in my imagination.

A reader from Hubbardston read The Secret Garden: The Graphic Novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett: I've been reading lots of book with my daughter this year! This is one of my childhood favorites, and we recently watched the movie together. We started the regular book, but it was a bit too much to hold her attention, so I grabbed the graphic novel version to try. We very much enjoyed reading it together and comparing it to the movie.

A reader from Ludlow read Good Eggs by Phoebe Potts: For the month of May, I selected Good Eggs as my graphic novel. This was my first graphic novel I have read, and I had found the presentation and layout of it to be somewhat difficult to follow. I found the memoir jumped back and forth from one storyline to another, which furthered my confusion and resulted in me having to reread pages. Overall, I liked the book, but I definitely did not love it due to its content and layout. I plan to give this genre another try in the future!
A reader from Brighton read *Swann's Way: A Graphic Novel* by Stephane Heuet, Proust, trans. Arthur Goldhammer: While I did read a catalogue for The Year of Reading Didion project, it has morphed into Proust project for the summer, and as the preface of this graphic novel suggests, here is an introduction to his work, as well as, something to return to for lifelong aficionados.

A reader from Oxford read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: I did not enjoy this graphic novel, the art, or the storyline. Perhaps I needed more background knowledge on the Iranian Revolution time period to enjoy it. Will not continue the series.

A reader from Salem read *Spy x Family, Vol. 1* by Tatsuya Endo: Funny, cute, exciting, admittedly violent. I'm not sure how many volumes exist, but I enjoyed this first one so much that the second one is already on my TBR list.

A reader from Braintree read *Decodependence* by Lila Ash: Great quick graphic novel based on a true story from the author's point of view.

A reader from Newton read *Blankets* by Craig Thompson: I actually enjoyed reading this! I have never read a graphic novel before and felt like it was a cross between a book and a movie. The illustrations were also phenomenal, which portrayed the story in a whole new way. However, I partly missed being able to picture the characters for myself. Other than it being a graphic novel, Thompson portrayed a very powerful story of first loves and questions regarding his own religious upbringing that I quickly read the novel in one sitting.

A reader from Turners Falls read *Star Wars: Princess Leia (#1)* by Mark Waid: Short graphic novel/comic. Quick read but nothing spectacular.

A reader from NORTH ATTLEBORO read *Calvin & Hobbes* by Bill Watterson: Hours of laughter!

A reader from Amherst read *Brooms* by Jasmine Walls: The Black, Choctaw, Mexican- and Chinese-American main characters compete in illegal broom races to earn enough money for better lives, in a 1950s South in which white people attempt to control everyone's magic.

A reader from Readville/ Yarmouth read *Going into Town: A Love Letter to New York* by Roz Chast: A very entertaining and informative guide written by a mom to her child who will be attending college in NYC.

A reader from Worcester read *Tom Gauld* by Revenge of the Librarians: As I don't read graphic novels, I was surprised there were so many to choose from at my library. I enjoyed the one I read, although I probably wouldn't read another. I believe graphic novels are an excellent format to encourage children an adults to read though.

A reader from Cambridge read *Maus* by Art Spiegelman: What a fantastic graphic novel. The imagery and story are so powerful and Art's relationship with his father is so complex. Overall an important read.

A reader from danvers read *The Wind in the Willows - Graphic Novel* by Kenneth Grahame: My niece got this as a gift and she's loving it! It really makes these old stories easier to get into,
especially for kids. She asked me to read it with her, since we've already gone through the regular version together, and they go great together.

A reader from Northampton read *the adventures of Jimmy Corrigan* by Chris Ware: brilliant.

A reader from Allston read *The Golden Age- Book 1* by Roxanne Moreil and Cyril Pedrosa: Beautiful illustrations and one of the first graphic novels I have read! Thank you for this challenge!

A reader from Ludlow read *eerie tales from the school of screams* by graham annable: Graphic novels are new to me, I would have thought a graphic novel would have gore and violence. Little did I know the meaning is in comic book form. I read this with an open mind as these books aren’t my cup of tea. This book was tales of horror sometimes with a comic twist, from students at the School of Screams. Easy and quick to read. I probably wouldn’t read this type of book again!

A reader from Woods Hole read *Poseidon Earth Shaker* by George O'Conner: This book gave insight into the hard-to-read god of the sea. It did a good job depicting Poseidon's conflicts with other gods.

A reader from BECKET read *The Last Unicorn* by Peter Beagle: Beautiful illustrations and true to the original novel.

A reader from Newton read *When I Arrived At The Castle* by Emily Carroll: Emily Carroll's art and story-telling styles are one of a kind. This eerie gothic horror graphic novel is an engrossing read for audiences who enjoyed Dracula and Interview With The Vampire.

A reader from Rochester read *Lunar New Year Love Story* by written by Gene Luen Yang; Art by Leuyen Pham: My first graphic novel, although I enjoyed serial comics in the daily paper as a kid. Themes of family, fate, cultural dynamics, and falling in love are dialogued and illustrated. The art is equally important as the writing. It was a paperback printed on unusual stiff paper. My guess it enhanced the artwork. An easy quick read.

A reader from Gill read *The Beatles in Comics* by Gaets: A good read!

A reader from Middleboro read *A First Time for Everything* by Dan Santat: I really enjoyed this book, it was relatable to anyone who lived through their awkward middle school years.

A reader from Berkley read *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood, Art & Adaptation by Renee Nault: I learned that graphic novels are not really for me, but I’m glad I stepped out of my comfort zone.

A reader from Amesbury read *A First Time For Everything* by Dan Santat: It was an easy read which is to be expected as it was geared towards a middle school audience. I like how it was based on a true story and I liked the authors note and pictures of the real trip.

A reader from Webster read *Zodiac: A Graphic Memoir* by Ai Weiwei with Elettra Stamboulis (Contributor), G: I read a lot of graphic novels this month, but Zodiac was my favorite, inspiring me to want to read and research more about Chinese mythology!
A reader from SPRINGFIELD read *The Great American Documents Volume 1* by Ruth Ashby: With Uncle Sam as the narrator, this book walks us through twenty essential documents from the Mayflower Compact in 1620 to the Indian Removal Act in 1830.

A reader from Charlton read *New Kid* by Jerry Craft: I really enjoyed this graphic novel. So many subtle moments about the main character's perspective, experiences, and interactions with both hostile and well-meaning people. The scholastic book fair scenes are incredibly poignant.

A reader from Lincoln read *keeper of the lost cities: the graphic novel part 1* by Shannon Messenger: A fun easy read based off the best selling series. I can’t wait for all of them to come out!

A reader from Springfield read *Scarlet Witch #1* by James Robinson: Beautiful and surreal artwork around an emotional story about self-discovery.

A reader from Indian Orchard read *Girl Town* by Carolyn Nowak: Really interesting! I’m not big into physical books but this one was really cool, brought me out of my comfort zone.

A reader from Hamilton read *Maus, A Survivors Tale, I and II* by Art Spiegelman: I almost missed the quotes placed inside the front cover of both texts, which provided contextual historical quotes of the time the first by the Freur himself, the second a German newspaper article the Pomerania, in the mid-1930s & both placeholders helped me to enter into the hyper-stylized and very authentically written and illustrated memoir that is Maus. At times the tone reflected on a stressful father-son relationship seems to vibrate between the illustrated black and white panels; where this tension only breaks when the father's tale of survival brings about a new twist or obstacle to overcome. While mentally, it is easy to say that the things we survive shape us; in this comic, we watch the life struggles and health issues, marital problems, or home repairs in juxtaposition to surviving genocide, typhus, and starvation that only this format could have conveyed. Spiegelman’s illustration, uses mice, pigs, and cats as pictorial metaphors, giving emotional distance to the subject matter for us to remember/relive his father’s narrative. In addition, the placement of his comic within a comic of the telling of his mother’s suicide stands apart as it is illustrated without the stylization of people as animals. I wish I had read this sooner, however; I am delighted to have had the opportunity to read this now.

A reader from Braintree read *Nimona* by N D Stevenson: This was an enjoyable read. Fantasy, dragons, shape-shifting, and science! All great and fun things.

A reader from North Andover read *The Boys In The Boat* by Daniel James Brown: I grew up in Seattle and attended the University of Washington so it was especially fun to read this book. It was history I had never heard before.

A reader from Wilmington read *Watchmen* by Alan Moore: My first graphic novel ever. Thoroughly enjoyed it & was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the writing.

A reader from Sharon read *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* by Roz Chast: A friend gave me this book after hearing about my trials and travails as my parents only caretaker. The author recounts many similar episodes to my own and brought me much-needed levity,
helping me keep my patience and sanity. Highly recommended for other caretakers of elderly parents!

A reader from Rochester read *A First Time for Everything* by Dan Santat: My first graphic novel. The book is about the coming of age of the author. It centers around a trip overseas the summer before he enters High School. It describes how the experience helped him change to accept himself and develop self-confidence to explore life experiences.

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *March* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, Nate Powell: Very moving story, and reading it as a graphic novel made it approachable and appropriate for all ages. What a great way to deliver history!

A reader from Burlington read *Superman Rebirth Vol. 1: Son of Superman* by Peter J. Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, Mick Gray: It's interesting to read about how Superman (not the New 52's Superman who died, but the one from 80's - 2000s post Crisis) lives in the current Earth prime. He is married to Lois Lane and raising his son, who is developing powers. Not only is the Justice League concerned about his son's emerging and possibly dangerous powers, but an old villain the Eradicator tries to murder his son due to the hybrid genetics (human and Kryptonian). Apparently, the Eradicator wants Kal-El to create a new pure Krypton lineage on Earth, and human genetics interferes with that. There's something deeper there about multi-racial children having to fight for acceptance, but I may be reaching. I can't really say I enjoyed the story here as much as I have enjoyed other past New 52 Superman stories. I really liked the Superman from New 52 who sadly died and probably won't be coming back. The art is uneven and switches pencilers throughout, and lots of times I couldn't quite figure out what was going on. It seemed like nothing more interesting than fistfights and laser beams. By the end of the story though, I was appreciating what may end up being a good story arc for this old and now mature character. I'll have to go back and read about how the hell he jumped universes from pre-Flashpoint though, and I may even pick up the next volume.

A reader from Salem read *The Secret to Superhuman Strength* by Alison Bechdel: I loved this so much! My first graphic novel and I definitely will read more now. I really resonated with Alison's search for enlightenment and superhuman strength.

A reader from Tewksbury read *Unwanted Stories of Syrian Refugees* by Don Brown: A very informative graphic novel about the plight of Syrian refugees. It starts with a brief introduction to the dictatorship of Assad and the Arab Spring and the attempts to form democracy. Assad's brutal attacks on his opponents and their attempts to flee. In the beginning neighboring countries attempted to help them. But, as their numbers increased more and more counties refused to help because of the strain on their resources. Almost 25% of Syria's population has fled since 2011. I was also amazed at the extensive bibliography of the book.

A reader from Amherst read *Chunky Goes To Camp* by Yehudi Mercado: This is a sequel to Chunky. I liked both books. I enjoyed reading about a Mexican-Jewish kid and his issues with bullies and self-image.
A reader from Maynard read *Brooms* by Jasmine Walls: Brooms is a fantastical take on 1930s Mississippi: racism, homophobia, and poverty exist but so does literal magic. The plot follows a motley crew's attempts to raise enough money through winning illegal broom races and both their individual and communal triumphs and setbacks along the way. (Luella wants to prevent her half sisters from her own residential school experience, Billie Mae and Loretta want to escape poverty, and Cheng Kwan wants to financially support her parents. I loved how each character had their own motivation but still contributed to the group as a whole, and together became the most incredible intersectional found family set against Walls and DuVall's fully realized world. Featuring Black, Choctaw, Chinese, and Mexican backgrounds; deafness, physical disabilities, and chronic pain; and trans and gay identities.

A reader from Tewksbury read *Fever Year The Killer Flu of 1918* by Don Brown: Another graphic novel by Don Brown. This one about the Flu or the pandemic of 1918. The copyright of this book is 2019 so it was written before the outbreak of COVID. The flu started in a military barrack in Kansas but it is known as the Spanish Flu. The flu started during WWI an most countries were involved in the war so kept illnesses of the troops secret. Spain was not involved in the war so had no reason to keep the illness secret. Hence, the name Spanish Flu. The illness spread rapidly due to troop movements in the war. Many recruits died and also many civilians. It spread everywhere, even Africa. There were attempts to find a vaccine but they were unsuccessful because the pathogen could not be found. A most interesting fact is that when a recruit died in 1918 the attending doctor wrapped part of the dead man's lung in wax and sent it to the military's health museum. It lay there until it was rediscovered in 1995 and research began again to find the pathogen. Again I was impressed by the extensive bibliography.

A reader from SANDISFIELD read *the sandman book three* by Neil Gaiman: As always, Gaiman is a delight to read.

A reader from South Weymouth read *Fights* by Joel Christian Gill: I am new to graphic novels and this was an excellent introduction. Beautifully written and illustrated memoir of growing up in a violent and not-so-beautiful world, and managing to not just survive but to prevail.

A reader from Seekonk read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry: I loved the original novel and I was excited to try the graphic novel version. I did find that reading graphic novels is not for me! I struggled with attention and skipped many of the pictures to just read the text. This was my first graphic novel that I read and though I loved the story, I did not love the graphic novel adaptation.

A reader from Mashpee read *From Hell* by Alan Moore: Alan Moore really aimed for the moon with this one - it's a very ambitious book with a clear perspective and thesis to work through on class, sexism, and violence. Very worthwhile reading, even if it has its frustrating (and incredibly violent) parts.

A reader from Franklin read *Amulet: The Stonekeeper* by Kazu Kibuishi: As the first book of a series, it had me hooked from the very beginning. The premise of the book was intriguing and had a lot of magical aspects to it, which I love. The pictures were great and very hard to put down!
A reader from Hudson read *Dante's Divine Comedy* by Seymour Chwast: The author's illustrations are delightful, and his text summarizes the original poem, giving (in my opinion) all the information needed to understand the story without getting tangled up in masses of detail.

A reader from Georgetown read *Lore Olympus* by Rachel Smythe: This genre was definitely not something I have read before so it took some getting used to. It was a quick read and kept my attention but not my favorite way to read. Glad I tried it but probably won’t continue to read this style.

A reader from Rochester read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: Beautifully done historical graphic novel. Will definitely pick up her next graphic novel.

A reader from Methuen read *Belonging* by Nora Krug: I admit it; I didn’t think I’d enjoy reading a graphic novel. But, my thinking has been altered; a family tree, drawings, pics, bits about life’s little moments and random notes about items - a variety of information to push the reader forward. Nora moved from Berlin to NYC to study. She feels a sense of inherited sin - of having to bear the consequences of an earlier generation’s actions. WWII. Nazis. Hitler. Holocaust. She was searching for her Heimat (the place a person was born into, experiences early socialization, shapes identity, character, mentality, and world view). “How do you know who you are, if you don’t know where you came from?” Nora visits Germany, goes through archives, talks with Germans who moved to the USA after the war. She goes back to her hometown and talks with some relatives. Did she find her Heimat? Was her Uncle Karl-Franz an SS soldier? Did she find out why no one told her about Jewish men who fought in the Wehrmacht? About the thousands of Germans who were killed for resisting the Nazi Regime? About contemporary Jewish culture? You should read Becoming and find out!

A reader from Rockland read *Can't We Talk About Something more Pleasant?* by Roz Chast: In this memoir, the author draws and writes about her parents, her childhood, and taking care of them as they are dying.

A reader from Attleboro read *A First Time For Everything* by Dan Santat: What a perfect book for middle school. An eighth grade boy travels on a class trip to Europe and grows into himself. He explores and meets new people and experiences things he has never dreamed. He gains friends and confidence before going into high school and makes life long friendships. As a middle school teacher who also takes students on class travel trips, this book was wonderful and touching to me.

A reader from Westminster read *Yummy A History of Desserts* by Victoria Grace Elliott: Although not a big fan of graphic novels, I did enjoy this book as I learned many interesting things about desserts. Of course it didn’t hurt that I have a major sweet tooth! All in all though, graphic novels are just not my cup of tea!

A reader from Boston read *Keeper of the Lost Cities The Graphic Novel Part I* by Shannon Messenger: I read the first book of the Keeper of the Lost Cities series when I was in middle school, and I've kept up with the series even though I'm now in my third year of college because the author is *still* coming out with books for this series. When I heard she came out with a
A graphic novel version of the first book, I thought it would be a really funny and entertaining read, and it was—though not in the way that Shannon intended. I realize I'm not the intended audience for this book anymore since I'm no longer a middle schooler so I'll let the goofy characters and cringy dialogue slide. But, I do feel like I can still provide valid criticism. The world in the book is supposed to be super magical and whimsical, and I felt like the art didn't make that come across at all as it often had super simple backgrounds that looked very plain (in contrast to the more detailed characters). The graphic novel is also only *half* of the first book, and it ended really abruptly, not even at the climax of the story or after an important event. Overall, I had fun reading it (and it was quite nostalgic), so I can't really complain too much.

A reader from Salem read *My Dress-Up Darling Vol. 11* by Shinichi Fukuda: I was so excited that another volume released for this series which has quickly become a favorite, and it was great to see the main characters progressing towards being more honest with themselves and with each other about their feelings, and to see the group cosplay event finally take place. There were also some big misunderstandings cleared up that eliminated some background tension that had been building between a few characters over the last couple volumes, so it feels like we were left with a really good atmosphere at the end and with a fresh start for continued personal growth in the future. The goal is for a love confession by either Marin or Gojou sometime soon, and I can't wait for the next volume to see if it finally happens or if we’ll be in this for the long haul!

A reader from Danvers read *Something New* by Lucy Kinsley: Cute and funny. I’m not one for rom-coms, but this wasn’t bad.

A reader from Chelsea read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: The graphic novel was beautiful. It brought to life a country and moment in history that I didn't know much about. I got emotional with the story about her uncle that was executed. Her going to Austria without her parents for an opportunity to have a better life. The drawings brought everything to life. I've wanted to read this book for years, and I'm so happy to finally have had the opportunity. Highly recommend.

A reader from Wakefield read *Anya's Ghost* by Vera Bristol: This was my first graphic novel, ever. I never thought of reading one, but I'm glad this challenge give me a push. It is pretty cool that the story can be told with fewer words because the illustrations tell so much. The story was a new approach to teen angst (for me).

A reader from Franklin read *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy: A raw graphic novel about a post apocalyptic tale of a father and son. The motivation to survive and travel south to protect themselves from the elements.

A reader from Fitchburg read *Yummy A History of Desserts* by Victoria Grace Elliott: This is the first graphic novel I have read. It’s a different style for me. This book was fun and if someone were interested in a graphic novel I’d recommend it.

A reader from Somerville read *Maus* by art spiegelman: I chose this book because of how often it is included on Banned Book lists. I don't believe any books should be banned, but this did made me think about what a difficult job school Librarian's have stocking appropriate books. I think this novel does an excellent job at portraying not only the struggles Jews had during WW2, but
also lives they were living pre-WW2 which is often ignored in teaching of this part of history. On the other hand, it is suuuuper dark. It makes me commend librarians in knowing at what age students should/need to be exposed to stories like this.


A reader from Georgetown read *Hidden Systems* by Dan Nott: This is one of those books that I believe everyone should read! Dan explores all the systems we use everyday but take for granted - water, electricity and the internet- and through clear text and clean illustrations, brings understanding to these complex systems, as well as food for thought moving forward. Brilliant, entertaining, a treat to read!

A reader from West Hartford read *The Shape Of Ideas* by Grant Snider: I discovered Grant Snider’s unique work from reading the New York Times Book Review. This graphic novel of his is one I bought for myself as a treat and it does not disappoint. It’s creative, honest, inspiring, beautiful, unique. A joy to read!

A reader from Belchertown read *Chi’s Sweet Home Part 1* by Konami Kanata: I received the box set of Chi's Sweet Home (4 books) as a gift from my husband because we both love cats. And, oh my goodness, this is the most charming, sweet and uplifting series. The author clearly understands cat behavior. I have found myself understanding my own cat better as a result. It is my go-to when I want to smile and feel happy about the world. I envision myself reading this series multiple times.

A reader from Northampton read *Gender In The Woods* by Robin M. White: Written/illustrated by a local artist!!! Excellent.

A reader from Wrentham read *Maus* by Art Spiegelman: I had heard about this book years ago and when a graphic novel came up for this month's challenge I figured perfect time to read this book. It was good although I have decided I am just not a fan of graphic novels.

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Sandman* by Neil Gaiman: This is only my second-ever graphic novel. I am glad the challenge pushed me to try a new format, but I prefer normal books. This is classic Gaiman, a mix of dark and humorous.

A reader from Chelsea read *The Son of Neptune Graphic Novel* by Rick Riorden, Robert Venditti: It was different than I expected, they changed things from the book. I struggled with it, but probably cause I read it on my phone, I think it would be easier having the actual physical comic.

A reader from Wilmington read *Sandman* by Neil Gaiman: A graphic novel was definitely out of my comfort zone. I’m glad I tried something new. Pretty hard to get into at first, but was more interesting as I went on!

A reader from Pepperell read *Sunshine* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka: Jarrett J. Krosoczka’s touching graphic memoir, “Sunshine,” is illustrated beautifully and full of many emotions throughout. At
Camp Sunshine, a camp for children with life-threatening illnesses, Krosoczka volunteers and undergoes a transformative experience, exploring themes of life, death, and hope. I learned so much from this novel, and it was truly valuable. I highly recommend "Sunshine"!

A reader from Northampton read *I'm So Glad We Had This Time Together* by Maurice Vellekoop: I can't resist a coming-of-age story.

A reader from Brookline read *American Born Chinese* by Gene Lien Yang: I’m a complete newbie when it comes to graphic novels. So, it took me a while to pick out a book for this month. For the first two weeks of May, I was asking all around for a recommendation. A colleague spoke so passionately about *Boxers & Saints* that I became curious. However, it was a different book by Gene Lien Yang that caught my eye and that I decided to read for this month - *American Born Chinese*. I thoroughly enjoyed this book: the characters, the (unexpected) plot line, the illustrations, the realist struggles with identity and acceptance of Asian Americans & Not a bad first foray into graphic novels. And I definitely want to read more from this genre in the future. Thanks, MA reading challenge, for pushing me out of my comfort zone again!

A reader from Arlington read *Katusha: Girl Soldier of the Great Patriotic War* by Wayne Vansant: This graphic novel is especially timely story as the war in Ukraine continues to rage. At the center of the story, is Katusha, a teenage Ukrainian girl who makes her way from partisan fighter at the beginning of World War II as the German Army invades Ukraine and Russia through her service in the Red Army as a tank crew member and eventually tank commander fighting on the Eastern Front all the way from Moscow until years later defeating the German Army in Berlin. Having extensively studied in World War II in the early 1980s during my own US Army officer training, I found the book remarkably historically accurate and comprehensive. The author deserves credit for accomplishing a young adult graphic novel that rivals Vasily Grossman's “Life and Fate”which itself is the “War and Peace” of WWII. If there is a risk that in the graphic novel format, war might seem childishly cartoonish, the author manages to present the war on the Eastern Front with all its devastation, its carnage, its savagery, its toll on the entire population and all of its moral ambiguity. As an older adult not familiar with the graphic novel format, I do not have a good perception of how young adults, specifically young Americans would relate to the story. I am old enough to have personally known a German concentration camp survivor. I knew Eastern Europeans living in the United States who fled Soviet Russia and satellite countries during and after World War II. Would a young American without my points of reference, fully appreciate how accurately and richly the author develops the characters in his story? At another level, since this is the story of a teenager coming of age, young readers may be closer to that element of the story. And young Americans may be surprised to learn how Soviet woman fought in frontline combat eight decades ago, something American female soldiers have only been doing officially in recent decades. Without reservation I would recommend world history teachers at the high school level use this graphic novel in teaching the history of World War II. The story would provide a human element to what might otherwise be a sterile presentation of timelines, facts, figures and places. Teachers could also challenge students to relate the story to current events, specifically the war in Ukraine but also to the war in Gaza.
A reader from Rochester read *My Friend Dahmer* by Derf Backderf: Disturbing account of a group of high school boys and their strange "friend" who later became an infamous serial killer. Details of Jeff Dahmer's school years make you wonder how the adults in his life failed to be aware of this disturbed teen's alienation and growing madness.

A reader from N DARTMOUTH read *Sense & Sensibility* by Nancy Butler: I never liked graphic novels and unfortunately, this did not change my opinion on that.

A reader from Uxbridge read *The Many Deaths of Laila Starr* by Ram V and Filipe Andrade: Really interesting plot.

A reader from Dartmouth read *Maus* by Art Spiegelman: Powerful personal account of the holocaust, more impactful for the graphic novel representation.

A reader from Byfield read *Sugar Fall: A Residential School Story* by David Alexander Robinson: Incredibly sad that this was the truth of so many native people. A must read for schools to educate about the history of native boarding schools.

A reader from Berlin read *World Without Fish* by Mark Kurlansky, Frank Stockton (Illustrator): I read this because I will be leading a discussion on it for the YA book club we have. But I chose it for the book club for the summer iRead theme of "Read, Renew, Repeat." I feel like many folks forget about environmentalism when it comes to water, the ocean, etc. Folks tend to think more of trees. As someone from MA, too, I think we are privileged and spoilt by our fishing grounds. My great auntie was a marine biologist and emphasized, even in the 90s, how marine life was being severely impacted by multiple things - overfishing, climate change, pollution. And this book goes over these. I think it's a wonderful starting point for folks who want to learn more about why our oceans are so important, how we have harmed them, how we're continuing to do so, and what we can do to help them and all the animals and life below the waves.


A reader from Sharon read *Blue Is The Warmest Color* by Jul Maroh: Perfect for pride month, May submission and June for this graphic novel has been adapted into a movie! If you enjoy getting your heart torn out, then this story is for you. Don't let the length of this graphic novel fool you! It's packed with serious topics from the point of view that a lot of people could benefit from experiencing. This tragic, coming of age story is something too many of us folks in the LGBTQIA+ community have endured. I don't just recommend this book to the community but to everyone! A must read!

A reader from Foxboro read *Just Another Story: A Graphic Migration Account* by Ernesto Saade: It was an illustrative way to share a harrowing story of immigration and survival on a dangerous journey. I feel that writing about it in a graphic novel format took away from the severity of the danger although it is probably the best way to share the story for those who would otherwise not read about it.
A reader from Worcester read *Topside* by J.N. Monk: Neat sci-fi story about figuring out how to accept help when needed.

A reader from Worcester read *Parable of the Sower: A Graphic Novel* by Octavia Butler, Damien Duffy: Graphic novel adaptations are a great way to be exposed to works of literature I likely would not read otherwise. This form made this story more accessible to me and I’m glad I read this important work of fiction.

A reader from Worcester read *Freestyle* by Gale Galligan: Fun, easy, positive lessons.

A reader from Haverhill read *The Walking Dead: Volume 23* by Robert Kirkman: 4/5 Stars. **This is submitted twice, but meant for the month of May.**

A reader from BERKLEY read *Anne Franks Diary The Graphic Adaptation* by Ari Folman: Graphic novel format seems to make light of a serious situation.

A reader from Spencer read *National Anthem* by Way/Simon/Romero: It was an interesting read, I have not read a graphic novel in a long time. I remember the original stories and they were more dependent on knowing about the concept album from MCR.

A reader from Gloucester read *Blue Pills* *a positive love story* by Frederik Peeters: A truly beautiful book. I’m not usually a graphic book reader and struggled to find one I wanted to read. Then i found this one, sweet and intense and a love story. The book dealt poetically with the difficulty subject matter and the protagonists struggle with his girlfriends HIV. Everyone should read it and the drawings were sweet.

A reader from College Park read *Lafayette!* by Nathan Hale: As a "Hamilton" fan, I thought I knew a lot about the Marquis de Lafayette. This graphic novel (really a graphic history) for middle grade readers gave me a lot more knowledge about this gifted French nobleman than many people know. The book depicts his noble upbringing, his early marriage, and his passionate involvement in America's fight for independence. Nathan Hale presents Lafayette's life with humor and a sense of adventure. A fun and educational read!

A reader from Salem read *Anais Nin: Sea of Lies* by Leonie Bischoff: Beautiful illustrations and a very unusual story, not sure I’d recommend it but not sad I read it.

A reader from Montague read *Votes for Women: The Battle for the 19th Amendment (A Comics Anthology)* by Staff of Little Red Bird Press: My stepdaughter was a contributor to this anthology of comics that explored multiple angles of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. I had read her contribution, but I had not read the entire anthology. This month's prompt got me to read it cover to cover. I was familiar with many events that took place during that time in our history, but the anthology expanded my awareness of the many activists and the roles that the played.

A reader from Quincy read *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* by Roz Chast: The author/illustrator recounts the struggles of dealing with two aging parents who are very set in their ways and not ready to face that they need to plan for the end of their lives.
A reader from Braintree read *Reynard’s Tale* by Ben Hatke: A graphic novel (my first) telling a story love and the unexpected.

A reader from Reading read *Transformers/Back to the Future* by Cavan Scott: A crossover graphic novel combining the universes of Back to the Future and Transformers. It was fun, although the combination of universes here don't work quite as well as others have (for example, Transformers/Terminator).

A reader from Belchertown read *Maus I, II* by Art Spiegelman: Difficult subject but well worth the read.

A reader from Beverlly read *The Art of Living* by Grant Snider: Poetic observations on the art of living.

A reader from Cambridge read *Whites and* by Brandon Sanderson: Working my way through the cosmere!

A reader from Hanson read *Can’t we Talk About Something More Pleasant* by Roz Chast: This is a humorous book about a sad, serious subject. Dealing with aging parents is something we all have to contend with, and Ms. Chast is honest about what happens, about her feelings and emotions and how she dealt with situations. I laughed out loud several times, even while feeling like crying because I could relate to the circumstances. Not a book to miss.

A reader from Sharon read *Hyperbole and a Half* by Allie Brosh: One of the most hilarious representation of life and challenges faced by the author. Serious topic like mental health is covered in a relatable manner.

A reader from Attleboro read *The Dark Matter of Mona Starr* by Laura Lee Gulledge: Teenager Mona Starr suffers from depression and has lots of insecurities. She calls this her dark matter. The challenge of making friends, developing confidence, and seeking help are making her life difficult. Anyone who has similar issues could learn a lot from Mona’s story.

A reader from Amherst read *Other Boys* by Damian Alexander: A heartbreaking and sweet story about a boy's coming of age amidst family trauma and homophobic bullying.

A reader from Berkley read *The Talk* by Darren Bell: I really enjoyed this book. I never read graphic novels. This author’s writing and drawings conveyed his emotions.

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Mimosa* by Archie Bongiovanni: I finished this book as we entered pride month and it was such a therapeutic read through the use of humor and queer experiences. I felt could really connect with the characters and was sad for them too because it reminded me of friendships that I have had and the beautiful memories that came with them. A dear friend lent me this book and now I really want to read more of this author’s work!

A reader from Brookline read *A Guest in the House* by Emily Carroll: A good mix of supernatural and psychological horror. A type of book that leaves you with more y questions than answers that makes you say "that’s it???” at the end because there is just twist after twist.
A reader from PEPPERELL read *The Walking Dead, Book One* by Robert Kirkman: I have not read many graphic novels, and this was recommended to me by a friend knowing I was a fan of the AMC series. I appreciated the depth of the storyline and illustrations (black & white) that made the story come to life. While I was reading it comparing to the show, I was glad that the two formats had enough similarities and differences to make it a fresh experience. I would recommend this to anyone who is a fan of the show!

A reader from Derry read "*The Secret Life of Bees*" by Sue Monk Kidd: I chose to read "The Secret Life of Bees" from the recommended list. I'd never read it or seen the movie and had always meant to. It is a great story about a young girl's journey to happiness. Written in the first person, Lily, living in 1964 rural South Carolina at the time the Civil Rights Act is signed, runs away from an abusive father to learn more about her mother's life and death. She and her housemaid/surrogate mother, Rosaleen, find their way to the beekeeper sisters home, May, June & August based on a note left by her mother. They are welcomed, loved and nurtured. They learn, for the first time of a family's love. The correlation throughout the book with the bees is very interesting. It also speaks of female strength and cultural awareness in a pivotal time in US history. I watched the movie right after I finished the book. The book was better but the movie did it justice. As usually, glad I read the book first.

A reader from Belchertown read *An Age of License- A Travelogue* by Lucy Knisley: The author went to Norway for a comics convention and stayed for a short European tour. This was her journal/diary with illustrations. Easy to read but a bit simplistic.

A reader from Lexington read *Artificial: A Love Story* by Amy Kurzweil: Didn’t enjoy this book very much. The author used the graphic novel in creative ways, but the characters and story didn’t speak to me.

A reader from Northampton read *March: Book 1* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin: An interesting window into civil rights history.

A reader from Springfield read *Queenie* by elizabeth colomba: I am participating in the #massbookreadingchallance. May’s challenge/book is a graphic novel book. This book was a spur of the moment pick up to my library haul and it was worth it. Queenie was a boss!

A reader from Boston read *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier: I liked this more than I expected to.

A reader from Sandwich read *Good Talk* by Mira Jacob: I really enjoyed the visual style, and how the author incorporated images and photographs behind her characters. A beautiful story about how hard it is to explain complex social structure to kids, who absorb so much and often insert a much needed levity into serious situations, but whose questions should be answered honestly.

A reader from Greenfield read *on a sunbeam* by tillie walden: This book was beautifully illustrated, drawing the reader into another world while working through some very earthly problems.
A reader from Beverly read *On the Camino* by Jason: This is a difficult format for me, but a friend recommended a perfect book with a topic that interests me.

A reader from Rockland read *The Complete Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: Interesting, but mostly I learned I'm not a huge fan of the graphic novel genre.

A reader from Hanson read *Boxers* by Gene Luen Yang, Lark Pie: I asked my local library to recommend a graphic novel that was in my favorite genre of historical fiction. This was actually an enjoyable read and may try more graphic novels in the future as a change of pace from my usual reading.

A reader from Blackstone read *Dogman* by Dav Pilkey: My grandson loved it.

A reader from Fall River read *Garlic & the Witch.* by Bree Paulsen: An adorable graphic novel, with the best characters and sweetest ending message. Loved Garlic & the Vampire as well!

A reader from Weymouth read *where is Anne Frank* by Ari Folman: First graphic novel. Well done.

A reader from Waltham read *Olympeus: Volume One* by Rachel Smythe: First time reading a graphic novel and it was quite enjoyable. I like the drawings and quickly fell for the characters. I look forward to continuing the series and reading other graphic novels.

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *we survived the holocaust* by bluma and felix goldberg story: this graphic novel is perfectly made to attract teenage readers. i have a great interest in the holocaust. its a must read for any age group.

A reader from Andover read *the 500 million dollar heist* by sullivan: Really interesting!

A reader from Bourne read *Awkward* by Svetlana Chmakova: Love reading graphic novels.

A reader from Brookline read *In.* by Will McPhail: This was an interesting use of art to complement the story. The use of color in certain places entered the story.

A reader from Hull read *Black Hole* by Charles Burns: I have never read a graphic novel until now. Burns was able to keep me engaged throughout. The way in which he turned teen years and the alienation loads of teens feel in high school was interesting. It was horrifying but it drew me in.

A reader from Middleboro read *the lightning thief: graphic novel* by rick riordan: This is my first graphic novel. For some reason it was hard for me to get started into graphic novels since I had never read one. But I have read the original version of this book and I really actually enjoyed the graphic novel approach for this book. I will definitely be trying out some more graphic novels in the future.

A reader from Beverly read *Let's Make Bread!* by Ken Forkish: Fun way to learn how to bake bread

A reader from Stoneham read *Paper Girls* by Vaughan, Brian: Good graphic novel about four girls who time traval from 1988.
A reader from Malden read *Asgardians: Thor* by George O'Connor: A bit more complicated than his other series since these gods are lesser known.

A reader from Ipswich read *The Talk* by Darrin Bell: A must read for any American.

A reader from Mansfield read *Everything Is OK* by Debbie Tung: This is a graphic novel memoir about the author's struggle with anxiety and depression. I recommend it to anyone who has anxiety and self doubts and thinks they're alone in feeling that way. This book gently reminds you that you are not alone.

A reader from Chicopee read *The Giver* by P. Craig Russell: Lois Lowry's iconic story, The Giver, about a boy named Jonas who is chosen as the next Receiver of Memory, and his struggle to escape his bland colorless town into the world beyond boundaries.

A reader from Swansea read *The Best We Could Do* by Thi Bui: My first graphic novel - LOVED the format!

A reader from Newton read *Can’t we talk about something more pleasant?* by Roz Chast: An intimate, honest, and sometimes funny account of caring for elderly parents.

A reader from Springfield read *Brooms* by Jasmine Walls Teo Duvall: Interesting book. I thought it would be like Harry Potter but it is about Indian magic. I have never read a graphic novel before but I liked it.

A reader from Mashpee read *Frankenstein: A Dark Graphic Novel* by Mary Shelley: The story of Victor Frankenstein is told in stark terms in this graphic novel. The pages are shades of black, grey and white. The illustrations are stylized drawings that fit the dark narrative. It was an interesting way to experience the iconic horror story.

A reader from Bolton read *maus* by Art Spiegelman: Really good graphic novel.

A reader from Braintree read *The Cats of the Louvre* by Taiyo Matsumoto: I liked the drawings of the Louvre. The cat narrative was a little weird.


A reader from Springfield read *Heartstopper Volume 5* by Alice Oseman: A welcome continuation on a beloved series, Oseman continues to write about teenagers with heart.

A reader from Beverly read *The 500 Million Dollar Heist* by Tom Sullivan: This was one of the books on the MCBA book list that my students had to read and they raved about it. I decided to read it even though I knew a lot about the theft at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Even so I learned quite a bit.

A reader from Belchertown read *The Tea Dragon Society* by K. O'Neill: For May's prompt of "a graphic novel", I went with "The Tea Dragon Society" by K. O'Neill. It was such a joy! The characters were lovable and diverse, and the little tea dragons were so cute! The art was also beautiful and unique. I love how the story used sharing memories through tea as a way to
preserve different cultures, experiences, and art forms. It was truly a special little novel and I'm definitely going to read the other two in the series!

A reader from Plainville read *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei: This is only the 2nd graphic novel I’ve ever read. Definitely a powerful story.

A reader from Newport read *Victory, Stand!: Raising my Fist for Justice* by Tommie Smith, Dawud Anyabwile, Derrick Barnes: I loved how this book not only told Tommie Smith’s life story, but also highlighted the sacrifices that many Civil Rights activists made in order to bring attention to the inequalities that abound in our country.

A reader from Spencer read *The Low Low Woods* by Carmen Maria Machado: I am not usually one for comics and graphic novels but this one creeped, spooked, wigged, freaked me out and I am going to be haunted by the plot reveal for a while. 5/5 stars