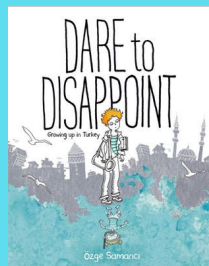


Graphic Memoir – Secondary English Language Arts Cycle Two

Immersion Into Text

Dare to Disappoint: Growing Up in Turkey

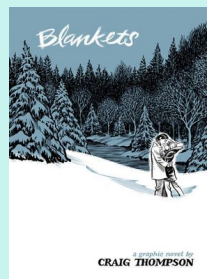
Özge Samancı



The story of a creative girl growing up in a country that is under a military government where people are torn between Muslim fundamentalism and Western values.

Blankets

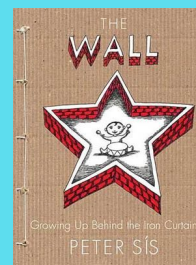
Craig Thompson



A Midwestern winterscape provides the backdrop for this graphic memoir about small-town life, an emotionally mixed-up adolescence and first love.

The Wall

Peter Sís

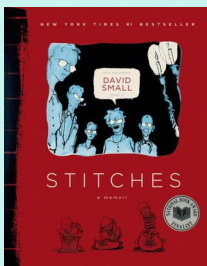


Beginning in the author's early childhood, this account of growing up in Communist Czechoslovakia shows the limitations that were placed on citizens and the ways the Communist regime exercised control over society.

Learning Goal: To immerse students in graphic texts to show how they are constructed, and to examine the affordances of different modes and genres in order to make production decisions. SELA Cycle 2

Stitches

David Small



A young teen wakes from an operation to find he has been transformed into a virtual mute. From horror to hope, this graphic memoir descends into an adolescence filled with challenges.

Long Red Hair

Meags Fitzgerald



Meags recounts a lively childhood full of sleepovers and watching scary movies. When her interests change to romance, she suspects she is not like any of her friends.

The Complete Persepolis

Marjane Satrapi



This memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic revolution tells the story of the author's life during this tumultuous time of political and social unrest.

Sample Questions to Guide Discussion:

What do you notice about the way the memoir is introduced? Is there a foreword, a table of contents, notes, or a splash page? Discuss the type of information they offer and the way these elements impact the way you read the text.

How do the text and images work together to tell the story in a graphic memoir?

How is time portrayed in a graphic memoir? How are flashbacks, memories and other changes in time conveyed through panel arrangement, transitions between panels, use of colour, text, etc.?

Sample Activities to Complement Discussion:

Annotate key scenes from the graphic memoirs to use as references for future text production.

Choose a graphic memoir and consider how personal and political events move the story forward. Share your findings with other students.

Explore a variety of graphic memoirs and identify some of the conventions of the genre. Use what you have learned to create a short graphic memoir.

Suggested Keywords: identity, gender, cultures, self-esteem, sexual identity, relationships, values, politics, social and political regimes, religion

