Teaching the Graphic Novel

Edited by

Stephen E. Tabachnick

The Modern Language Association of America
New York 2009
# Contents

Introduction  
Stephen E. Tabachnick  

## Part I: Theoretical and Aesthetic Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defining Comics in the Classroom; or, The Pros and Cons of Unfixability</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotthold Ephraim Lessing's <em>Laocoön</em> and the Lessons of Comics</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Time in Graphic Narrative</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mise-en-Page: A Vocabulary for Page Layouts</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Narrative Intersection of Image and Text: Teaching Panel Frames in Comics</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Part II: Social Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is There an African American Graphic Novel?</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching <em>Maus</em> to a Holocaust Class</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Weenie to Deal with All of This “Girl Stuff”: Women, Comics, and the Classroom</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Graphic Novel as a Choice of Weapons</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching <em>Watchmen</em> in the Wake of 9/11</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part III: Individual Creators

Chris Ware's Postmodern Pictographic Experiments 111
Anthony D. Baker

Teaching Paul Karasik and David Mazzucchelli’s Graphic Novel Adaptation of Paul Auster’s City of Glass 120
Martha Kuhlman

The Urban Studies of Ben Katchor 129
Mark Feldman

The Comics as Outsider’s Text: Teaching R. Crumb and Underground Comix 137
Edward Brunner

Revisionist Superhero Graphic Novels: Teaching Alan Moore’s Watchmen and Frank Miller’s Dark Knight Books 147
Darren Harris-Fain

Memory’s Architecture: American Studies and the Graphic Novels of Art Spiegelman 155
Dana A. Heller

Autobiographical: Making Do in Lynda Barry’s One Hundred Demons 163
Nathalie op de Beeck

Snow White in the City: Teaching Fables, Nursery Rhymes, and Revisions in Graphic Novels 172
Laurie N. Taylor

Graphic Fictions on Graphic Subjects: Teaching the Illustrated Medical Narrative 179
Frank L. Cioffi

The Boundaries of Genre: Translating Shakespeare in Antony Johnston and Brett Weldele’s Julius 188
J. Caitlin Finlayson

Steam Punk and the Visualization of the Victorian: Teaching Alan Moore’s The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen and From Hell 200
Christine Ferguson
Visualizing the Classics: Frank Miller’s 300 in a
World Literature Course
Paul D. Streufert

208

Part IV: Courses and Contexts

Seven Ways I Don’t Teach Comics
Joseph Witek

217

Teaching the Graphic Travel Narrative
M. G. Aune

223

Violent Encounters: Graphic Novels and Film in the
Classroom
John G. Nichols

230

Hero and Holocaust: Graphic Novels in the Undergraduate
History Classroom
Bryan E. Vizzini

238

It’s a Word! It’s a Picture! It’s Comics! Interdisciplinary
Approaches to Teaching Comics
Alison Mandaville and J. P. Avila

245

Comics and the Canon: Graphic Novels, Visual Narrative,
and Art History
Claudia Goldstein

254

Teaching Manga: Considerations and Class Exercises
Rachael Hutchinson

262

The Cultural Dimensions of the Hispanic World Seen
through Its Graphic Novels
Ana Merino
Translation by Derek Petrey and Elizabeth Polli

271

A Cultural Approach to Nonnarrative Graphic Novels:
A Case Study from Flanders
Jan Baetens

281

Interdisciplinary Meets Cross-Cultural: Teaching Anime
and Manga on a Science and Technology Campus
Pamela Gossin

288

Teaching Franco-Belgian Bande Dessinée
Michael D. Picone

299
### Part V: Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting the Teaching of the Graphic Novel:</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Role of the Academic Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Matz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Selected Bibliography of the Graphic Novel and Sequential Art</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes on Contributors</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>