

Graphic Non-fiction at NELA October 20, 2008
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American Widow Alissa Torres (Villard, 2008) How a pregnant woman copes with life after the death of her husband who had just started work in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.



To Dance: a ballerina's graphic novel Siena Cherson Siegel & Mark Siegel (S&S, 2006) For younger readers who want to know what the life of a ballerina is like!



Beowulf Gareth Hinds (Candlewick, 2007)
This is a wonderful re-telling of the heroic saga. It's beautifully illustrated and may appeal to fans of the film.



Houdini the Handcuff King (Hyperion, 2007) Jason Lutes & Nick Bertozzi
With extensive foreword and end notes, this focuses on one incident in Houdini's life while bringing in all sorts of information. This really caught my eye.



Satchel Paige: Striking Out Jim Crow (Hyperion, 2007) James Sturm & Rich Tomasso
Told by a man whose baseball career is cut short, we learn about Paige's amazing talent as well as the egregious treatment of blacks in the 1920s South.



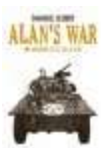
Midnight Sun Ben Towle, (SLG Publishing, 2007) In 1928, an Italian airship expedition to the North Pole has mysteriously disappeared. Excitement changes to uncertainty when the Italia and her international crew reach the pole, issue a celebratory radio communiqué, and are never heard from again.



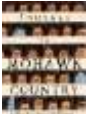
Missouri Boy Leland Myrick (First Second, 2006)
This is an interesting look back at life during simpler times. A memoir of life in the Midwest.



The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation Sid Jacobson & Ernie Colón (Hill & Wang, 2006) This is an illustrated and abridged version of the report.



Alan's War: the memories of G.I. Alan Cope Emmanuel Guibert (First Second 2008) One man's Army experience following the attack on Pearl Harbor when he was drafted and trained as a radio operator and tank driver, among other things. An amazing true story.



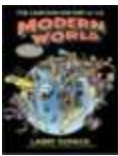
Journey into Mohawk Country George O'Connor (First Second 2006) Using an actual diary, the author illustrates one man's journey into unknown territory.



Alice in Sunderland Bryan Talbot (Dark Horse 2007) This is an interesting mix of history combining the story of Charles Dodson, author of the Alice stories, and the world he inhabited plus how it's changed over the years.



The Cartoon History of the Universe Larry Gonick (Collins, 1991) Gonick's hilarious yet informative history of the universe certainly deserves a spot on your shelf.



The Cartoon History of the Modern World Larry Gonick (Collins, 2007) This re-issue of a book first published in 1971 won't replace a textbook but it's accurate and humorous in parts along with being serious when it should be as well.



The Plot: the Secret History of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion Will Eisner (Norton 2006) This work by the master of comics has been described as more disturbing than fiction.



The Complete Maus Art Spiegelman (Pantheon, 1996) First published in 1986, this is the book that set the stage for graphic novels as we now know them. This is the author telling his parent's experience during the Holocaust, somewhat fictionalized since the Jews are mice and the Nazis are cats. It won a special Pulitzer prize in 1992.



The Complete Persepolis Marjane Satrapi (Pantheon, 2007) Now a film, this memoir of life in Iran is fascinating. Satrapi uses a style similar to Spiegelman, simple black and white illustrations to trace the story of life in Tehran during the Islamic revolution.



Clan Apis Jay Hosler (Active Synapse, 2000) A very fun book about how honey is produced in a hive and it belongs on anyone's shelf. Wonderfully illustrated and told from the point of view of the bees themselves!



The Borden Tragedy: a memoir of the Infamous Double Murder at Fall River, MA, 1892 Rick Geary (NBM, 1997) Reproducing actual newspaper articles at the end of the book give this title the authenticity needed for those who need to know more about this story.



Freddie & Me: A Coming-of-Age (Bohemian) Rhapsody Mike Dawson (Bloomsbury, 2008) Reflecting on his life through the music of the musical group Queen, a boy born in England moves to the states all while developing a real passion for Freddie Mercury and company.



Dignifying Science: stories about women scientists Jim Ottaviani (GT Labs, 2003) This book profiles women scientists whom most of us have probably not heard of yet but they're told in a very entertaining way.



Fallout : J. Robert Oppenheimer, Leo Szilard, and the political science of the atomic bomb Jim Ottaviani (GT Labs, 2001) Story of Oppenheimer and building the atomic bomb at Los Alamos during WWII. A great companion to other works about this period in history, it may help students better understand the issues.



Pride of Baghdad Brian K. Vaughan and Niko Henrichon (Vertigo, 2006) Based on a true story of the what happened to the zoo animals after the bombing of the city, the book is told from the point of view of the animals but it's very thought-provoking.



Age of Bronze A Thousand Ships: the Story of the Trojan War Eric Shanower (Image, 2001) You may already know this story from mythology but seeing it brought to life through the wonderful illustrations may be all it takes for a student to get hooked!



Barefoot Gen: A Cartoon story of Hiroshima Keiji Nakazawa (Last Gasp, 2004) First published over 20 years ago, this 4 volume set is a fictionalized account of life after the bomb was dropped in Japan. The story is told by a survivor and it's an amazing story, regardless of the liberties he may have taken. There is an extensive introduction and afterword which explains why he told his story this way.



Thoreau at Walden John Porcellino (Hyperion, 2008) Using the words of Thoreau and illustrating them with very simple line drawings, the author may open a few readers' eyes to the world of a very private man.