

GRAPHIC NOVEL GENRE STUDY DURING SCHOOLWIDE LITERACY PERIOD

A TINY CASE STUDY

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Stephanie Judge is the Library Media Specialist at the Sauk Prairie High School and Middle School. A former Academic and Government Information Librarian at the UW-Milwaukee Libraries, she made the transition to school libraries when she relocated to the Madison area with her family. She is in her second year at Sauk Prairie.

My goal was two-fold ...provide a fun way to present a graphic novel ...and, at the same time, ...turn them on to the wonderful selection of titles available to them on Sora.

THE PROBLEM

The Sauk Prairie Middle School has a 35 minute period each day called Schoolwide Literacy. We drop everything and each teacher reads to class for 20 minutes and then students read to self for 15 minutes.

In January, we establish genre groups and students select their preferred genre focus. As I teacher, I selected to lead the graphic novel genre group. The problem: *How do you display a graphic novel and read it out loud to 20-25 students at the same time?*

THE SOLUTION

My first thought went immediately to the idea of using a document camera to project the graphic novel to the screen for my 20+ students. I did not have a document camera immediately available, so that was not going to work."

It was at about the same time that our high school and middle school started participating in the WSDLC. I had noticed that Audisee titles were included in the audiobook collection. Audisee books combine professional narration and text highlighting.

The Audisee graphic novel titles were the perfect solution! The pages of the book are displayed so students can see the details of the artwork, At the same time, a professional narrator is reading the story. As the narrator reads, the words are highlighted in red and students can read-along.

We used several Audisee titles during the study, including *Odysseus*, the Trojan Horse and a graphic novel about September 11th and the Iraq War.

The WSDLC opens doors for our students in so many ways. My goal was two-fold with this particular group of students: provide a fun way to present a graphic novel to a larger group and, at the same time, turn them on to the wonderful selection of titles available to them on Sora.