



## Editor's Note The Year I Discovered Graphic Novels

By Sharon Verbeten

As a book lover, I always thought it seemed blasphemous when I declared, "I don't like graphic novels." In truth, I really hadn't given them much of a chance. I always had assumed their format would be difficult for me to follow—sensory overload, of sorts.

Of course I had been familiar with their popularity in my library—most pre-teens had asked for them. It made reader's advisory a bit more challenging if I hadn't read any, so I finally cracked one open—I started with *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson. The story really drew me in; I grew up in the 1970s, when roller derby was televised (and my parents let me watch it!). I was absorbed in the story, and by the time I was done, well, I guess I had read my first graphic novel!

I moved on to *Fish Girl*, illustrated by my fave of faves David Wiesner. While not as captivated by the story, I was drawn into the lushness of the atmospheric illustrations. And then, of course, I had to read the books I had long overlooked—but had been handing to patrons every day—*Sisters* and *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier.

But the book that may have hooked me for good was *Be Prepared* by Vera Brosgol. I loved her picturebook *Leave Me Alone!*, and the summer camp theme of her graphic novel was something I knew I could relate to. I was right.

I laughed. I winced. I reminisced.

I ended my year of discovery with Jarrett Krosoczka's *Hey, Kiddo*. Raw, authentic, and dark, it showed me the breadth of emotion that both graphic novels and memoirs can present and how they can expose an author and their thoughts. Amazing!

In short, I'm sold. I look forward to being better prepared to serve my patrons with books I can now heartily recommend from my own perspective. Just don't try to hook me on manga or anime . . . just yet! &

# Children & LIBRARIES

the journal of the  
Association for Library  
Service to Children

## Editor

Sharon Verbeten, De Pere, Wisconsin

## Editorial Advisory Committee

Anna Haase Krueger, Chair, Shoreview, Minnesota  
Rachée Fagg, Havertown, Pennsylvania  
Alyson Feldman-Piltch, Boston, Massachusetts  
Lettycia Terrones, Champaign, Illinois  
Lisa Von Drasek, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Linda Wessels, Champaign, Illinois

## Executive Director

Aimee Strittmatter

## Managing Editor

Laura Schulte-Cooper

## Website

[www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc)

## Circulation

*Children and Libraries* (ISSN 1542-9806) is a refereed journal published four times per year by the American Library Association (ALA), 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. It is the official publication of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA. Subscription price: members of ALSC, \$20 per year, included in membership dues; nonmembers, \$50 per year in the U.S.; \$60 in Canada, Mexico, and other countries. Back issues within one year of current issue, \$15 each. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Children and Libraries*, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Members send mailing labels or facsimile to Member Services, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Nonmember subscribers: Subscriptions, orders, changes of address, and inquiries should be sent to *Children and Libraries*, Customer Service—Subscriptions, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 1-800-545-2433, press 5; fax: (312) 944-2641; e-mail: [subscriptions@ala.org](mailto:subscriptions@ala.org).

## Statement of Purpose

*Children and Libraries* is the official journal of ALSC, a division of the American Library Association. The journal primarily serves as a vehicle for continuing education of librarians working with children, which showcases current scholarly research and practice in library service to children. It also serves as a vehicle for communication to the ALSC membership, spotlighting significant activities and initiatives of the Association. (From the journal's "Policies and Procedures" document adopted by the ALSC board, April 2004, revised, 2014.)

## Production

ALA Production Services: Tim Clifford, Chris Keech, and Lauren Ehle.

## Advertising

Bill Spilman, Innovative Media Solutions, 320 W. Chestnut St., PO Box 399, Oneida, IL 61467; 1-877-878-3260 or (309) 483-6467; fax: (309) 483-2371; e-mail: [bill@innovativemediasolutions.com](mailto:bill@innovativemediasolutions.com). The journal accepts advertising for goods or services of interest to the library profession and librarians in service to youth in particular. It encourages advertising that informs readers and provides clear communication between vendor and buyer. The journal adheres to ethical and commonly accepted advertising practices and reserves the right to reject any advertisement not suited to the above purposes or not consistent with the aims and policies of ALA. Acceptance of advertising in the journal does not imply official endorsement by ALA of the products or services advertised.

## Manuscripts

Manuscripts and letters pertaining to editorial content should be sent to Sharon Verbeten, editor, 820 Spooner Ct., De Pere, WI 54115; (920) 339-2740; e-mail: [CALeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:CALeditor@yahoo.com). Manuscripts will be sent out for review according to the journal's established referee procedures. See [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc), "Communications & Publications" for author guidelines. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer referee for manuscripts submitted to CAL, contact Editor Sharon Verbeten at [CALeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:CALeditor@yahoo.com). More information about the referee process is available on the web at the above address.

## Indexing, Abstracting, and Microfilm

*Children and Libraries* is indexed in *Library and Information Science Abstracts* and in *Library Literature and Information Science*.

*Children and Libraries* is indexed, abstracted, and available in full text through EBSCOhost. For more information, contact EBSCO at 1-800-653-2726.

*Children and Libraries* is also available from ProQuest Information and Learning in one or more of the following ways: online, via the ProQuest information service; microform; CD-ROM; and via database licensing. For more information, call 1-800-521-0600, ext. 2888 or online at [www.proquest.com](http://www.proquest.com).

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1992.

Copyright © 2019 American Library Association

All materials in this journal subject to copyright by the American Library Association may be photocopied for the noncommercial purpose of scientific or educational advancement granted by Sections 107 and 108 of the Copyright Revision Act of 1976. For other photocopying, reprinting, or translating, address requests to the ALA Office of Rights and Permissions.