

# EDUCATING THROUGH COMICS

## RESOURCE TOOLKIT FOR AMERICAN SPACES

*This Resource Toolkit is designed for programming at American Spaces to increase participants' awareness of comic books as educational tools and to understand the history and current expressions of this genre of American popular culture.*



"Christmas decorations - Charlie Brown and Sally read the Sunday comics" by kevin dooley is licensed under CC BY 2.0

### COMICS REFLECT SOCIETY

Comic books can take the reader on compelling journeys of the imagination. They can also explore real social issues and create empathy for others. Here are some more websites showing the diversity in comics for your American Space:

- [Wakanda to Smithsonian](#)
- [NPR 'Black Panther' Costume Designer](#)
- [Priya: India's 1st Superhero takes on Covid-19](#)
- [Female writers, artists working in comics today](#)
- [26 of the Greatest Black Characters in Comic Book History](#)
- [15 Amazing Latinx Comic Book Superheroes](#)
- [15 Amazing Asian Superheroes](#)
- [15 Disabled Superheroes who inspire us](#)
- [10 Greatest Female Comic Book Superheroes](#)

### COMIC BOOKS CREATE A LOVE OF READING

With their intense visuals and focus on plot and characters, comic books are often enjoyed more by readers than other forms of literary media. In recent years, comic books have increased their appeal from just a niche market to becoming a force in popular culture.

### TEACHING WITH COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS

From the Department of State's Office of English Language Programs' *American English* collection, the "Panels and Perspectives" online teaching resource kit includes insights, strategies, and practical applications for making comics in the classroom to improve both language skills and critical thinking abilities. You'll find lesson plans and activities using - and making - comics that students will enjoy. [Click here to find comics related materials for English language learning.](#)

[American English: Panels & Perspectives Creating EFL Comics](#)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of STATE  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

## RESOURCES

Comic Conventions around the world - is there a "ComicCon" near you?

How to make your first comic book

Voice of America: What It's Like to Be a Comic Artist

Five Comic Strip Activities for Writing on the First Day of School

NPR: 100 Favorite Comics and Graphic Novels

NPR: Old School Comics Continue To Shape Comics

Smithsonian: Superheroes

Smithsonian: American History Museum - Comic Books

AVENGERS Comic Fights COVID-19 Misinformation in NY

Priya: India's 1st Superhero takes on Covid-19

Priya's Mask - Shakti



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## *For Further Reading and Viewing*

from Share America:

- There is a new American superhero
- Kaboom! Comic books address hard issues
- Japanese manga comic tells story of Uyghur oppression

**TED Talk: Comics Belong in the Classroom**

**Year: 2016**

**Duration: 11 minutes**

Comic books and graphic novels belong in every teacher's toolkit says educator Gene Luen Yang.

**TED Talk: Changing perceptions by drawing**

**Year: 2020**

**Duration: 11 minutes**

As a child, Shawn Martinbrough rarely saw people of color depicted positively in the comic books he loved. After landing a job at Marvel Comics, he vowed to change that.