Heroes and Legends: African-American Identity in Graphic Novels and Comic Books

This thesis compares the short stories of Richard Wright in Uncle Tom's Children and Alice Walker's The Third Life of Grange Copeland with Rep. John Lewis and Andrew Ayden's graphic novel March: Book I, Max Brooks's Harlem Hellfighters, and Dwayne McDuffie's comic book collections “Icon: Mothership Connection” and “Icon: A Hero's Welcome.” The comparison will show the ability of graphic narratives to contribute to the broader discussion of racial identity while highlighting the similarities between the examples. This thesis sheds light on the graphic narrative genre as a staple in the identity of many black Americans.

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Abstract
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URI
http://hdl.handle.net/10342/5131

Subject
Fanon, Frantz; Multidimensional Model of Racial Identity; Hooks, Bell; Self-esteem; Milestone Media

Date
2015-12-15

Citation:
APA:

Collections
English
Let's Get Graphic: 100 Favorite Comics And Graphic Novels. Facebook. Twitter. Alan Moore's jaundiced deconstruction of the American superhero — "What if they were horny, insecure sociopaths?"— is showing its age, given that it continues to inspire hordes of lesser, grim-and-gritty imitators. Comics nerds are a nitpicky, combative lot, so whenever Will Eisner's collection of comics short stories gets called "the first graphic novel," the "um, actually"s descend like so many neck-bearded locusts to remind everyone about Rodolphe Topffer and Lynd Ward and to point out that it's not a novel, it's a collection of stories. American comic books assesses themes of gender and racial representation with a thorough definition of character agency. We predict that white men will be the heroines' portrayals in the selected comic books published by DC Comics and Marvel. Passage,1(2):119-124. Reyns, B.W. & Henson, B. (2010). Superhero justice: The depiction of crime and justice in modern-age comic books and graphic novels. Popular Culture, Crime, and Social Control, 14:45-66. Comic books and graphic novels are no exception to this trend. Despite this, these media have received comparatively little attention from criminal justice scholars. This chapter seeks to explore the depiction of crime and justice in modern-era comic books and graphic novels.