

Lewis & Clark

By: Nick Bertozzi

Grade Level Targeted:

5th

Genre:

Graphic Novel

Bibliographic Citation:

Bertozzi, Nick. (2011). *Lewis & Clark*. New York: First Second.

Summary:

This graphic novel tells the adventures of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their westward expedition. The reader goes on the journey with Lewis and Clark from January 1803 until 1834. The journey takes the readers to Camp Dubois, to meetings with different Indian tribes, and to the first glimpse of the Pacific Ocean. Through this graphic novel, readers will get insight into one of the most important journeys and traumatic stories in American history. What was once only told in history textbooks, is now told in an engaging and exciting graphic novel.

Rationale for Selection:

I chose this graphic novel because I am constantly trying to find ways to make learning more interesting and engaging to students. I remember how much I disliked reading out of a history book in school, and I want to find different ways to present the same information, found in textbooks, to students. I thought that students might enjoy reading the stories of American History out of a comic book better. Also, I chose this graphic novel because the graphics were really engaging. The story can almost be told from just looking at the graphics because the facial expressions of the characters and the scenery are depicted so well.

Strengths of Trailer:

I really liked how I started out asking the students questions to draw them in. Also, I know the majority of the students would rather read out of a comic book, so asking them those questions would get them excited about what was to come. I also liked how I took pictures right from the book. That way, students will be able to get an idea of how the graphic novel will read and look. Finally, I liked how I used energizing and upbeat music during the trailer because that will keep the students engaged as well as the graphics.

Implementation Ideas:

I would use this trailer in three ways with my future students. I would use this trailer as an introduction to a lesson on the Lewis & Clark Expedition. If I was teaching a younger grade than 5th, I would just use the trailer for the lesson, and not read the graphic novel as well because the graphic novel would be too much for any grade younger than 5th grade. Also, I would use this trailer during a unit on genres. When talking about the genre of graphic novels, I would play the trailer to show an example of a graphic novel. Finally, I would use this trailer as an example for a project I would have my students do. I would have my students create a book trailer as a form of a book report during the year. As a project, the students would have to choose a book, read the book, and create a book trailer to persuade readers to read the book they chose.