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# NEWS RELEASE

Attn: Education Desk and Entertainment Desk

March 10, 2010  
No. 89

## **CITY OF READERS RECOMMENDS: COLORFUL READING SELECTIONS**

Believing everyone will love to read if they find the right books, City of Readers is recommending five books for readers of various ages and interests to enjoy this spring.

In honor of Free Comic Book Day (FCBD) on Saturday, May 1, 2010, City of Readers is recommending a selection of award-winning and popular graphic novels that cover a range of genres and topics. City of Readers Recommends is also launching its first two contests. Kids under 12 could win inspirational Spider-Man artwork and those age 12 and older could win a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card. Entry is free for all San Bernardino City Unified School District students and their families. For contest rules, visit [www.sbcusd.com/cityofreaders](http://www.sbcusd.com/cityofreaders) or watch the IEMG (local cable access channel 3) Community Bulletin Board. The contest ends March 24.

City of Readers is a school-community-business partnership launched by the San Bernardino City Unified School District. It promotes the idea that literacy is a gateway skill to success in school and life and encourages children and adults to read for education and pleasure.

Visit [www.sbcusd.com/cityofreaders](http://www.sbcusd.com/cityofreaders) to read previous installments of City of Readers Recommends.

### Recommendations for spring 2010

**For Young Children:** *Mini Marvels Ultimate Collection*, written and illustrated by Chris Giarrusso

Children and parents will enjoy the all-ages adventures of Marvel characters such as Spider-Man, Wolverine, Hulk, and Iron Man. Join Spider-Man on his newspaper route or Wolverine as he goes on a quest for cereal in this collection of the Mini Marvels strips that originally ran in the back of Marvel's comic books.

For more information, visit Marvel's website at [www.marvel.com](http://www.marvel.com) and type "Mini Marvels Ultimate" in the search bar.

**For Older Children:** *Dinosaurs Across America*, written and illustrated by Phil Yeh

This fun, educational book chronicles the adventures of Patrick Rabbit and the Reading Dinosaurs as they visit each of the 50 states. Told in comic-book style, the story provides information on each state, including its capital, the year it became a state, and fun geographic and historical facts.

*Dinosaurs Across America* won the Editor's Choice Award from Library Media Connection and the Children's Choice Award from the Children's Book Council.

For more information or to read excerpts from the book, visit Phil Yeh's website at [www.wingedtiger.com/](http://www.wingedtiger.com/) and select the *Dinosaurs Across America* book cover image or the books and products logo at the bottom of the page.

**For Teens:** *Batman: Hush*, written by Jeph Loeb and illustrated by Jim Lee and Scott Williams

Someone knows Batman's secret identity and he or she is using that information to wage a physical and psychological war against the Dark Knight. Even Batman's many allies, from Robin to Catwoman, may not be enough to help him survive this fight when ghosts of Batman's past seem to be returning from the grave.

With a brief retelling of Batman's origin and appearances by characters including Superman and Ra's al Ghul, *Batman: Hush* can be enjoyed by both new and long-time Batman fans.

For more information, visit DC Comics at [www.dccomics.com/dcu/graphic\\_novels/](http://www.dccomics.com/dcu/graphic_novels/) and scroll the list for *Batman: Hush*. Please note that the *Batman: Hush* softcover graphic novel collects the story printed in the hardcover *Batman: Hush Vol. 1* and *Batman: Hush Vol. 2*.

**For Adults:** *The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale*, written and illustrated by Art Spiegelman

Winner of the 1992 Pulitzer Prize and an Eisner Award, this black-and-white graphic novel looks at the ramifications of the Holocaust through the autobiographical tale of Spiegelman and his parents. Spiegelman's parents are concentration camp survivors, but despite their new life in New York, they are unable to completely leave behind their former lives as Jews in Poland during the Holocaust. The actions of Nazi Germany continue to haunt them and, through them, affect the lives of their friends and family.

For more information, visit the publisher's website at [www.randomhouse.com](http://www.randomhouse.com) and type "Maus" in the search bar.

**Special Interest–Shojo Manga:** *Kitchen Princess vol. 1*, story by Miyuki Kobayashi and manga by Natsumi Ando

*Manga* (Japanese comic books) often attracts female readers who might not otherwise read graphic novels. This is especially true of *shojo manga*, which usually focuses more on character development and relationships, both romance and friendship. Over the last few years, several popular *shojo* titles have been translated and published for an English-reading audience, ranging from children’s titles to stories more appropriate for teenagers and adults.

*Kitchen Princess* is geared toward pre-teens and teens with its story of a girl trying to fit in at an exclusive school. Najika is an orphan with an exceptional talent for cooking. One day, her dream of attending the prestigious Seika Academy comes true, but she finds that fitting in with her wealthy, privileged classmates might not be as easy as she thinks. Najika’s positive attitude and delicious desserts eventually help her win over her classmates.

Each volume of *Kitchen Princess* spotlights different foods and includes the recipes so readers can try them with parental supervision. Other bonus material includes explanations of Japanese cultural references and honorifics. Although translated into English, *Kitchen Princess* reads Japanese style, right to left.

For more information or to read a preview of volume 1, visit the Del Rey Manga website at [www.randomhouse.com/delrey/manga](http://www.randomhouse.com/delrey/manga) and enter “Kitchen Princess” in the search bar.

Free Comic Book Day (FCBD) is an annual event sponsored by comic book and graphic novel publishers, including Marvel, DC Comics, Dark Horse Comics, Image Comics, Archie Comics, and more. Free comics specifically printed for FCBD are available at participating comic book stores on the first Saturday in May. For more information and a list of participating comic book stores, visit [www.freecomikbookday.com](http://www.freecomikbookday.com).

As with all media, parents are encouraged to review all books and graphic novels before letting a child read them independently. City of Readers believes that only an involved parent knows what is best for his or her child.

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