

The background of the slide is an abstract watercolor-style illustration in shades of purple, blue, and white. The colors are blended and layered, creating a textured, organic feel. The text is centered over this background.

Reading the *Secret Path*: Graphic Novels

Learning Objectives

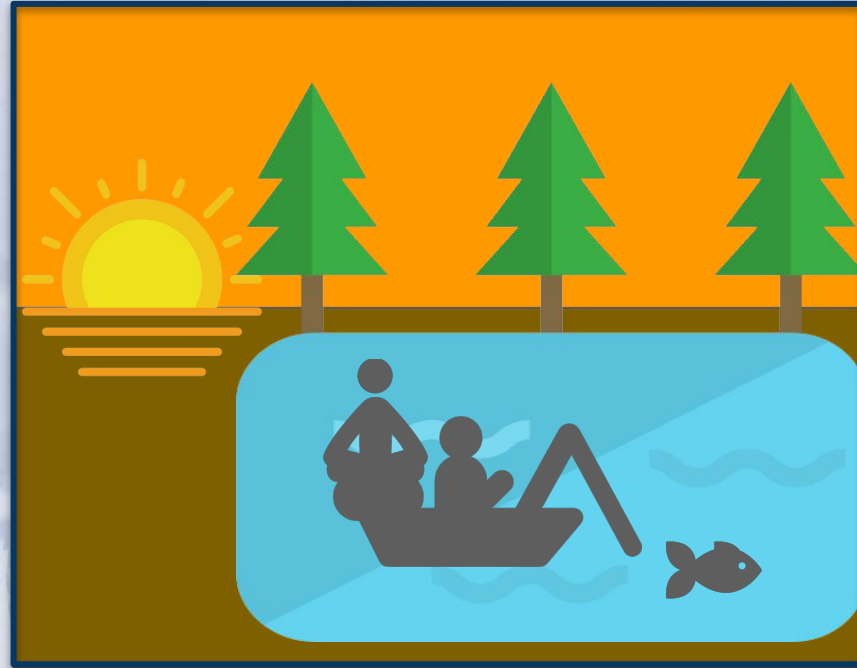
- Explore how graphic novels use words and pictures to tell a story.
- Match pictures and words from the Secret Path graphic novel.
- Evaluate the Secret Path with your own graphic novel essay.

How well does this slide tell a story?

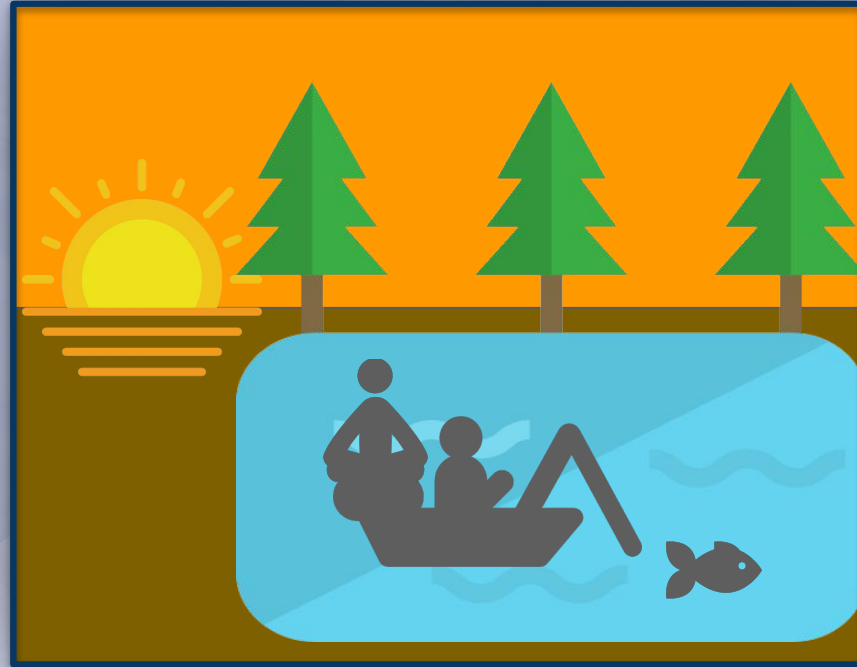


**“My father and I went
back to the place that we
used to visit.”**

How well does this slide tell a story?



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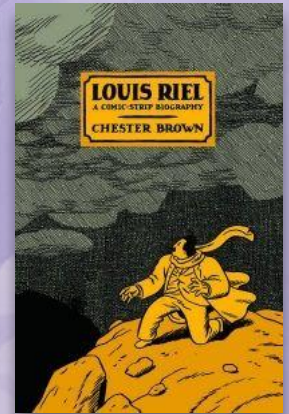
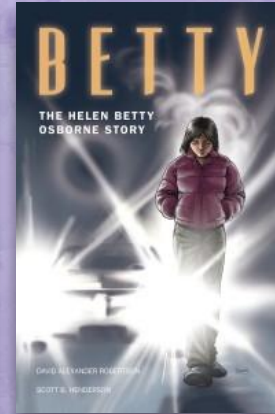
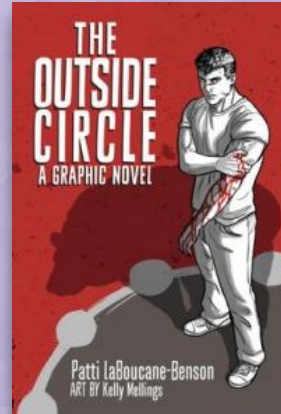
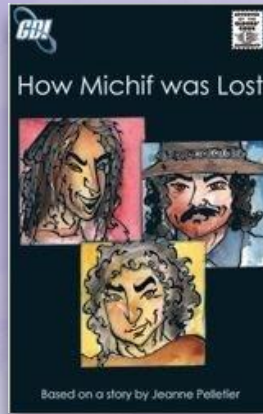
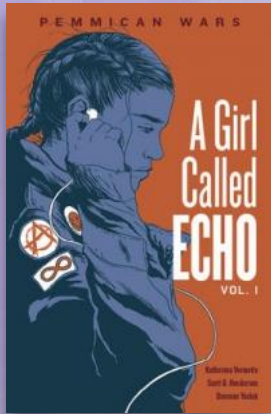
Words and Pictures

Together, words and pictures can sometimes tell a stronger story than if these pieces were on their own.

Graphic Novels

Graphic Novels:

Book-length stories that are told through comic strip art, or other combinations of words and pictures.



Graphic Novels

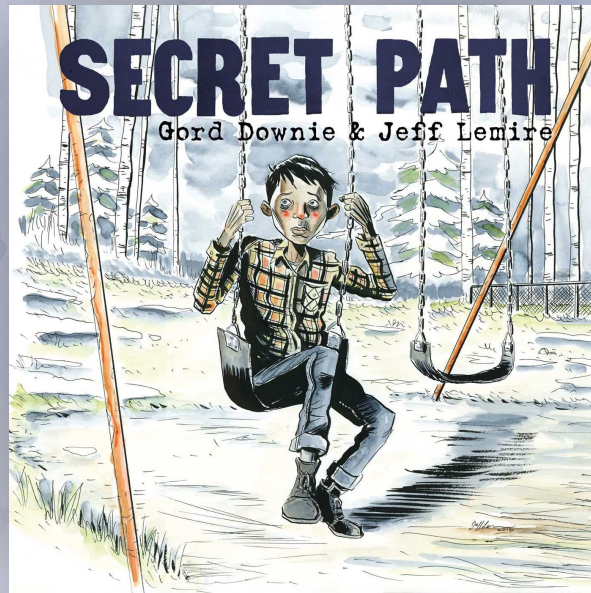
Can you think of any examples of graphic novels?

Share these titles with the class and come up with a class reading list of graphic novels.



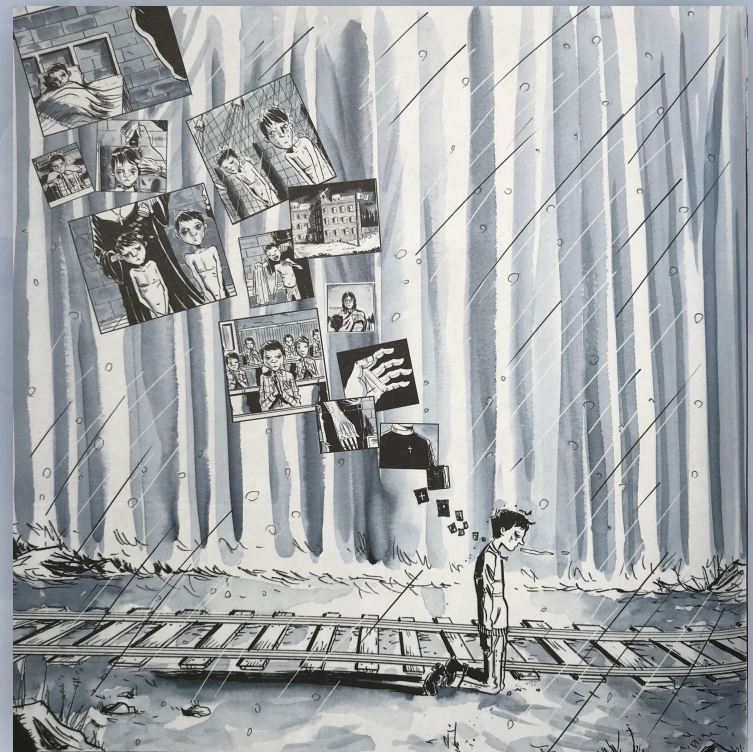
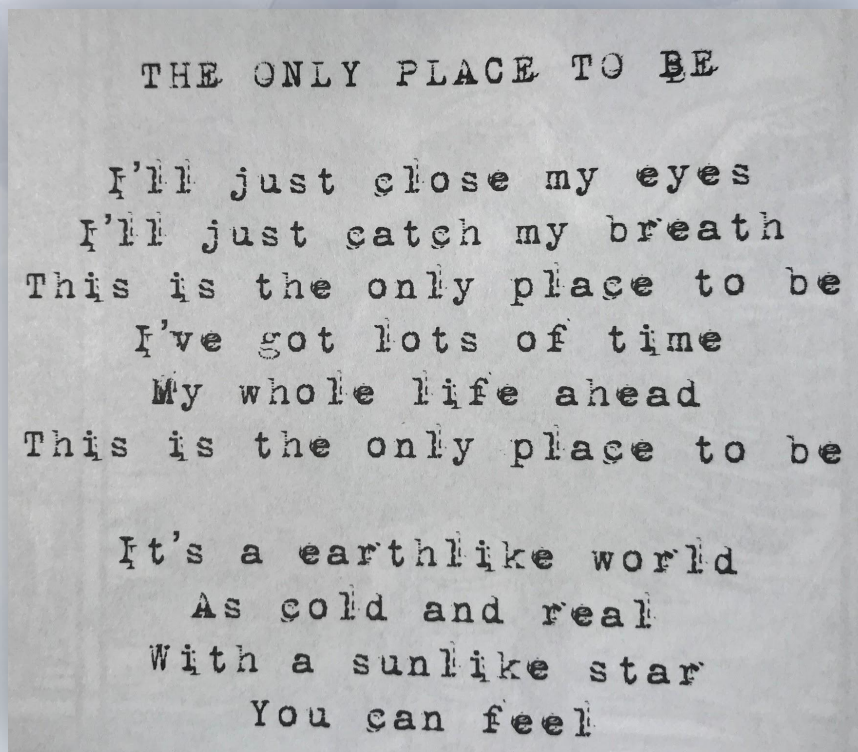
The Secret Path Graphic Novel

This book tells Chanie Wenjack's story through words from Gord Downie's songs and illustrations from Jeff Lemire.



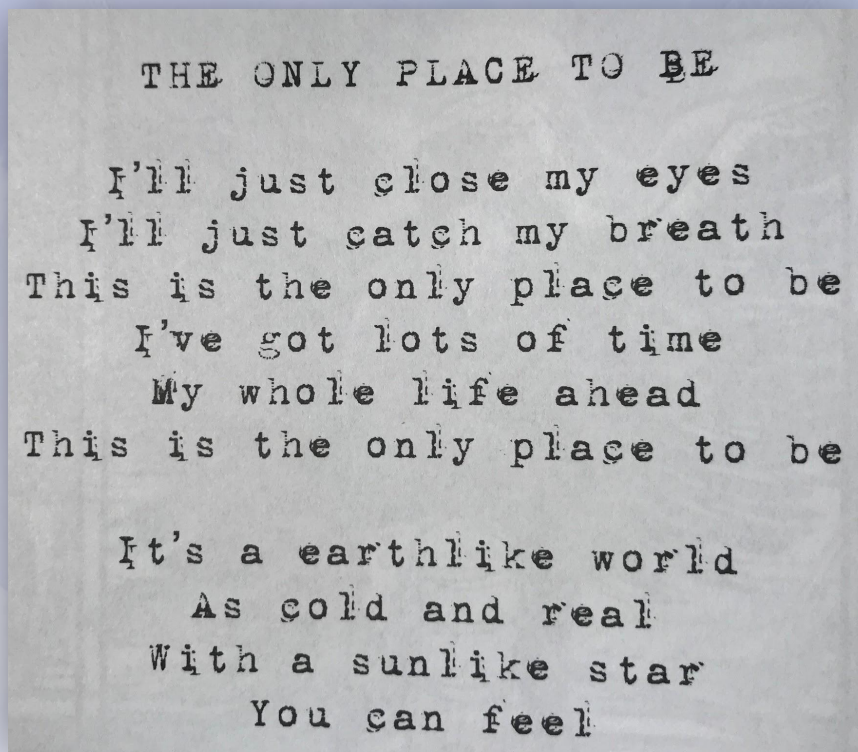
The Secret Path Graphic Novel

Each chapter uses comic book art to represent a different song.



Discuss:

How does this image use art to illustrate what the words are describing?



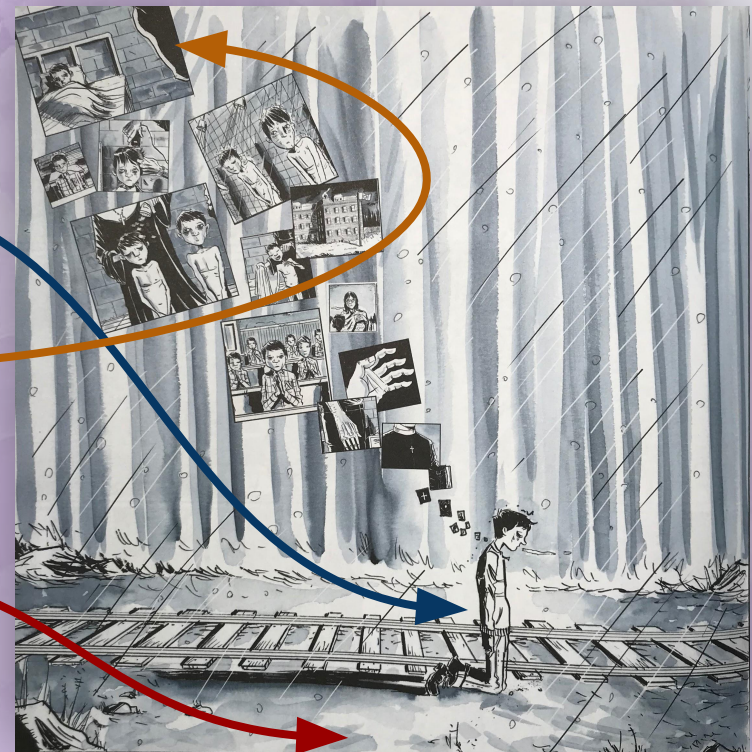
Think About...

The way that the different parts of the image illustrate and show what the words mean.

THE ONLY PLACE TO BE

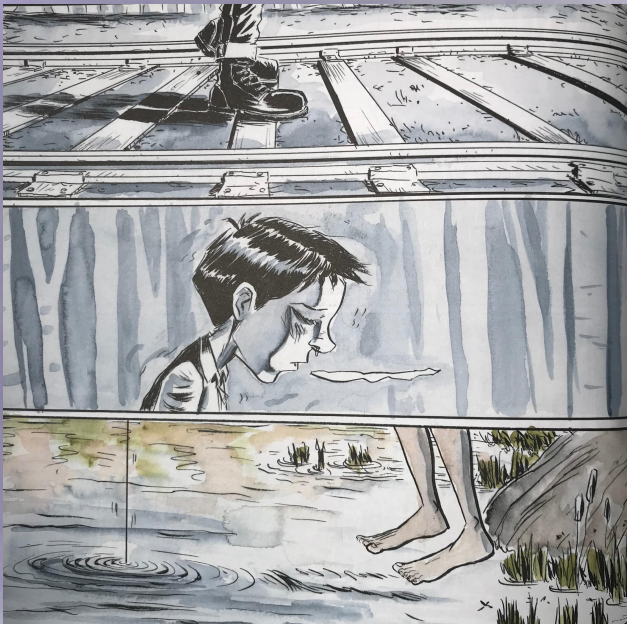
I'll just close my eyes
I'll just catch my breath
This is the only place to be
I've got lots of time
My whole life ahead
This is the only place to be

It's a earthlike world
As cold and real
With a sunlike star
You can feel



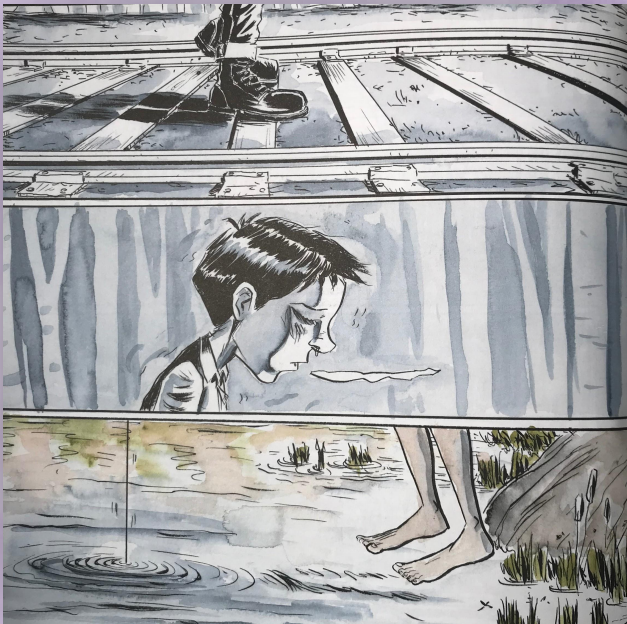
The Secret Path Graphic Novel

The illustrations can sometimes describe what Chanie thinks and feels without using any words at all.



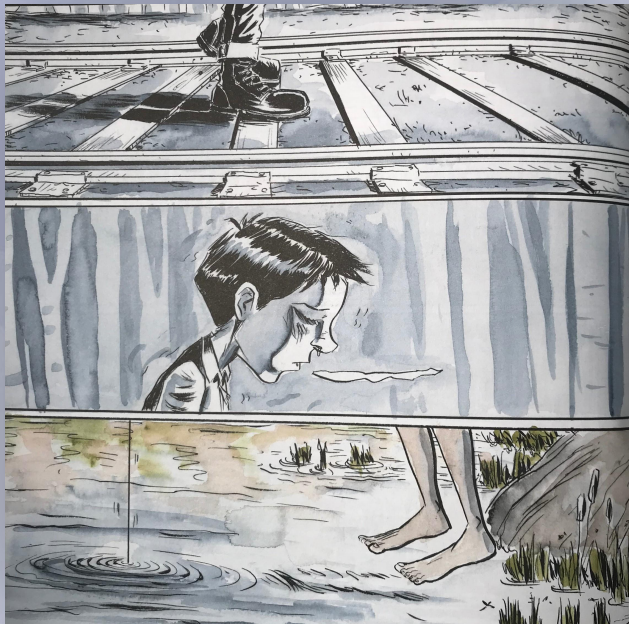
Discuss:

How does this image use colour to tell Chanie's story?



Think About...

Could the change in colour represent a happier memory from Chanie's life?



Activity

Matching Words and Pictures

Your teacher will split the class up into groups.

Each group will get a different sequence of images from Secret Path.

Activity

Matching Words and Pictures

Each group will get a booklet with the song lyrics from Secret Path.

Work with your group to decide which song your images represent.

Activity

Matching Words and Pictures

Each group will share their answers with the class and explain their reasoning.

Activity

Create Your Own Graphic Novel Essay

Question: How does Jeff Lemire use illustrations to complement and communicate Chanie Wenjack's story?

Answer this question individually by creating an essay in the form of a short graphic novel.

Activity

Create Your Own Graphic Novel Essay

Use words and pictures to explain and evaluate the storytelling of the Secret Path graphic novel.

The pictures can show examples from the graphic novel, or represent how you feel about it.

Activity

Create Your Own Graphic Novel Essay

You can organize your graphic novel in any way you like. Your teacher can also give you a template to work from.

Your teacher will give you a suggested length, a due date, and collect your graphic novel when completed.

Tips For Your Essay

Think about:

What is the purpose of Jeff Lemire's illustrations?

Who is the audience for this graphic novel?

What art techniques does Jeff Lemire use to make sure his audience understands the story?

How is Jeff Lemire able to transform Gord Downie's words into pictures?

How well does this art tell Chanie Wenjack's story?

What does it do well? How could it be improved?

Credits:

Secret Path resources are used with permission from The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund.