

GAME/ACTIVITY | OUTSIDE PRESENTER OPTIONAL

# GRAPHIC MEDICINE BOOK CLUB: VETERANS' STORIES

## CREDIT AND EVALUATION

This health program was developed in partnership with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM). Your feedback is encouraged. <https://nnlm.gov/Zkj>

## AGES

Teens or adults

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This book club program uses graphic novels about veterans to explore veterans' experiences and health. See Resources discussion guides, including questions about *At War with Yourself* (2016) and *When I Returned* (2016).

## BACKGROUND

Research suggests that we are better at understanding and absorbing information presented in visual forms, such as comics. Stories are more engaging than factual information alone. It is much easier to remember and empathize with something a friend has experienced than with hard statistics.

Coined by Ian Williams, a physician in the United Kingdom, graphic medicine "is the intersection of the medium of comics and the discourse of healthcare." Graphic medicine combines visual storytelling and medicine, creating a unique opportunity for readers to experience and learn about healthcare experiences through comics.

## MATERIALS

- Copies of book club books
- Educational materials
- Snacks (optional)

## SPACE

Meeting room

## PERSONNEL

## IDEAS:

Consider asking a veteran in your community to talk about their experiences at a teen or adult book club. You might also partner with a veterans' organization to run this program for veterans. Be sensitive to the needs of your local veteran community.

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One staff member or volunteer

## RESOURCES

### Web

CCS: *When I Returned*

<https://gumroad.com/l/whenireturned>

NNLM: Graphic medicine book clubs

<https://nnlm.gov/ner/graphic-medicine>

NNLM: Summer health programming

<https://nnlm.gov/initiatives/summer-reading>

About graphic medicine

<https://www.graphicmedicine.org>

The Center for Cartoon Studies (CCS)

<https://www.cartoonstudies.org>

MedlinePlus: Veterans and military health

<https://bit.ly/2CrZ81p>

<https://bit.ly/2XT4VpB>

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs: National Center for PTSD

<https://www.ptsd.va.gov>

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs: Mental health

<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov>

### Adult Nonfiction

Guibert, Emmanuel. *Alan's War: The Memories of G.I. Alan Cope*. First Second, 2008. 978-1596430969.

Johnson, Brian David, Jan Egleson, Laila Milevski, and Karl Stevens. *MWD: Hell is Coming Home*. Candlewick Press, 2017. 978-0763657062.

McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*. William Morrow, 1994. 978-0060976255.

Trudeau, G. B. *The Long Road Home: One Step at a Time*. Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2005. 978-0740753855.

Trudeau, G. B. *Signature Wound: Rocking TBI*. Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2010. 978-0740791963.

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Trudeau, G. B. *The War Within: One More Step at a Time*. Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2016. 978-0740762024.

Tyler, Carol. *Soldier's Heart: The Campaign to Understand My WWII Veteran Father: A Daughter's Memoir*. Fantagraphics Books, 2015. 978-1606998960.

Williams, Samuel. *At War with Yourself*. Singing Dragon, 2016. 978-1848192959.