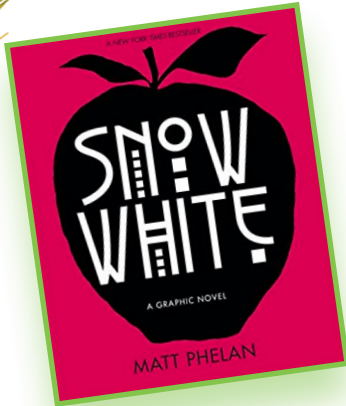


CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



Snow White: A Graphic Novel

Written and Illustrated by Matt Phelan
216 pages / Grades 4-8

Not your typical Snow White! This creative twist on a traditional favorite is set in New York City in the Roaring Twenties and will appeal to both readers and non-readers. Familiar characters are given a unique twist and create a book that reads like a film and few will see as a traditional fairy tale. History meets fantasy in a book that will allow you to delve into many layers of meaning.

C

Context

Set in the **1920s**, the book brings strong recognition to the contrast between the glamour of the era and the darkness of the **Great Depression** and the **Stock Market Crash**. References are also made to Hooverville and the Rockefellers.

Wordless picture books as a genre. There is a great deal of **inferencing** throughout the novel and a reminder of the importance of really reading pictures.

Structure of graphic novels.

A

Arts

Illustrations are a mix of **watercolor** and **pencil**, adding strong **atmospheric elements**. Aligns perfectly to the film noir feel of the book, with interesting minimal color **choices**. **Light and dark** become both literal and figurative features. The style lends itself to film noir, which also aligns to the way the book is structures.

The **history of Broadway and the arts** - from Ziegfeld and his costumes to the glitz of old Broadway to the treasured Macy's holiday windows.

T

Themes

Perseverance

Good vs. Evil

Friendship and dedication

What motivates people to make certain choices?

Good always prevails

Light vs. Dark

C

Create

Choose a historical era to place a different fairy tale in. Consider why this one worked so well in the 1920s. What makes a good fit with history and fairy tale? Can students align the fictional fairy tale characters with true historical characters?

Launch into a study of the style of Art Deco, using the cover as a launching point, along with the fashion in the book.

Study the history of Macy's Holiday windows. How have they aligned to world events and styles over the years?

H

Heart Words

"...her rise has been as stunning as it is meteoric"

"The city is beautiful too. It has it's own magic"

A largely wordless graphic novel. Find an image, a box that speaks to you ahead of reading this with students. Construct your own story around it. Why does it speak to you?

