WILL EISNER
FATHER OF THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
MAY I HELP YOU?

YES.

WE WANT COMIC BOOKS.

AT THE LIBRARY, MOST COMICS ARE BOOKS WE CALL GRAPHIC NOVELS. LET ME SHOW YOU HOW TO FIND THEM.

SHH.

I WANT THE NEW DC COMIC MERA: TIDEBREAKER BOOK.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT. I LIKE HISTORY AND SPORTS BOOKS.

SHH.

SEE THIS HERE. IT SAYS "GRAPHIC J" WHICH MEANS "GRAPHIC JUVENILE." SOME GRAPHIC NOVELS ARE CATALOGUED IN 741.5 BASED ON THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM. AT THIS LIBRARY WE PUT ALL THE JUVENILE GRAPHIC NOVELS IN ONE SECTION.

SHH.

LET ME SHOW YOU WHERE THE GRAPHIC J SECTION IS.

THANK YOU!
There are many genres of graphic novels. You'll find plenty of choices.

As a matter of fact, he's a big part of the reason we have graphic novels in the library. His name is Will Eisner. Many people call him the father of the graphic novel.

Why?

Eisner thought comics belonged on the shelf like other books.

He was right!

Most credit him with the term "graphic novel."

I love drawing.

Me, too.

Will Eisner was born on March 6, 1917 in Brooklyn, NY. As a child, he loved reading comic strips in the newspaper and drawing.

Maybe we can make graphic novels.
"That is how Eisner started. He drew comics for his high school newspaper."

"In 1940, he created one of his most famous comics about a masked crime fighter."

"Did he only make detective comics?"

"No, he created many kinds of comics and what he would later call "graphic novels.""

"...like memoirs, classic retellings, nonfiction, fiction..."

"He showed that graphic novels could teach a lot of different people and be in a lot of different genres..."

"...and he even wrote books on how to write and draw graphic novels too."

"Eisner always loved not only writing graphic novels, but also learning and teaching students about them."

"He wrote textbooks to teach others how to tell stories using sequential art and created the American Visuals Corporation..."

"...dedicated to creating comics for educational and commercial purposes."
Here is where you will find many different kinds of graphic novels, both fiction and non-fiction especially.

Will Eisner spent his life creating graphic novels that could be on these shelves. He inspired generations of new writers and artists. Maybe he could inspire you two to write your own graphic novels as well.

Seeing all these books would make him happy.

This sticker says... "Eisner" on it?

"The Eisner Award is a very important award in comics. Eisner Awards are given out every summer when people from all over the world travel to San Diego for a famous comic book convention."
I found all these books to check out.

Me, too.

Be sure to come back next week for "Will Eisner Week."

We have fun graphic novel reading and writing activities planned, and Eisner would probably love it if you came to the library again to find out more.

Thank you.