

Dare to know

Historical Comics

Comics set during a recognizable historical period prior to the time in which they were written.

A genre in which stories take place in the past, typically fifty years before the time of publication. Another common distinction is that the author is writing from research rather than personal experience. These books often center around imaginary characters who experience real historical events and interact with real-life figures. The genre is often enriched by historically accurate details from the specific time period. Indeed, the goal of historical comics is to maintain authenticity around the time period, with a focus on accurately portraying customs, traditions, and events of the time. If anachronisms do occur, their presence is often in service to a narrative purpose. Protagonists could be depicted as being responsible, perhaps secretly, for pivotal moments that affect the historical events in which they become entangled. However, the author will normally not allow them to alter the course of known history. Hal Foster's *Prince Valiant in the Days of King Arthur* (1937-ongoing), Peyo's *Lord Basenhau's Punishment* (1952), Victor Mora and Miguel Ambrosio Zaragoza's *El Capitán Trueno* (1956-1968), and Jean-Michel Charlier and Victor Hubinon's *Barbe-Rouge* (1959) are classic examples.

Common Elements

Authentic periods in history	Plots that mix real situations and fictional events	Vivid descriptions
Real historical places	Accurate dialogue	Realistic characters
Historical conflicts		

Graphic Novel Examples

300 (1998) by Frank Miller	<i>Babylon Berlin</i> (2018) by Arne Jysch
<i>Age of Bronze: A Thousand Ships</i> (2001) by Eric Shanower	<i>Berlin: City of Stones Book One</i> (1996) by Jason Lutes
<i>Alvar Mayor Book 1: The Legend of El Dorado</i> (2022) by Carlos Trillo and Enrique Breccia	<i>Boxers</i> (2013) by Gene Luen Yang
	<i>Civil War Adventure</i> (2015) by Chuck Dixon and Gary Kwapisz

<i>The Groo Chronicles Volume 1</i> (1989) by Sergio Aragonés	<i>Prince Valiant Volume 1</i> (2009) by Hal Foster
<i>Hark! A Vagrant</i> (2011) by Kate Beaton	<i>Queen of the Sea</i> (2019) by Dylan Meconis
<i>Hicksville</i> (1998) by Dylan Horrocks	<i>The Storm in the Barn</i> (2009) by Matt Phelan
<i>The Journey Saga Volume One: Tall Tales</i> (1987) by William Messner-Loebs	<i>Three Volume 1</i> (2014) by Kieron Gillen, Ryan Kelly, and Jordie Bellair
<i>Laika</i> (2007) by Nick Abadzis	
<i>Northlanders Book One: Sven the Returned</i> (2008) by Brian Wood and Davide Gianfelice	