

BARTON

LIBRARY

Dare to know

Manga

*A distinctive style of comic books and graphic novels originally produced and published in Japan. Manga is the Japanese word for “humorous pictures,” and the term is used in the United States to describe the style of the works. In keeping with the traditional Japanese reading pattern, manga is normally read from top-to-bottom and right-to-left. They are normally published in dedicated manga anthology magazines in Japan on a weekly or monthly basis (similar to American serials), and collections of chapters may be translated and reprinted in graphic novel format (*tankōbon*) for foreign audiences. Many manga series run through multiple volumes and may span years, even decades.*

Common Elements

Large eyes and small mouths (optional noses)
Exaggerated ear shapes and sizes
Physical traits drawn to elicit emotional responses

Expressive dialogue bubbles
Abstract background effects
Cultural references

There are five editorial categories for Japanese comics, each one marketed to a specific target demographic based on age and gender: *Kodomomuke*, *Shōnen*, *Shōjo*, *Seinen*, and *Josei*.
