



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2026

Graphic Novels: Reading Beyond Words

Graphic novels are a great way to engage students in storytelling and visual literacy. In this hands-on workshop, educators will explore the art of sequential narrative and how words and images work together to tell a story. Participants will practice “reading” pictures, examining how illustrators use composition, perspective, pacing, and visual details to convey meaning, and exploring a diverse selection of graphic novels for young readers.

Teachers will leave with new strategies for helping students analyze visual stories, strengthen comprehension, and create their own sequential narratives in the classroom.

Audience: For grades 3–8 teachers and librarians, preservice teachers.

Time Commitment: 2 hours.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Courtney Waring is IRW’s Executive Director. With more than 25 years in education and the arts, Courtney is devoted to promoting literacy, access, and meaningful learning opportunities for all children. She holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Art History, along with a graduate-level certification in elementary education. Before joining IRW, she held increasingly senior roles in the education departments of the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, the Delaware Art Museum, The Barnes Foundation, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.