Graphic novels for 7 year olds: where to start

Peabody blog · Reading · updated 2026-10-30

Graphic novels for 7 year olds: the ten comic series to start with, whose age each one is (the publisher's or our estimate), and what reading them is like at seven.

For a 7-year-old, start with a comic series that has big panels and short speech bubbles: Dog Man, Cat Kid Comic Club, The Bad Guys, Babymouse, Lunch Lady or CatStronauts. Each one has several books, so a child who likes the first has somewhere to go, and each is labelled for seven by its publisher or by us, said plainly. Graphic novels and comic series for 7-year-olds is the page that lists them all, with a checklist on every series.

Seven is a sweet spot for comics. Many children can read a speech bubble alone by now but still find a page of solid text hard work, and a comic lets the pictures carry the story while the words catch up. It is also the age at which series start to matter: a seven-year-old who loves one book wants the next one, today.

How the age page chooses

Every series Peabody lists has a starting age and an oldest age it still suits. The age page for seven shows every series that starts at seven or younger and hasn't been outgrown by seven, in three groups. As of 30 October 2026, thirteen series fit age seven:

Start here (it starts at six or seven):

- Series: Dog Man · By: Dav Pilkey · Ages, and whose: 7+, Scholastic
- Series: Cat Kid Comic Club · By: Dav Pilkey · Ages, and whose: 7+, Scholastic
- Series: The Bad Guys · By: Aaron Blabey · Ages, and whose: about 6 to 10, our estimate
- Series: Captain Underpants · By: Dav Pilkey · Ages, and whose: about 6 to 10, our estimate
- Series: Babymouse · By: Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm · Ages, and whose: 7 to 10, Penguin Random House
- Series: Lunch Lady · By: Jarrett J. Krosoczka · Ages, and whose: 7 to 10, Penguin Random House
- Series: CatStronauts · By: Drew Brockington · Ages, and whose: 6 to 10, Little, Brown
- Series: Hilda · By: Luke Pearson · Ages, and whose: 7 to 11, Flying Eye Books
- Series: Magic Tree House graphic novels · By: Mary Pope Osborne, adapted by Jenny Laird · Ages, and whose: 6 to 9, Penguin Random House
- Series: InvestiGators · By: John Patrick Green · Ages, and whose: 7 to 10, our estimate
- Series: Narwhal and Jelly · By: Ben Clanton · Ages, and whose: 6 to 9, our estimate
- Series: Yotsuba&! · By: Kiyohiko Azuma · Ages, and whose: 6 to 12, our estimate (Yen

Press says "All Ages")

When they want more (it started younger and still fits): Pizza and Taco by Stephen Shaskan, which the publisher labels 5 to 8: quick, very funny, and a confidence builder.

A bit older, for next year: twelve series that start at eight, from Wings of Fire to Bone. They are on the page for 8-year-olds.

Where I'd start

If your child has never read a comic, Dog Man is the obvious first book, and for good reason: big panels, a joke on most pages, fifteen books. If Dog Man is already done, Cat Kid Comic Club is the same author and world, and Lunch Lady is the same speed with a school setting.

A child who likes animals and space might want CatStronauts: a team of cats flies missions for a space agency, and space words are explained as the story goes. A quieter reader who likes folk tales might love Hilda, with its trolls and giants, though a few scenes are spooky for a moment. Yotsuba&! is a manga about a five-year-old turning ordinary days into projects; it reads right to left, which is a fun puzzle at seven, and we explain how.

Our ranked pick of ten for this age is the Top 10 graphic novel series for 7 year olds.

What the ages mean

An age on a book is a publisher's guess about who will enjoy it, not a reading level. We say whose age each one is because sites often print three different ranges for the same series. Where a publisher's page wouldn't open, we give our own estimate and say so. Ages shift a year either way: a confident six-year-old will be fine with most of this list, and plenty of nine-year-olds still love it. We don't print reading-level scores; they belong to the companies that make them.

Questions grown-ups ask

Can a 7-year-old read graphic novels alone?

Many can, because the pictures carry the story. Series like Babymouse and Lunch Lady use short bubbles, and plenty of second graders read them alone. If your child is not there yet, read the bubbles together: you read the boxes, they read the speech.

Are graphic novels "real reading"?

Yes. A comic asks a reader to follow words and pictures together, keep track of who is speaking and fill the gap between panels. It is a different skill from reading a page of text, not a lesser one.

What should I know before handing these over?

Each series page has a short note for grown-ups saying what is in the books (cartoon fights in Dog Man, spooky moments in Hilda, mean-girl moments in Babymouse) without a verdict. Read it, then decide for your own child.

Peabody (peabody.kids) is free through the end of 2026. Every series above has its books in order with a checklist kept on your device, and our library has stories levelled for every reader.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/graphic-novels-for-7-year-olds