Graphic novels for 8 year olds

Peabody blog · Reading · updated 2026-10-30

The comic series that fit an 8 year old: twelve that start at eight, five from seven they'll still enjoy, whose age each is, and which ones tell one long story.

Eight is when graphic novels open up: Wings of Fire, Amulet, Bone, Zita the Spacegirl, Bunny vs Monkey and Cleopatra in Space are all labelled for eight and up, and Dog Man, Lunch Lady and Babymouse still fit. The big change from seven is that many series at eight tell one long story across several books, so the order matters more. Graphic novels and comic series for 8-year-olds lists every one, with whose age it is and a checklist on each series.

"Graphic novels for 8 year olds" is one of the most-searched questions about children's comics, and most of the answers are a single list of covers with one age printed for all of them. Eight-year-olds vary more than that. Some are reading Dog Man for the fifth time; some want dragons and a war. Both are fine.

The ones that start at eight

As of 30 October 2026, fifteen series on Peabody start at eight:

- Series: Wings of Fire graphic novels · By: Tui T. Sutherland, drawn by Mike Holmes · Kind: one long story · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, Scholastic
- Series: Amulet · By: Kazu Kibuishi · Kind: one long story, finished · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12 or 9 to 12, Scholastic
- Series: Bone · By: Jeff Smith · Kind: one long story, finished · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, Scholastic
- Series: Zita the Spacegirl · By: Ben Hatke · Kind: three books, one story · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, our estimate
- Series: Cleopatra in Space · By: Mike Maihack · Kind: one long story, finished · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, Scholastic Canada
- Series: 5 Worlds · By: Mark Siegel and Alexis Siegel · Kind: one long quest, finished · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, our estimate
- Series: Hilo · By: Judd Winick · Kind: one long story · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, Penguin Random House
- Series: The Baby-Sitters Club graphic novels · By: Ann M. Martin, adapted by Raina Telgemeier and others · Kind: friends and real life · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, our estimate
- Series: Phoebe and Her Unicorn · By: Dana Simpson · Kind: comic-strip collections · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, our estimate
- Series: Bunny vs Monkey · By: Jamie Smart · Kind: funny, best in order · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, Union Square Kids

- Series: Click · By: Kayla Miller · Kind: school and friends, finished · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, our estimate
- Series: Chi's Sweet Home · By: Konami Kanata · Kind: manga, finished · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, our estimate
- Series: Diary of a Wimpy Kid · By: Jeff Kinney · Kind: diary with cartoons · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, Abrams
- Series: Big Nate · By: Lincoln Peirce · Kind: chapters with comics · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, our estimate
- Series: The Last Kids on Earth · By: Max Brallier, drawn by Douglas Holgate · Kind: novel with drawings · Ages, and whose: 8 to 12, Penguin Random House

The last three aren't comics all the way through; they are hybrids, with real paragraphs on most pages broken up by drawings. They are on the list because a lot of eight-year-olds move between the two without noticing.

Six more series start at seven and still fit at eight: Dog Man, Cat Kid Comic Club, Babymouse, Lunch Lady, Hilda and InvestiGators. And seven that started younger are there for an easy, fun read: The Bad Guys, Captain Underpants, Pizza and Taco, Yotsuba&!, CatStronauts, Narwhal and Jelly and the Magic Tree House graphic novels. That is 28 series in all for an eight-year-old.

Where I'd start

For a Dog Man reader who wants the same jokes: Bunny vs Monkey. A polite rabbit, a chaotic monkey, a joke on almost every page.

For a child ready for a long adventure: Zita the Spacegirl. Three books, one story, finished, so there is no waiting for the end. If they love it, Amulet and Bone are longer journeys of the same kind.

For a dragon fan: the Wings of Fire graphic novels. Each retells the prose novel of the same title, and many children go on to the novels afterwards.

For a child who likes stories about real life: Click, about one girl's worries at school and with friends.

Our ranked ten for this age is the Top 10 graphic novel series for 8 year olds.

What changes at eight

Two things. First, the stories get longer and darker in places: Bone grows darker as it goes, 5 Worlds has a war in the background, Amulet is a long and serious story. Each series page has a note for grown-ups that says what is in the books, without a verdict, so you can decide. Second, order matters. For the "one long story" series, start at book 1; our post on reading in order sorts every series into the kind that needs it and the kind that doesn't.

The ages above come from the publisher where a publisher's page gave one; where none would open, the age is our own estimate, and we say so. An age label is not a reading level, and we don't print reading-level scores.

Questions grown-ups ask

What is the best graphic novel for an 8-year-old?

There isn't one best; it depends on the child. For a child who loves jokes, Bunny vs Monkey. For a child who wants an adventure with an end, Zita the Spacegirl. For dragons, Wings of Fire.

My 8-year-old still reads Dog Man. Is that a problem?

No. Dog Man is labelled 7 and up, which is a floor, not a ceiling, and it is on the age page for eight. Rereading a favourite is reading.

Are these too hard for a struggling 8-year-old reader?

Some have more words per page than others. Every series page has a one-line description of what reading it is like ("short speech bubbles", "fuller bubbles", "a long story"), so you can pick one that matches.

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-8-year-olds