

WATCHMEN

ALAN MOORE
DAVE GIBBONS



AP English Language and Composition

Watchmen is a landmark graphic novel that contains some violent imagery, profanity, and acts of vigilante justice. Still, its author Alan Moore and its illustrator Dave Gibbons work together to create a genre-shaping graphic novel that's as engrossing visually as it is in its nonlinear plot and complex themes of power, morality, and justice. During the study of this text, AP students will analyze its creators' rhetorical choices and cultivate their own understandings of how symbolism, style, and structure can impact meaning.

Students, you'll need a copy with you in class by the due date next week. (Lender copies are available to check out from my classroom upon request, but students interested in freely annotating the text may want to procure their own personal copies.)

Parents, there are some potentially controversial issues involved with this novel; the narrative depicts moments of exaggerated comic-book violence (e.g. guns, explosions, blood/gore, mutation, hand-to-hand combat, animal abuse, the horrors of war), a startling scene featuring a brief but violent assault, a woman shot in cold blood, some mild — though not explicit — sex scenes, references to prostitution, some profane language including some name-calling and swearing (e.g. "s--t", "b---h"), drinking, drug addiction, aesthetic smoking reminiscent of old Hollywood, and a political cartoon caricaturing a woman offering drugs to a chained figure. If you'd like to review the book on your own, a full e-text is posted on my site, BentonEnglish.com. Due to the dual-credit nature of this course, content and materials used in this class are not able to be modified to accommodate variations in student age and/or maturity. However, if upon review and consideration, you would prefer your child to study an alternate literary work, please sign the back of this sheet with a brief note including your child's name and be sure it's returned to me by the end of this week.

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