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Cambridge Elements

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YOUNG PEOPLE, COMICS, AND READING

Exploring a Complex Reading Experience

Lucia Cedeira Serantes
Queens College, City University of New York



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ABSTRACT: Scholars and professionals interested in the study of and engagement with young people will find this Element relevant to deepening their understanding of young people's reading practices with comics and graphic novels. Comics reading has been an understudied experience despite its potential to enrich our exploration of reading in our currently saturated media landscape. This study is based on seventeen in-depth interviews with teens and young adults who describe themselves as readers of comics for pleasure. These interviews provide insights about how comics reading evolves with readers and what readers consider a good or bad reading experience. Special attention is paid to the place of female readers in the comics community and to the material aspects of reading. From these readers, one begins to understand why comics reading is something that young people do not "grow out of" but is an experience that they "grow with."

KEYWORDS: reading and readers, comics and graphic novels, teenagers, young adults

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Contents

1	Situating This Study: Young People's Reading Practices and Comics As a Reading Choice	1
2	Readers and the Comics Community: What Does It Mean to Be a Comics Reader?	28
3	The Reading Experience: Encountering Comics As Reading Material	52
4	The Comics Reading Experience: Beyond Denigration, Instrumentality, and Complacency	83
	References	86