Bring ancient and classic literature alive with graphic novels by Gareth Hinds

Homer’s *Odyssey* and works by Shakespeare are cited as Common Core Text Exemplars. Make these and other texts come alive—for both the avid and reluctant readers in your classroom—with graphic-novel adaptations by Gareth Hinds.

Elegant, contemporary artwork and faithful yet succinct retellings cast these classic dramas in provocative new lights and make them more accessible and engaging to young audiences. Pair these with the original texts or other adaptations to discuss point of view and analyze how visual elements contribute to the meaning and tone of a text.

**Beowulf**
The epic tale of the great warrior Beowulf has thrilled readers throughout the ages. Now it has been reinvented for a new generation in this masterful graphic novel.
PB: 978-0-7636-3023-2
Teachers’ guide available on www.candlewick.com

**Macbeth**
Gareth Hinds’s captivating, richly illustrated interpretation takes readers into the claustrophobic mind of a man driven mad by ambition.
PB: 978-0-7636-7802-9

**King Lear**
This artful edition—like an extraordinary stage performance—offers a striking new perspective on one of the most powerful and beloved tragedies in the English language. Incorporating excerpts from the Bard’s own language, Hinds’s inventive format makes the experience of *King Lear* accessible to young readers.
PB: 978-0-7636-4344-7

**The Merchant of Venice**
Moody and mesmerizing, this graphic-novel adaptation of one of Shakespeare’s more controversial plays boasts a chic modern cast, high drama, and all the dark, familiar beauty of Venice.
PB: 978-0-7636-3025-6

**The Odyssey**
With bold imagery and an ear tuned to the music of Homer’s epic poem, Gareth Hinds interprets the ancient classic as it has never been told before.
PB: 978-0-7636-4268-6
Teachers’ guide available on www.candlewick.com

**Romeo and Juliet**
In a masterful adaptation faithful to the original text, Hinds transports readers to the sun-washed streets and market squares of Shakespeare’s Verona, vividly bringing the classic play to life on the printed page. This stylish graphic adaptation offers modern touches to engage young readers—including a diverse cast that underscores the story’s universality.
PB: 978-0-7636-6807-5

www.pinterest.com/cwpcommoncore • candlewick press
Gareth Hinds’s graphic-novel adaptations filter the original texts through the universal language of art, granting a new generation of young adults access to these classic stories.

A key objective of the Common Core Standards is for students to read a variety of genre and text types and to compare and contrast adaptations on a theme. Including Gareth Hinds’s graphic-novel adaptations in your curriculum along with the original text supports this standard. It also makes the often difficult original text more accessible to young readers, while supporting visual learners and struggling and reluctant students.

Here are a few discussion starters:

- What is it about the story that continues to resonate with people? Why do you think writers, artists, and film directors are still drawn to it?
- What are the elements of the story that make it so adaptable and timeless? What themes do you recognize as still relevant today?
- In what ways does Gareth Hinds use color symbolically throughout his adaptations?
- How does Gareth Hinds use a character’s eyes to quickly communicate emotions, thoughts, and shifts in attention?
- How does Gareth Hinds use facial expressions, body language, tension lines, color, and sound effects to convey emotion and drama?
- Pick a point in the story where Hinds uses imagery as foreshadowing. Write three to four sentences about how the specific panel you chose depicts something that will happen later in the story. Is it an effective technique? Does it add to or detract from the story as a whole?
- What differences do you notice between this graphic novel and other versions of the same story? Why do you think Gareth Hinds made these changes?
- The original text is much longer than that of the graphic-novel adaptation. How do you think the exchange of words for images might change your experience of the story?
- Which did you enjoy more, the original or the graphic-novel adaptation? Why? Did reading one make the other more understandable or enjoyable?
- Search online for other graphic representations of a main character from the story. How do they compare and contrast with Gareth Hinds’s depiction?
- Are Gareth Hinds’s depictions of the characters in the story the way you imagined them when reading the original?

Discussion questions adapted from the teachers’ guides for Beowulf and The Odyssey
I’ve been drawing for as long as I can remember, but when I was about four or five, my drawings started to take on a particular narrative quality. My mom made sketchbooks for me out of scrap paper, and I filled them with stories (like the one below, “Gareth the Hero”). I knew from reading picture books that I wanted an image and some text on each page, but I was more interested in drawing than writing, so in my five-year-old phonetic spelling I wrote some variation of “I do not want to write at all” on every page!

In middle school, high school, and college, I wrote and drew many stories in the comics medium, but I was always unsatisfied with my own stories, so I began to adapt existing works, starting with fairy tales and then moving to the classics of Western Literature. This gave me wonderfully rich material to work with and let me focus on the drawing and visual storytelling.

It is always my goal to be respectful of the text, to share my love for these stories and show what is really exciting about them. I’m deeply gratified by the praise my books receive from reviewers, teachers, librarians, and readers both young and old—especially those who have told me they were never able to finish or to enjoy these works before. That makes me feel great. And my inner five-year-old is happy because I get to spend my days drawing magical, timeless stories, and I don’t have to spend too much time figuring out what all the words are going to be.
Praise for Gareth Hinds’s work

**BEOWULF**  PB 978-0-7636-3023-2

“Hinds’s version will make this epic story available to a whole new group of readers.” — School Library Journal

“Fabulously detailed, action-filled artwork. . . . Sure to interest a new generation.” — Voice of Youth Advocates

“Action-packed. . . . With treatments like this available, honors English may never be the same.” — Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

“This action hero version should provoke even reluctant readers to want to find out more.” — Toronto Star

**THE MERCHANT OF VENICE**  PB 978-0-7636-3025-6

★ “A captivating, smartly executed work.” — Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“A powerful visual showcase for Shakespeare’s work.” — Booklist

“His attention to the original work and his artistry is just top notch. As a serious supplement to the play, *The Merchant of Venice* graphic novel is an example of a high-quality adaptation from classic literature.” — The Graphic Classroom

“The clarity of the narration (verbal and visual) makes it a fine bridge to Shakespeare’s language.” — The Horn Book

**KING LEAR**  PB 978-0-7636-4344-7

★ “An excellent rendition of one of the Bard’s great tragedies. . . . For powerful drama with quality art, this adaptation is the one to choose.” — Booklist (starred review)

“The overall effect is magical and a great boon for students struggling to make sense to the play.” — The Graphic Classroom

“A remarkably rendered and worthwhile treatment of the tragedy.” — Kirkus Reviews

**MACBETH**  PB 978-0-7636-7802-9

★ “Hinds offers another sensitive adaptation of classic literature in this beautifully colored and evocative rendition of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*. . . . Students struggling to find an entry point into the Scottish play should look no further than this entertaining and elucidating volume.” — Booklist (starred review)


**THE ODYSSEY**  PB 978-0-7636-4268-6

★ “Holds nothing back and is proudly, grittily realistic rather than cheerfully cartoonish. Big, bold, beautiful.” — Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“With this graphic-novel interpretation, Hinds will hook some of those holdouts who have thus far resisted *The Odyssey*’s lure. . . . Outstanding individuation of characters . . . lovingly developed flow between frames.” — Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books (starred review)

“Hinds has beautifully adapted Homer’s *Odyssey* with pencil and watercolor illustrations. He makes use of several translations yet retains the essence of Homer’s tale. . . . The bright and colorful illustrations help make the classic epic poem accessible.” — Voice of Youth Advocates

★ “A grand example of Hinds’s ability to combine historical adventure with human understanding.” — Booklist (starred review)

**ROMEO AND JULIET**  PB 978-0-7636-6807-5

A New York Times Bestseller

★ “Shakespeare’s tragic lovers receive star treatment in this spellbinding graphic-novel production. . . . As thrilling and riveting as any staging.” — Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

★ “Cleaving to Shakespeare’s words and his dramatic arc, Hinds creates another splendid graphic novel, tracing each scene in taut, coherent, and expertly deployed dialogue. . . . From swirling action to subtly delineated emotion, he delivers the play’s essence and beauty, its glorious language, furious conflict, yearning love, and wrenching tragedy. This is not only a wonderfully accessible introduction to a full text or (better yet) theatrical production; it’s a visual delight for anyone.” — The Horn Book (starred review)