

GRAPHIC ADAPTATION: TO & FROM COMICS & OTHER MEDIA

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Many successful comic books and graphic novels have been adapted to other forms of visual media. For example: Moore and Gibbons' *Watchmen* was recently made into a live-action film; Satrapi's *Persepolis* into an animated film; and countless superhero comics have been made into big-budget Hollywood movies. In a particularly prolific case, Nakazawa's *Barefoot Gen*, originally manga, has been made into live-action film, anime, television, and theatre—both musical and opera.

Alternatively, purely written works can be transformed into more visual media. Literature is often adapted to film, but occasionally books become comics: Stoker's novel *Dracula* was reimagined in Thomas and Giordano's *Stoker's Dracula*; and Hamilton's *Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter* books have been turned into a comic book series.

I plan to chart the role of comics as a hybrid medium (combining words and pictures) in facilitating adaptation to and from other forms of media, particularly literature (as a purely written medium) and film (another hybrid medium, combining image and sound). I hope to observe change in patterns of adaptation over time, as well as to find examples of adaptation in unusual directions (for example, from film to comics or from comics to books).