

What People are Saying About Wireman

Below, find responses to the Wireman series from librarians, teachers, principals and students who've had a chance to use Wireman in their schools and libraries.

Ramses Soto is a seventh grade ESL student at Ridge Park Charter Academy. He was encouraged to attend the Ridge Park Read-in that is held every March in the school's gymnasium. This year the guest speaker was Sue Stauffacher, celebrated author (by many Ridge Park Middle School students) of Wireman Comics.



At first, Ramses was leery about going to the read-in, fearing he may be the only middle school student in attendance. After reminding him that Sue would be there, he made sure he had a ride and showed up for the event. Following pizza, reading, and Sue's presentation, we raffled off books. This is what Ramses said about the experience:

"Surprisingly, I was the first person to be called up for a prize. I didn't know what to pick. There were books, comics, and 2 bikes. I went up there and did what I went up there to do, and that was to get the Wireman Comics. The next day at school, the kids came up to me and asked why I didn't get a bike. I told them that I love the Wireman Comics because they are the best ..."

— *Barbara Reeb, Director of Instructional Support,
Ridge Park Charter Academy*

Francisco and Alfredo, are twin brothers, in 7th grade and currently reading at a 2 grade reading level. This is their first year at our school and they have made huge strides in reading in the last few months. English is a second language for them as they speak predominately Spanish at home.

However, they have lived in the US for the past few years and yet they still do not know how to read or write fluently. But are these boys eager to learn...they have checked out almost every non-fiction animal book in our library, reading the pictures and struggling with the text. (In their previous school they were not allowed to check out books unless they could read the book!!)

However, they completely avoid fiction, preferring not to read books at their reading level which are themed for the younger grades and ages. Two weeks ago, I found the Wireman comics at Pooh's Corner, issues 1 and 2. Francisco and Alfredo have "devoured" your comics and came to me with a request to buy more. So while I am on Spring Break I thought I'd go buy some more of the series for our library, but Sally and Camille told me that you have not released any others.

When will you have more issues to the wireman series? I know that Francisco and Alfredo will be at my library door on Monday wondering if I was able to buy more?

— *Alexandra Brown, Library Media Specialist*

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"I could tell you several amusing stories about how I got my students to do extra work to earn the cover poster and how they made me promise to let them know when issues 3 and 4 were out, even though they would be in middle school. The entire fifth grade graduating class read and enjoyed *Wireman*, but for a handful of students, it became more than a comic.

"Frankie, a fifth grade, special education student, was a VERY reluctant reader. He tested at Pre-primer level in reading in September. Throughout the year, it was a struggle to get him to read anything – even a word or a sentence. He wanted nothing to do with school. Then, a *Wireman* Comic cover showed up on the bulletin board behind my desk. Frankie noticed it right away and wanted to know what it was. I told him it was for reading and he probably wouldn't want to see it. No, he assured me that in fact he did want to read it. Frankie picked up the first comic and read it. He was intrigued by the depth of the story line and was excited that he could actually read it. By the end of the second comic, he was hooked. On the last day of fifth grade, he refused to take any of his notebooks or folders home. However, I saw him tuck those *Wireman* Comics into his backpack before he left."

– Michelle Williams, Special Ed Teacher, Hall Elementary

"*Wireman* is catching on like 'wild fire' at Dickinson. Many students are asking to be selected to participate in the assessment. I personally have had approximately five students approach me to ask if they could read *Wireman*."

– Dorothy Johnson, Dickinson Principal

"Overall my kids loved reading *Wireman*. I thought it was interesting that I had to teach them how to read a comic. That really surprised me! But once I explained it to them they could not get enough of it. One of my really low readers started bringing in comic books and comics from the newspaper!"

– Carey Tellerico, Dickinson School

"When I was reading *Wireman* [1 and 2], I felt excited to read *Wireman* 3. I am waiting for it. I hope it comes out soon, because I need to know what happens to Andre."

– Rodolfo Morales, 10, Hall Elementary, Grand Rapids

"I teach a 7th grade learning disabilities class at Lee Middle School in Wyoming. The school is incredibly diverse, so the kids just loved reading about other black and Hispanic kids. The reading level was perfect for some of my low readers as well."

– Kris Augustine

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“My students are loving *Wireman*! They were so excited when I handed them out. I even had one girl who has a hard time reading enjoy your comics. It caught her attention and she understood it, which was quite amazing. She is in the third grade, but she got it!”

– *Tammy M. Rositas, Kec Oakleigh School*

“My ASL classes are made up of mostly hearing students but I also teach Deaf students. Several of them read the two issues and really enjoyed them. We are also very interested to see what happens next (the Deaf students were quite upset when they were left hanging with ‘to be continued’).”

– *Loretta Burd, Northview Public Schools*

“Can your comics for high school be purchased bound in a book? If so, please share the details with me.”

– *Penny Swartz, Niles West High School, Skokie, IL*

“Thank you, Sue, for the opportunity to experience and share your comic books. I just finished reading them and went, myself, through the range of emotions that I am sure my students will experience. I am going to be teaching Grade 8 this year and have been constantly looking for materials. As I began to read the comics the concentration and minimal amount of words at first needed some patience. It pushed me to look more intensely at the illustrations and created even more questions with a variety of assumptions. Lastly I was forced to use my inner mind to grasp at the inferences in hopes of explaining my unanswered questions that you mischievously laced throughout the story line. Super! Pilates of the Mind! (Shhh ... I think the muscle man is Andre’s long lost basketball star brother.) I’m going to have a ball with this. The process which I just experience is what I wish to show my students. They may not remember what they are exposed to this year, but I sure hope they’ll remember how to think about what they learned. Like any good addiction... I must ask for my own personal shot of caffeine (your storyline), and for the sake of planning.... When will more issues be uploaded?”

– *Anna Muller-Cheng, Our Lady of the Bay Catholic School
Pickering Ontario, Canada*

“*Wireman* tore through the youth pod at the Kent County Jail. The inmates were disappointed there weren’t more issues!”

– *Mary Jo Kuhlman, Tutor*

“I really enjoyed reading your comic book, *Wireman*. If I had the chance to read it over and over again, I would.”

– *Rashun Davis, 14, Benton Harbor, Michigan*

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“Thank you for sending me the *Wireman* comic books. I wish you can write more so I can know the mystery of why the quiet girl takes out her cell phone but does not talk.”

– *Lupita Dominguez, 10, Hall Elementary, Grand Rapids, Michigan*

“We found that our students who were not ‘fans’ of reading were completely engaged in the *Wireman* comics. Not only did they feel confident in reading the text—the words were familiar to them—but they made real connections with the characters and storyline. The comics provided them with a springboard to discuss important issues in their own lives—such as death and fear of gangs. It was a wonderful experience for all of us.

“I also want to share what happened when I dropped in on a discussion of *Wireman*. One of our students who is not a real leader became much more assertive/confident—volunteered to read a lot. She also had great participation and answered questions, etc ... What’s important to note is that her current reading level is about a grade 3 and she’s in a fifth grade class. Though the reading level might not have challenged some of the better readers, the concepts, inferences, and predictions were quite sophisticated. What I have seen is a great deal of enthusiasm/participation ... Kids want to know when 3 and 4 will be out! I have to tell you that there are a lot of jealous kids who want to know when the comic books will be available for them to read and not just the pilot participants.”

– *Shelli Otten, Aberdeen Principal*

“Just a note to say thanks for the *Wireman* comics. The kids that I work with love them. It's so nice to see and hear the kids reading and being eager to do so. We read issues 1 and 2 last week as a group. They are excited to get to the unedited copy you gave me this week. I asked for feedback from them so I have that information for you. Thanks again,”

– *Kelly Stauffer, GRPS social worker, Juvenile Detention Center*

“Last week I gave both issues of *Wireman* to one of my 6th grade ELL(Spanish-speaking) students who is also learning disabled (and has a macho exterior) ... his first response was, "where is number 3?" Then he wanted to know why the kid was being bullied and I asked him if bullies ever have good reasons to bully.....and his face brightened as he emphatically said, "No! ... that's right ... " pulling up meaning from somewhere inside ... ”

– *Stephanie Nowak, Central Middle School, Columbia Heights, Minnesota*

“I am a reading specialist at Still Middle School in Aurora, Illinois. My students love *Wireman* 1 & 2! They continue to ask me when Issue 3 will be coming out and asked me to email you....so here I am. Is there a date I can give them? They are so anxious to see what happens and are quick to remind me that it does say ‘to be continued’ at the end!!”

– *Melissa Tragos, Still Middle School, Aurora, Illinois*

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“A letter from the president of the Detroit chapter of the Women’s National Book Association: ‘Your presentation was engrossing. You are obviously a bookwoman who shares our values about reading. Supporting literacy is one of the goals of the WNBA, so we were particularly fascinated by your *Wireman* comic series. Your project so perfectly addresses a previously unmet need. It has already interested many of our students here at JDF...’”

– *Cynthia Dooley, Librarian, Wayne County, Juvenile Detention Facility*

“I love *Wireman*, can’t wait to read the next two issues. I work with ESL students and love your concept, the artwork, the storyline. Kudos to you for pulling it off! Where can I get multiple copies? Thank you for your insight into the needs of these special students. Hurray hurray!”

– *Carol A. Shirey, Sparta, Michigan*

“I’ve never seen the kids in one of these workshops be so quiet and so engrossed in what they were reading. The fact that they were clambering for the next issue and begging to know what happened next was a testament to how involved they were in the story - not always an easy feat with these kids!”

– *Emily Maurin, WGVU Marketing Coordinator, Burton Middle School, After School Loop Program*

For more information about the *Wireman* comics, contact Sue Stauffacher at sue@suestauffacher.com or 616-447-2565.