



## What should I know about manga and anime?

Manga are basically highly stylized Japanese comics without any comedy. Manga tells a story often in black and white pages, with hand drawn characters. The stories are not only limited to superheroes and superpowers like most western comics are, but can go from romance to murder or from superpower fantasy to daily life of high school boys or explicit adult content. They often feature aspects of Japanese culture, such as martial arts, nature, and early art and history. They can also include strong female characters, metaphysical events, and Godzilla-like or futuristic monsters.

When a Manga gets popular it is often turned into anime (shorthand for Animation) which are cartoons of the same style, adding, songs, voice over actors and colour graphics to the story. Today, Anime can also be in storybook format. All forms of Manga and Anime are pretty popular with children and adults. Nearly all manga and anime feature characters with large, rounded eyes, covering a wide range of genres, from action-adventure to science fiction to romance and adult.



## What parents need to know about **MANGA and ANIME**

The books, websites, video games, TV shows, and movies in this style are designed for a wide range of ages. The stories are often serialized, and can become addictive with avid readers waiting anxiously for the next instalment.

Manga and anime have a long, revered history in Japan, but unfortunately many websites do not monitor or target their content and so it is relatively easy to come across explicit adult content by mistake or through active searching.

It is important to make sure that what young children are reading, playing, and watching is appropriate for their age. They'll get much more out of it by avoiding the more mature topics that manga and anime can include.

## Top tips for parents

There is a lot of activity surrounding Manga and Anime.

In some schools and homes there is encouragement to use comics to engage children with reading. There are also websites that develop art and drawing skills by replicating or creating the Manga and Anime characters. This can also be useful in the home providing some guidance and supervision is in place.

In many schools open access to Manga and Anime sites are either discouraged or blocked due to the potential of accessing extreme violence or the Explicit Adult Content, of which many can be deemed pornographic. Where this is the case some age related content can be downloaded and used from a device rather than accessing websites directly over the internet. Again, this can be replicated in the home.

# Age Ratings in Manga?

## Publishers' Rating Labels for Manga & Graphic Novels

*Manga* has something for everyone – but not all *manga* is suitable for all ages. Some manga is absolutely not for children (a Google Image search “manga for adults” may show the type of content). However, it can often be hard for parents, guardians and teachers to tell which titles are suitable for children and young adults just by looking at the cover. Some publishers have now adopted the U.S. publishers’ content rating system for English language comics, with some examples of manga. Many of the websites accessed in the UK are Japanese or American

### Manga Rating Meanings:-

- E – Everyone / A – All Ages  
Like a "G" movie rating (*equivalent to "U" in the UK*), the "E – Everyone" or "A - All Ages"
  - Rating means that the comic is suitable for readers from age 6 and up.
- Y – Youth, Age 10+ Similar to a "PG" movie rating (*equivalent to PG in the UK*),
  - The "Y – Youth, Age 10+" rating means that the title may contain mild violence and/or cursing. While these titles can sometimes be suitable for younger children it's up to parents to know the maturity of their child.
- T – Teens, Age 13+ (*No Film equivalent in the UK which is 12*)
  - The *manga* rating equivalent of a "PG-13," "T - Teens" indicates that the comic's content may include some sexual innuendo and/or violent action scenes. Teen titles just like Youth titles should be carefully reviewed by parents to ensure that their child is mature enough for the material.
- OT - Older Teens, Age 16+ (*No Film equivalent in the UK which is 15*)
  - "OT - Older Teen"- rated *manga* may contain more explicit sexual situations and some violent scenes, including blood and gore. Manga is known for its graphic and violent tales, parents are encouraged to review these titles before giving them to teens.
- M – Mature, Age 18+ (*equivalent to 18 in the UK*),
  - *Manga* rated "M - Mature" is strictly for adults. You can expect to find explicit sexual situations, strong language and/or bloody battles and mayhem. Parents are strongly advised not to give these titles to children due to their very graphic content.

## Should parents use the rating system?

When it comes to deciding if a book or movie is suitable for a child, really only a parent or guardian can decide. Children mature at different rates, some are ready for more complex or heavier material before others.

However, not every older teen is ready for certain mature topics either.

Parents really need to know their children in order to help choose the right media for them.

They should be aware of what entertainment their child chooses to consume.

While children can be very good at knowing what media they're ready for, many parents have probably had to deal with nightmares caused by a movie that was just a little too scary.

Finally, not to be too over cautious, there are many examples of children’s animated cartoons that have been created, mainly in America that are based on the Anime style but targeted at children, many of which have been shown on UK TV. Some examples you may know – Pokémon; My Little Pony; The Powerpuff Girls; Star Wars; Justice League; Spongebob; Samurai Jack; Ben 10; Hotel Transylvania; Shimmer & Shine; Ever After High; Super Mario etc etc.

