



Graphic Novel Study Group
Study Guides

Batman: Year One **By Frank Miller and David Mazzucchelli** Study guide by

1. In 1986, Miller and Mazzucchelli were charged with updating the classic character of Batman. DC Comics wanted to give the origin story “depth, complexity, a wider context.” Did Miller and Mazzucchelli succeed?
2. Why or why not? Give specific examples.
3. We meet Jimmy Gordon and Bruce Wayne at roughly the same moment in the novel. How are they portrayed differently, right from the beginning? Are these initial impressions in line with what we come to know about both characters later?
4. In both Jimmy and Bruce’s initial scenes, how are color and drawing style used to create an atmosphere, or to set them apart – their characters and their surroundings? Give a specific example for each.
5. Batman’s origin story is a familiar one to most readers. How do Miller and Mazzucchelli embroider the basic story?
6. What effect do their additions or subtractions have on your understanding of Bruce Wayne?
7. What are the major plots and subplots contained in the novel?
8. Where are the moments of high tension in the novel?
9. What happens directly before and after each one? How does the juxtaposition of low-tension and high-tension scenes or the repetition of high-tension scenes affect the pacing of the novel?
10. How have Jimmy Gordon and Bruce Wayne/Batman evolved over the course of the novel? How do we as readers understand this? Give specific examples.