



Graphic Novel Study Group
Study Guides

Archie Americana Series: Best of the Fifties: Book Two

Study guide by Emily Wieja

1. Outline the basic story structure for each individual story presented in this collection. What similarities and differences can be inferred?
2. What purpose does story structure serve in Archie Comics?
3. In what ways does structure strengthen characterization in these stories?
4. What other techniques are employed to get across characterization?
5. The Comics Code Authority was founded in 1954 and Archie was one of the first companies to comply wholeheartedly with the guidelines associated with this organization. The stories presented in this collection are a mixed bag, dating from both pre- and post Code timeframes. Discuss in relation to the themes presented in these stories.
6. Identify any cultural trends you find that may or may not be presented by Archie Comics today, in relation to social mores and movements such as feminism, etcetera.
7. Judging from the tone and language of the stories, what age group do you think was being specifically targeted by Archie in the nineteen-fifties? Do you feel that this targeted audience is the same today?
8. The stories presented here are drawn by various artists and written by various writers. Does this fact influence your reading of the stories or your overall impression of Archie Comics as a whole?
9. After reading these stories, what in your opinion is the appeal of Archie Comics in light of its longevity?
10. Can you name any other examples of popular culture icons that have existed for a comparable timeframe as Archie and have similarly evolved and changed with time?