



Graphic Novel Study Group
Study Guides

The Bug Boy by Hino Hideshi and My Friend Dahmer by Derf

Study guide by Caitlin Plovnick

1. What do these comics have in common with conventional horror stories? How are they different?
2. Describe the narrative voices in *The Bug Boy* and in *My Friend Dahmer*. Are there any instances where the narration seems to disagree with the images?
3. What feelings do these stories leave you with, and how is this achieved?
4. Both Derf and Hino draw physically distorted characters, but some are clearly meant to be more sympathetic than others. What visual devices do they use to make some characters sympathetic and others not?
5. What devices (visual, literary, etc.) are used to show the isolation of the central characters?
6. How is humor used in these stories, and to what effect?
7. What, for you, are the most disturbing sequences and why?
8. What (if any) messages do these stories convey?
9. Both comics feature a lot of heavy black lines and shapes. Describe a sequence in either story where the artist chose instead to use spare lines and white space. What effect does this create?
10. What do these two stories have in common? How do they differ? Why might it make sense to read them together?