



RWBY: THE OFFICIAL MANGA

Reading Group Guide

CREATED BY: POP CULTURE CLASSROOM

Overview

Written and illustrated by Bunta Kinami and based on the Rooster Teeth series by Monty Oum, *RWBY: The Official Manga* Vol.1 is an epic fantasy-action adventure about a group of students at Beacon Academy, an elite high school where the homework includes fighting monsters and learning to use your favorite battle-weapon. Set in a world plagued by sinister forces called the Grimm, the story centers on Beacon Academy's newest recruit, Ruby Rose, whose brilliance in combat is matched only by her anxieties about being the new kid at school.

But the stresses of starting a new school are just the beginning of Ruby's troubles. As she and her classmates are quickly thrust into training to become elite warriors known as Huntsmen and Huntresses, they face new and unexpected challenges at every turn. With the fate of humanity and the world's future at stake, they soon realize that they'll have to put their fears, judgments, and differences aside in order to defeat the forces of darkness. For Ruby, this means overcoming her insecurities and becoming the leader that her team truly needs.



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How to Read Manga

In keeping with the original Japanese comic format, manga is read from right to left—so action, sound effects and word balloons are reversed to preserve the orientation of the original artwork.

Key Themes

- Teamwork
- Diversity
- Passion
- Resilience
- Leadership
- Responsibility

Key Characters

- **Ruby Rose** is the protagonist of the story. A gifted fighter and strategist, Ruby is younger than her classmates, making her shy and anxious when she arrives at her new school. Yet, as the story progresses, she quickly shows her leadership and combat skills in action.
- **Yang Xiao Long** is Ruby Rose's older sister who helps her make friends and deal with the pressure of a new school.
- **Weiss Schnee** starts out the series at odds with Ruby. The heir to a wealthy family, Weiss is judgmental and short-sighted at first, but soon becomes Ruby's unlikely ally and teammate.
- **Blake Belladonna** is a member of the RWBY team. She is deeply loyal, but is hiding secrets of her own.
- **Ruby's Beacon Academy Classmates** also include Jaune Arc, Pyrrha Nikos, Nora Valkyrie, and Lie Ren, among others.
- **Ruby's Beacon Academy Faculty** include the Academy's Headmaster, Ozpin, and Headmistress, Glynda Goodwitch.
- **Roman Torchwick** is an infamous thief and one of the most dangerous criminals in all of Vale. He tangles with Ruby early on in *RWBY: The Official Manga* Vol. 1.



SUMMER READING GUIDE

#GOTMANGA

Discussion Questions

- We don't learn much about the characters' backstories in Vol. 1. Using only what you've read so far, what do you think inspired each of them to attend Beacon?
- Which of the four main cast members (Ruby, Weiss, Blake, and Yang) do you relate to most? Why?
- The art style of *RWBY: The Official Manga* Vol. 1, especially during action scenes, leaves a lot to the reader's imagination. How would you describe this art style? How did it affect your reading of the story?
- Toward the end of the book, Ruby reveals each of her classmates' powers. Did you understand their powers before this reveal? What clues did you notice earlier on?
- What role does Jaune Arc play in the story? What is unique about his character and his relationships to the other characters?
- Ruby says she wants to be a hero "like in the storybooks." What hero does she remind you of?
- *RWBY: The Official Manga* Vol. 1 contains many allusions to other well-known fantasy tales. Which ones did you notice?
- Why do you think Ruby was chosen as the leader of her team? How did she show leadership skills during the proficiency exam?
- How does *RWBY: The Official Manga* compare to other stories you may have encountered that feature a special training academy, such as *My Hero Academia* or *Harry Potter*? What other pop culture stories from books, television, or movies does *RWBY* remind you of?
- After completing Vol. 1, what do you hope to learn in the next volume? What storyline or character most entices you to keep reading? What questions do you still have that you hope are answered?
- Judging by how the main cast interacted during Vol. 1, what are some issues you think they might run into as a team moving forward? What do you think their strengths and weaknesses might be?
- After reading Vol. 1, what do you think the author is trying to tell the reader about the importance of friendship and teamwork?

Activities

- **World-Building:** Vol. 1 doesn't give much detail about the world inside or outside of Beacon Academy. But we know there are four kingdoms, crime, powerful magical dust, ominous forces of darkness, and an academy that trains teenagers to fight them. If you don't know anything else about the series, what do you think the rest of the world is like? Discuss what the history, social environment, and government structure might be like to lead to the small part of the world we see in the book. What does a city look like? What do rural and uninhabited areas look like? How are each of the four kingdoms different from one another? Create some amazing fan art by drawing, painting, or writing about the world that you've imagined. Don't forget to share your work and tag #GotManga!
- **You're the Hunter:** Imagine that you and three friends were a group of Huntsmen and Huntresses. Who would you select to be on your team? What would be your individual strengths and weaknesses? What would be your strengths and weaknesses as a team? What would each person's special ability be? How would each person dress, and what weapon would they use? What would your team be called? Once you've answered these basic questions, channel your inner professional comic writer/artist to create a character sheet for each team member featuring illustrations and a backstory. You can even take this activity to the next level by creating your very own comic featuring your team in action!
- **Allusion Scavenger Hunt:** *RWBY: The Official Manga* Vol. 1 is packed with allusion to everything from fairy tales to modern literature to blockbuster movies. After reading through Vol. 1 once, go back through and see how many allusions you can spot. Be sure to note where you think each allusion comes from. You can even make it a competition and challenge your friends!