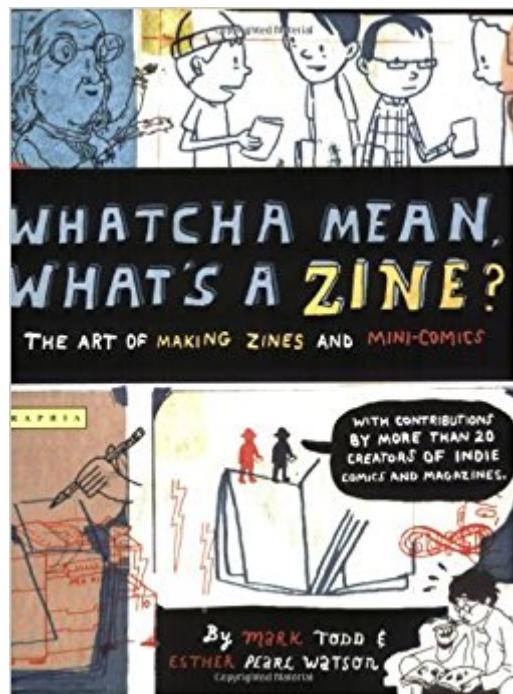


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# Whatcha Mean, What's A Zine?



## Synopsis

A zine is a handmade magazine or mini-comic about anything you can imagine: favorite bands, personal stories, subcultures, or collections. They contain diary entries, rants, interviews, and stories. They can be by one person or many, found in stores, traded at comic conventions, exchanged with friends, or given away for free. Zines are not a new idea: they've been around for years under various names (chapbooks, flyers, pamphlets). People with independent ideas have been getting their word out since before there were printing presses. This book is for anyone who wants to create their own zine. It's for learning tips and tricks from contributors who have been at the fore front of the zine movement. It's for getting inspired to put thoughts and ideas down on paper. It's for learning how to design and print your own zine so you can put it in others' hands. *Whatcha Mean, What's a Zine?* is for anyone who has something to say.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 6 Up  
Some of the biggest names in zine publishing have united to create a fun, informative introduction to the art form in the format of a zine itself. True to its title, it begins by defining terms: a zine is a mini-magazine or homemade comic about any topic of the creator's choice, designed for maximum creativity and expression. The authors present a history of

self-publishing and a treatise on Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison, and William Blake as the first pre-zinesters. Other topics include ideas for zine subjects; copying, binding, and printing tips, including easy-to-understand silk-screening and gocco instruction; and even a review of staplers, all while maintaining a fresh and inspirational tone. Other useful sections are an interview with BUST magazine founder Laurie Henzel, an original zinester, and guidelines on beating writer's block and disciplining oneself to work on a zine. The book presents a convincing argument for zines over blogs as a better outlet for personal creativity. The authors include tips for a cooperative zine among friends and fellow artists, how to distribute a publication and create contacts, advice on pricing supplies, mail, and invoices. The book also includes a brief list of resources, zine libraries, and a glossary. Throughout, technical terms are deftly used and advice is dispensed in an accessible, rousing format that includes comics, drawings, and cut-and-paste zine techniques. This well-designed and entertaining resource is sure to find an audience among hip, artistic, and do-it-yourself enthusiasts. —Jane Cronkhite, Cuyahoga County Public Library, OH Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 9-12. Magazine self-publishing seems a bit old-fashioned in the era of the blog, but teen DIY-ers with a subversive streak may well come away from this paean to zining fired up about a "world where the weird, absurd, and unique is appreciated." Watson and Todd, the cocreators of the YA poetry anthology *The Pain Tree* (2000), have sewn together entries from 21 zinesters, many in graphic-novel format, that touch upon the personal reasons they do what they do and offer practical advice on topics such as brainstorming content and marketing a finished product. Some of the book's more obsessive elements (a double-page analysis of staplers) may represent more information than newcomers want or need, and the smudged, often difficult-to-read pages--with text either handwritten or banged out on an old typewriter--is faithful to zines' low-budget trappings to a fault. But the zinesters' giddy enthusiasm is infectious, and many YAs (as well as college art students) will respond to the subculture's irrepressible indie spirit. Jennifer MattsonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

I checked this book out first at the library and fell in love with it! I was just getting into zines and me being the crafster I am wanted to know EVERYTHING about how to make them, distribute them, and find inspiration to create one. Now I finally have my own copy!! This book gave me pretty much everything I needed to know as a beginner. It is filled with zine related how to's! From what to write or make it about, to different shapes and sizes your zine can be, and how to distribute them. The

content is great but I especially enjoyed the over all format of the book. I love the illustrations and just how the artists explained everything throughout. It made it a lot more fun to read! I would recommend this book to anyone interested in zines -more specifically to ones just getting into them or maybe not so sure how to make one. I think this could even be good for anyone just looking for more inspirations/ ideas for their zines!

I got this book as a gift last year. I teach illustration a university and a fellow illustrator bought it for me. I've lent it to a number of students who are into zines of the mini-comic variety. This book has a lot of practical info, advice on binding, distribution, and formats. It has a raw quality that appeals to my students. I lost track of who I lent it to last semester, so I purchased a second copy because it is really that useful. I will be more careful this time. Sure, a lot of this zine-making info can be found online, but it is nice to create in an offline, analog, environment sometimes.

First of all, I love the overall layout of the book; it really gives the feeling of how a zine should be put together. The best way to describe the layout is creative, with a mash up of hand drawn illustrations and a "scissors and glue" style of layout. This book contains so much information, great for someone who has no idea what a zine even is. Even better, it has the entire process behind making a zine and what you need to get started. Of course, the book had no dents or tears, and came in secure packaging.

Great book for anyone interested in Zen Doodling!

One of my favorite books. A fun read that shows you numerous ways to make your own zine. From simple zines to semi advanced ones. It also includes a lot of funny zine related stories and anecdotes. I met the author at the ny art book fair and he was a really cool guy.

Loved it

Tremendously helpful book. This will be my guide when I start publishing my own zines.

I already knew the book before I purchased it for my own book collection. Very nice and entertaining, also helpful for drawing Zines.

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