Tuesday 3rd November

Osamu Tezuka was born in Toyonaka, Japan on this day 1928. He is considered the Godfather of Manga. As a child he loved reading manga (the Japanese name for comic books) and he loved watching cartoons, particularly the early films of Walt Disney that his father screened at home on a projector.

He started drawing his own manga as a teen and was first published in 1946 while studying medicine. In 1947 he published *New Treasure Island* (based loosely on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel) which was a huge success and began the 'Golden Age of Manga'.

In 1951 he published *Ambassador Atom* which included the first appearance of the Astro Boy character; a robot with human emotions, which was hugely popular and spun out into its own manga in 1952. Whilst Astro Boy protected humans he faced **prejudice** for being a machine, allowing Tezuka to explore belonging and discrimination.

Tezuka helped popularise long, emotionally complex stories and changing viewpoints within manga making readers feel like they were watching a film. These made manga popular throughout Japanese culture and when *Astro Boy* was turned into an animated TV series in 1963 it helped take anime to new audiences around the world.



- Have you ever read any manga or watched any anime? What is your favourite?
- Can a comic or graphic novel explore serious ideas as effectively as a novel or film?
- Have you ever had an idea for a comic? What would it be about? Would you draw it, too?

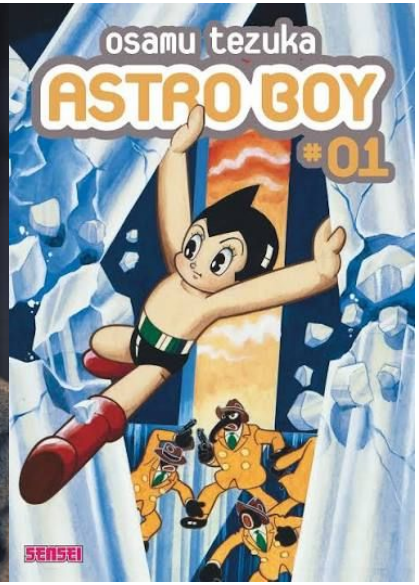
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