El Goonish Shive Community Survey 2019

640 responses collected from August 30 to September 8, 2019

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Introduction

The *El Goonish Shive* community is spread far and thin, as there exists no centralized hub for discussion and congregation. As a result, it is hard to get a complete picture of the varied tastes and opinions of this fandom's members, and nothing was known about our demographics outside of guesswork.

This survey was inspired by the [Perfectly Generic Podcast *Homestuck* community survey](#), which was launched by Kate Mitchel in August 2019 to get an impression of the demographics of the *Homestuck* fandom. Our own fandom may be a bit smaller, but no less important to many of us.

I hope you will enjoy reading this compilation of the results, and will find it interesting.

1. Demographics

1.1 What is your age in years?

633 responses
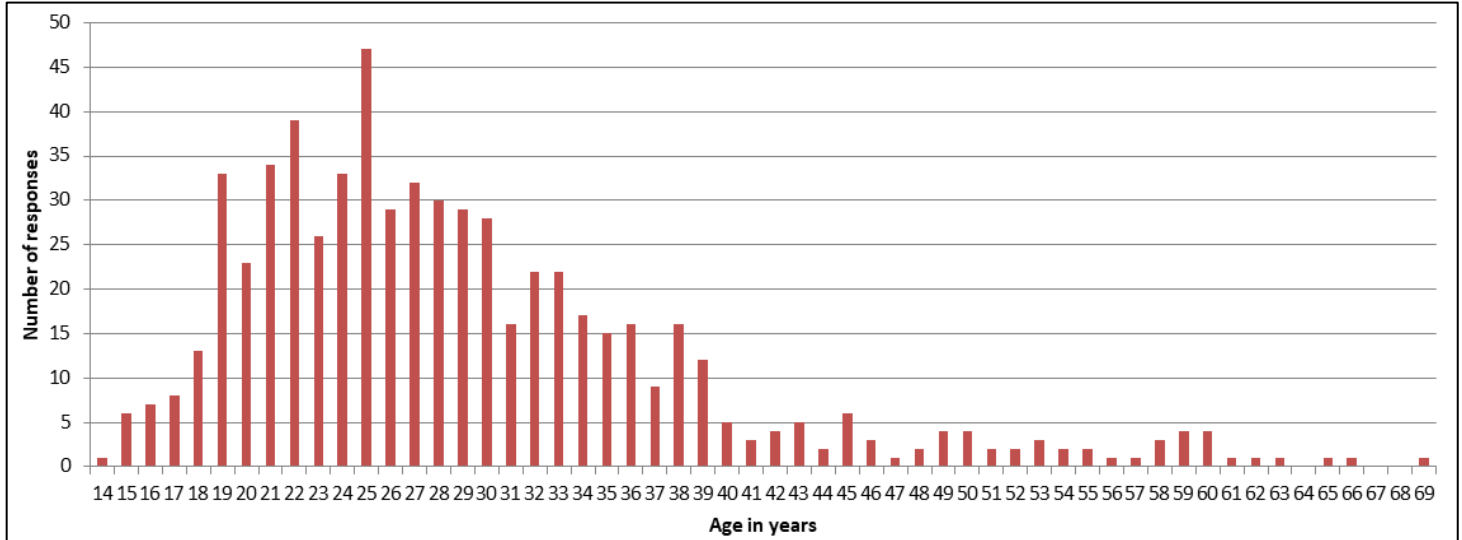
Age	Responses	Percentage
14	1	0.2%
15	6	0.9%
16	7	1.1%
17	8	1.3%
18	13	2.1%
19	33	5.2%
20	23	3.6%
21	34	5.4%
22	39	6.2%
23	26	4.1%
24	33	5.2%
25	47	7.4%
26	29	4.6%
27	32	5.1%
28	30	4.7%
29	29	4.6%
30	28	4.4%
31	16	2.5%
32	22	3.5%
33	22	3.5%
34	17	2.7%
35	15	2.4%
36	16	2.5%
37	9	1.4%

Age	Responses	Percentage
38	16	2.5%
39	12	1.9%
40	5	0.8%
41	3	0.5%
42	4	0.6%
43	5	0.8%
44	2	0.3%
45	6	0.9%
46	3	0.5%
47	1	0.2%
48	2	0.3%
49	4	0.6%
50	4	0.6%
51	2	0.3%
52	2	0.3%
53	3	0.5%
54	2	0.3%
55	2	0.3%
56	1	0.2%
57	1	0.2%
58	3	0.5%
59	4	0.6%
60	4	0.6%
61-69	6	0.9%

Average age: 29.1

Median age: 27

2.5% of respondents are <18.

1.2 Which country do you live in?
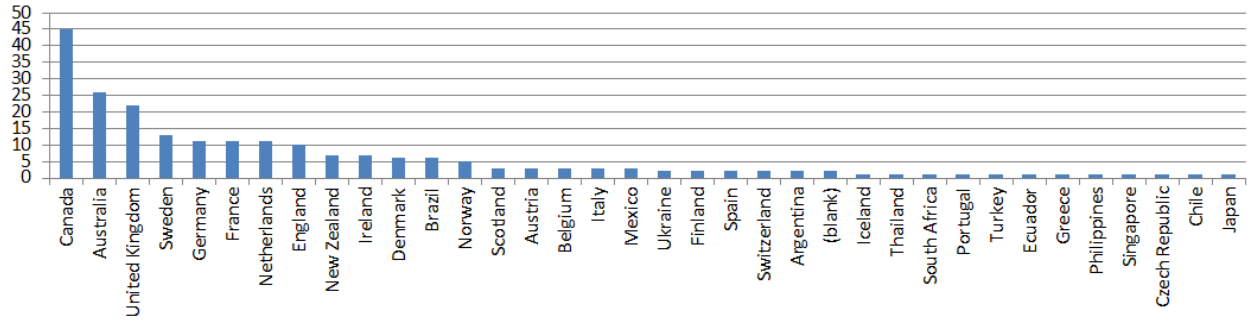
Graph excluding United States

| Country	No.
United States	420
Canada	45
Australia	26
United Kingdom	22
Sweden	13
Netherlands	11
France	11
Germany	11
England	10
New Zealand	7
Ireland	7
Brazil	6
Denmark	6
Norway	5
Austria	3
Belgium	3
Scotland	3
Italy	3
Mexico	3
Spain	2
Ukraine	2
Switzerland	2
Finland	2
Argentina	2
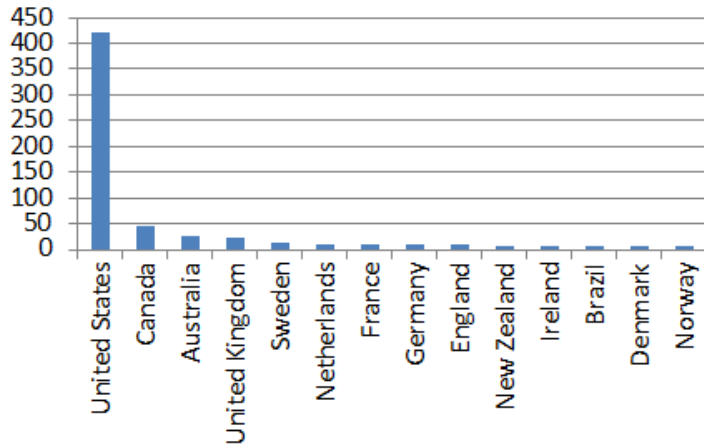
Graph including United States (cropped)

Only a single person from each of the following countries responded: Chile, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Greece, Iceland, Japan, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey.

Two people abstained from responding

1.3 What is your first language?
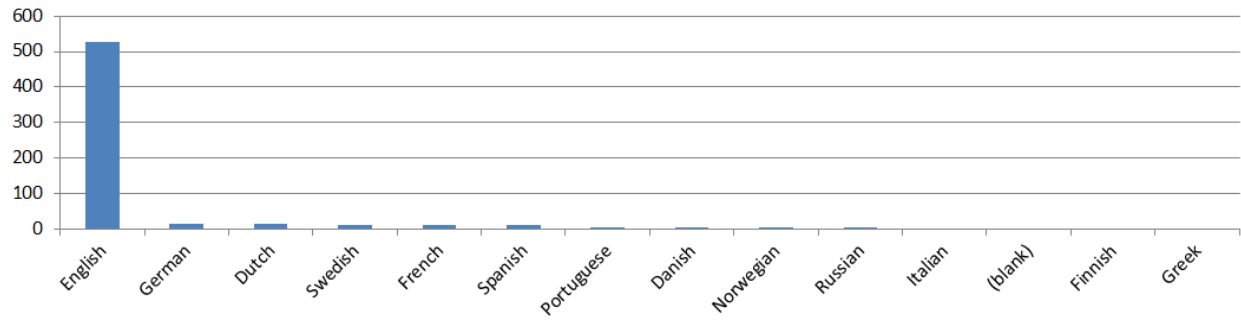
Language	No.
English	526
German	16
Dutch	14
Swedish	13
French	12
Spanish	11
Portuguese	6
Danish	6
Norwegian	5
Russian	4
(blank)	3
Italian	3
Finnish	2
Greek	2
Scottish Gaelic	1
Thai	1
Cree	1
Icelandic	1
Greek/English	1
Chinese	1
Sinhala	1
Korean	1
Czech	1
Corsican	1
Bulgarian	1
English/Mandarin	1
Hebrew/English	1
English/Spanish	1
American Sign Language	1
Serbian	1

1.4 Gender identity

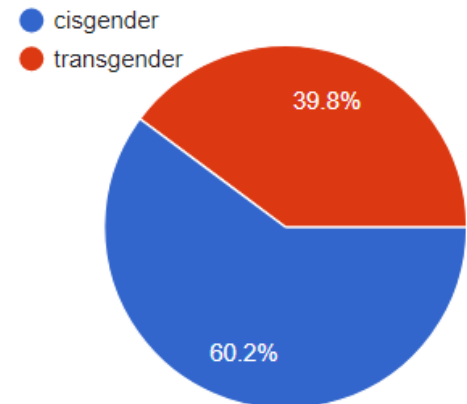Respondents were able to select multiple gender labels, including an "other" label. Only "Female", "Male", and "Nonbinary" were promoted by the survey itself. 636 of the respondents answered this question. A few of these selected both a binary gender and a specification (like "Male; Noncommittal shrug", "Female; Non-binary", and "Male; Occasionally feel genderfluid").

Gender label	No.	%
Male	330	51.9%
Female	195	30.7%
Nonbinary	126	19.8%
(Gender)fluid	21	3.3%
Questioning	9	1.4%
"meh"/Non-committal shrug	8	1.3%
Agender	7	1.1%
"I don't like labels"	1	0.2%
Bigender	1	0.2%
Demiguy	1	0.2%
Demigirl	1	0.2%
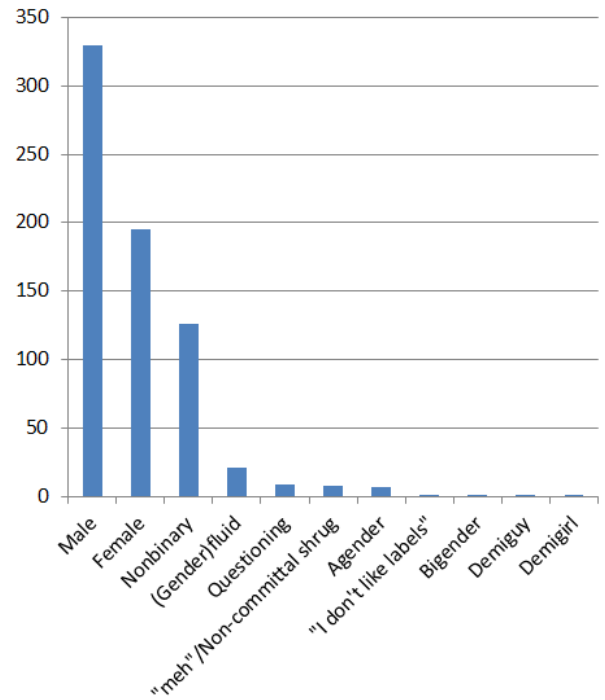
A much less specific question was also asked:
Respondents were asked to label themselves as either cisgender or transgender. 600 respondents answered this narrow question:

Gender label	No.	%
Cisgender	361	60.2%
Transgender	239	39.8%

1.5 Sexuality and romantic attraction

Like with gender, respondents were able to select multiple sexuality labels, including an "other" label. Here, nine sexualities were promoted by the survey itself: Straight, gay, bi, ace, pan, lesbian, demi, allo, and questioning. 636 respondents answered this question, though a few did so in a manner that is difficult to plot on a graph.

Sexuality	No.	%
Straight	234	37.1%
Bisexual	119	18.9%
Asexual	114	18.1%
Pansexual	87	13.8%
Lesbian	73	11.6%
Questioning	72	11.4%
Demisexual	57	9.0%
Gay	25	4.0%
Allosexual	15	2.4%
Queer	12	1.9%
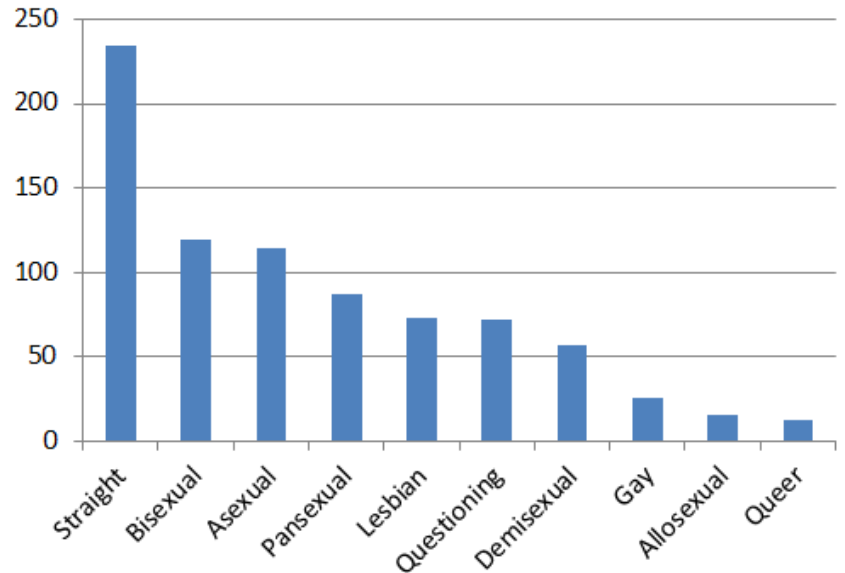
Eight people specifically identified themselves as gynesexual. Two people specifically identified themselves as androsexual. Four people indicated that they are unsure, but not specifically questioning, with answers such as "???", "*shrug*", "Fucked if I know", and "uncertain but not really questioning, just goin' with the flow."

Romantic attraction had a similar, but slightly more limited set of promoted labels: "Heteroromantic", "Homoromantic", "Biromantic", "Aromantic", "Panromantic", and "Questioning". 626 respondents answered this question, and again a few did so in a manner that is difficult to plot on a graph.

| Romanticism	No.	%
Heteroromantic	226	36.5%
Panromantic	107	17.3%
Homoromantic	96	15.5%
Biromantic	91	14.7%
Questioning	91	14.7%
Aromantic	59	9.5%
Queer	7	1.1%
Demiromantic	7	1.1%
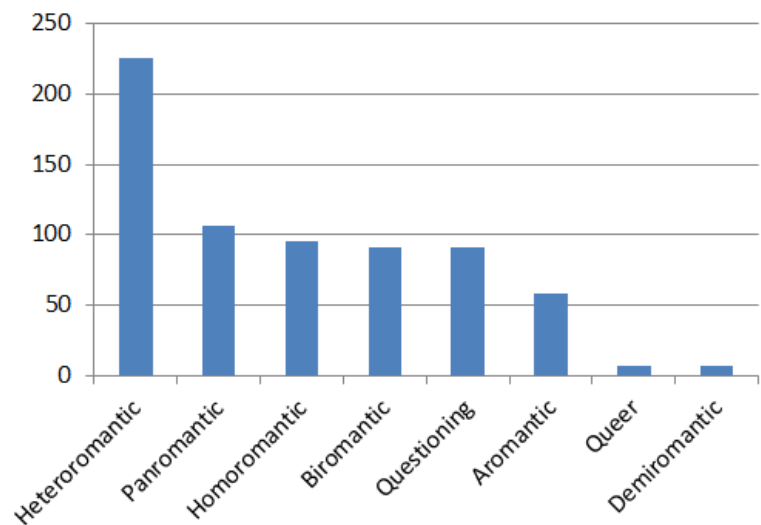
Nine people specifically identified themselves as gyneromantic.

1.6 Race

587 out of the 638 respondents identified themselves as "white". That is 92%.

Race	No.	%
White	587	92%
Hispanic/Latino	27	4.2%
Multiracial	24	3.8%
Asian	19	3.0%
Black	6	0.9%
Mesoamerican/Native American	6	0.9%
Jewish	5	0.8%
Pacific Islander	4	0.6%
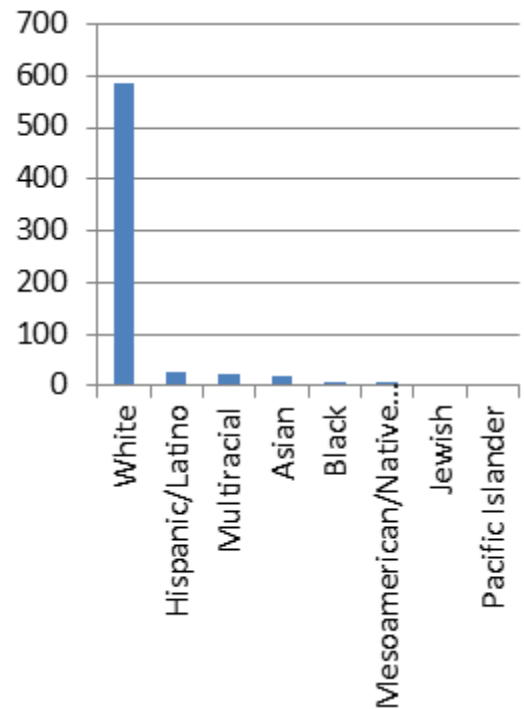
A few individual responses also included Eastern European, Irish, and Pākehā.

1.7 Disability

630 people responded to this question.

Disability	No.	%
Able-bodied	548	87.1%
Disabled	54	8.6%
Other	27	4.3%

Of course, this question is not as binary as we presented it. A selection of "other" entries:

- "15.5% disabled"; "sorta not abled"; "Mild physical issues, but not enough to consider myself disabled"
- Chronic pain
- Mental health issues
- Autism
- Hearing problems/deafness
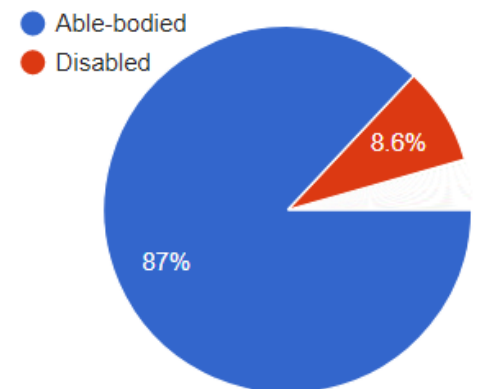
1.8 Neurodiversity

623 people responded to this question.

Neurological status	No.	%
Neurodivergent	269	43.3%
Unsure	175	28.2%
Neurotypical	166	26.7%
Other	11	1.8%

Of course, this question is not as binary as we presented it. A selection of "other" entries:

- ADHD
- Autism
- Bipolar
- Borderline
- Trauma
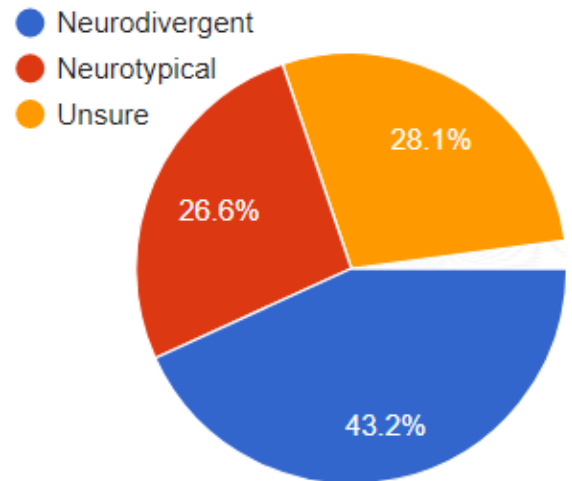
1.9 Voting

634 people responded to this question.

Voting status	No.	%
Yes	586	92.4%
No	48	7.6%

1.10 Political views

617 people responded ranked themselves on a "liberal-conservative" scale.
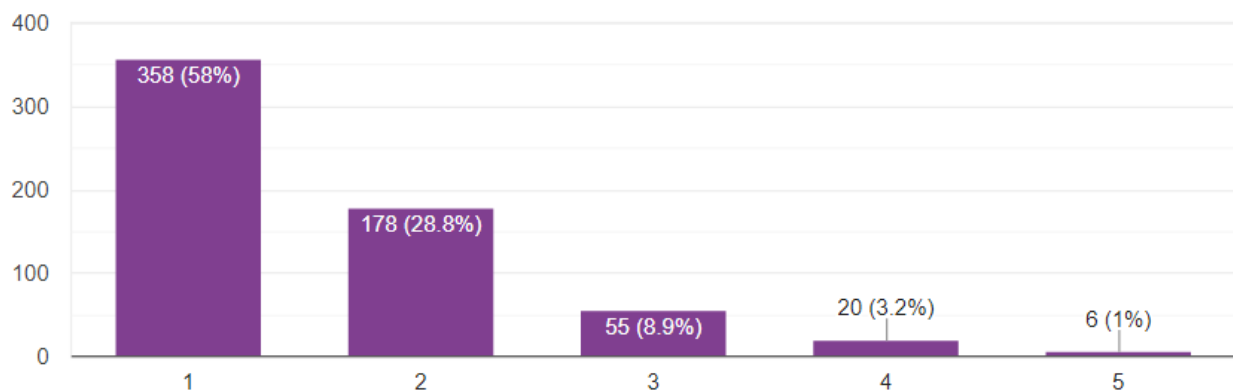
1.11 Religion

631 people responded to this question. Nearly all responses other than the main four suggested in the survey are unique.

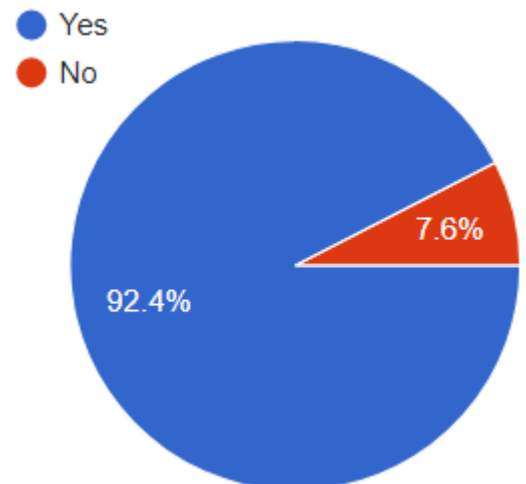| Religion	No.	%
I am agnostic	205	32.5%
I am an atheist	200	31.7%
I am spiritually minded	95	15.1%
I am part of an organized religion	79	12.5%
Other	51	8.1%
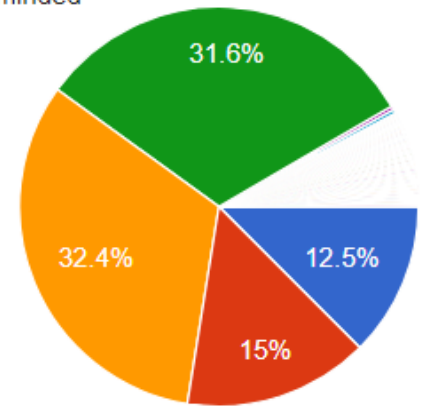
A few common themes in the "Other" answers include:

- Pagan
- Questioning
- Both part of a religious community and atheist
- Christian, but not part of a church
- Polytheistic
- Complex relationships with agnosticism, atheism, and non-religion

The 51 "Other" answers are so varied that they are impossible to cover here.

1.12 Video games

638 people responded to this question.

Video games	No.	%
A lot/every day	269	42.2%
Frequently	233	36.5%
Occasionally	103	16.1%
Pretty much never	33	5.2%
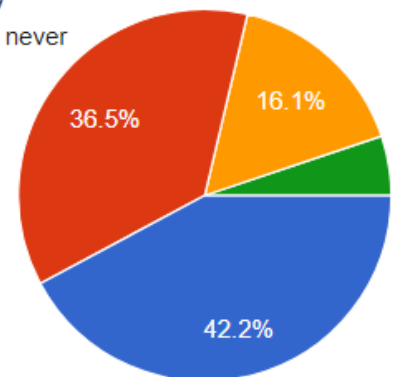
2. Reading patterns

2.1 Reading El Goonish Shive

637 people responded to this question. The vast majority of respondents are caught up with *El Goonish Shive*.

Have you read EGS	No.	%
I follow updates live	520	81.6%
I regularly catch up	96	15.1%
Most of it	11	1.7%
About half	4	0.6%
Very little	5	0.8%
No	1	0.2%
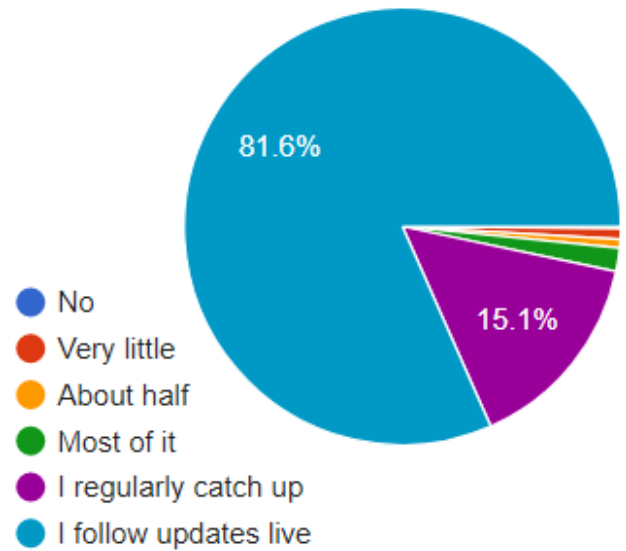
634 people responded to the next question: the majority of respondents have reread *El Goonish Shive* several times. Over a hundred respondents reported to have read the webcomic over ten times.

How often have you read	No.	1.0%
More than 10 times	108	17.0%
5-9 times	98	15.5%
2-4 times	305	48.1%
Once	115	18.1%
Never fully	8	1.3%
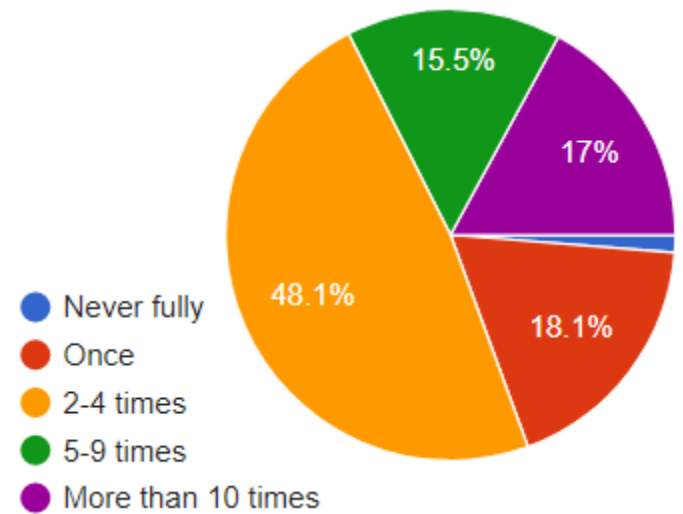
Only 560 people remembered in which year they began reading *El Goonish Shive*, resulting in the following dataset:
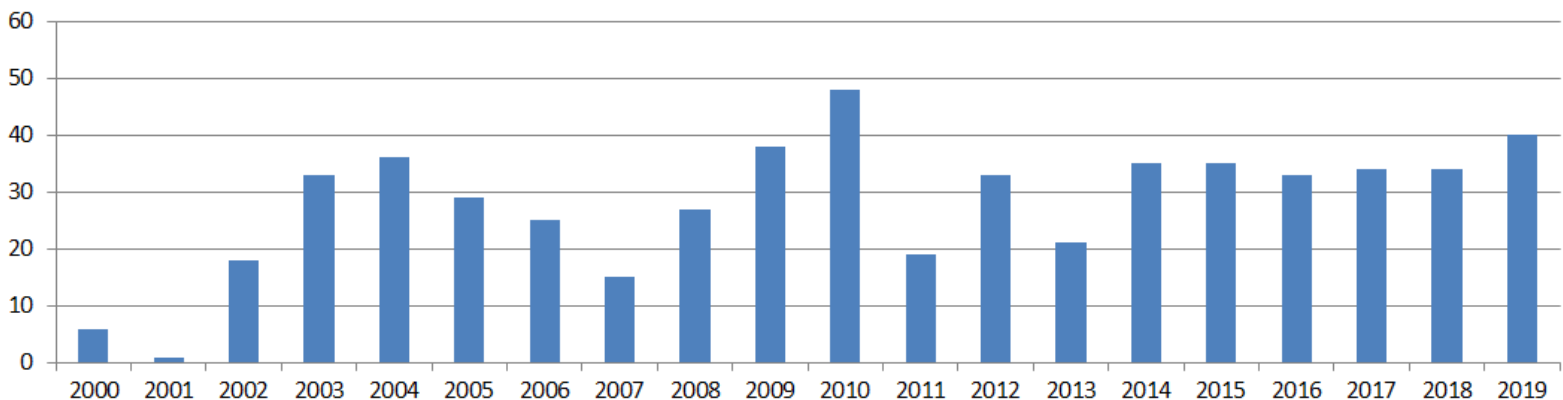
Year started	1	1.0%
2000	6	1.1%
2001	1	0.2%
2002	18	3.2%
2003	33	5.9%
2004	36	6.4%
2005	29	5.2%
2006	25	4.5%
2007	15	2.7%
2008	27	4.8%
2009	38	6.8%
2010	48	8.6%
2011	19	3.4%
2012	33	5.9%
2013	21	3.8%
2014	35	6.3%
2015	35	6.3%
2016	33	5.9%
2017	34	6.1%
2018	34	6.1%
2019	40	7.1%

Interestingly, seven people reported to start reading *El Goonish Shive* before Dan began posting it on the Web in 2002. Five of these originate from the United States. The 2001 respondent would have been 13 when they reportedly began reading the webcomic, though the four remaining respondents that began reading in 2000 are all older and could have perhaps read the strip in a certain college newspaper?

166 of 635 people did not remember how they first came across *El Goonish Shive*, though the remaining 469 people recalled a huge variation of websites that introduced them to the webcomic. The most common ones were:
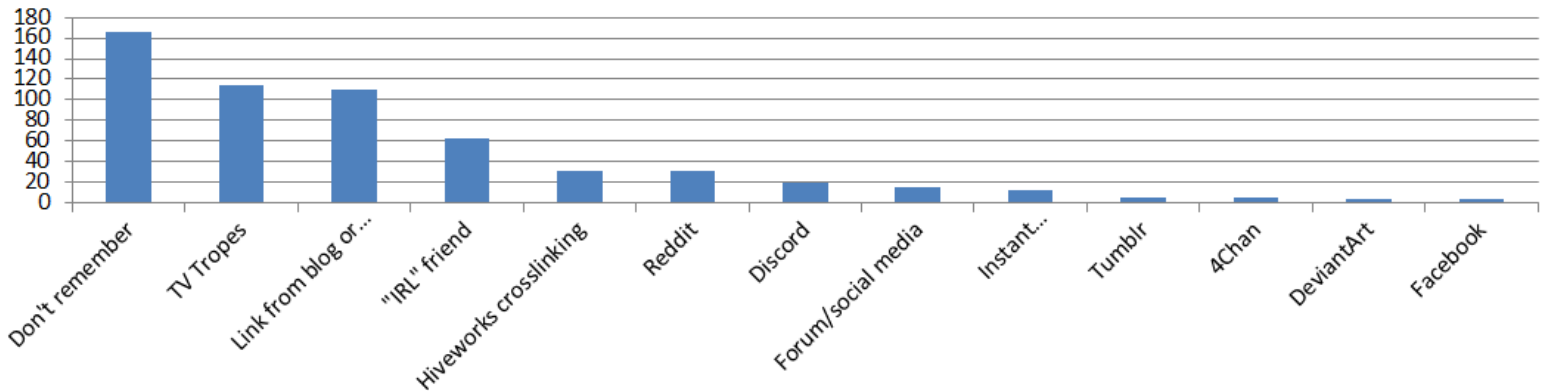
| How did you find out about *El Goonish Shive*?	No.	%
Don't remember	166	29.6%
TV Tropes	114	20.4%
Link from blog or webcomic	110	19.6%
"IRL" friend	62	11.1%
Hiveworks crosslinking	31	5.5%
Reddit	31	5.5%
Discord	19	3.4%
Forum/social media	16	2.9%
Instant messaging/chatroom	12	2.1%
Tumblr	5	
4Chan	5	
Facebook	4	
DeviantArt	4	
TopWebcomics	2	
Google	2	
StumbleUpon	2	
Keenspot	2	
Twokinds Forum	1	
Top 100 webcomics	1	
Quora	1	
I sort of stumbled across it	1	
topwebcomics.com, I think. It's been a while.	1	
I think it might have been a random ad on another old comic I used to read, Planet Zebeth by Kabutroid. I'm not too sure, though.	1	
Banner ad	1	
I think it was an ad on a webcomic	1	
Honestly, random browsing.	1	
Comic link	1	
found an image from the EGS Sketchbook, and reverse image searched it	1	
It was on Keenspot and I was reading every comic on that site.	1	
Either a forum or a webcomic	1	
searchin' for TG content on the interwebs	1	
webcomic vote ranking site	1	
Some kind of webcomics ranking site.	1	
Porn Site	1	
Someone deep in a reddit thread linked the page where Catalina shouted "I'M GAY" and I just had to know what the context was.	1	
Recommendation by a friend, but don't remember where.	1	
A wizzard did it.	1	
I remember the artist for the wotch did a comic of your characters	1	
Tedd and Elliot are linked in this page I found during my egg days https://powerlisting.fandom.com/wiki/Gender_Transformation	1	
some wiki list of gender-bender media	1	
Keenspot	1	

Square Root of Minus Garfield #219	1
Keenspot crosslinking	1
Suggested by TheWebcomicList.com, probably	1
Keenspot Forum or comic ad, uncertain	1
Think my brother recommended it to me	1
crossover with another comic	1
Top webcomics.com	1
Link from Slashdot	1
Topwebcomics.com	1
Youtube video	1
Transfur.com	1
rob	1
/r/traaaaaaaaaaaaaans	1
Mentioned (but not linked to) in an author's note in a piece of online erotica.	1
Webcomic ad	1
Mentions on the bad webcomics wiki by fans of the comic.	1
youtube (needs more gay)	1
My brother recommended it.	1
My Dad	1
Live Journal friends	1
Many of the above	1

633 people reviewed *El Goonish Shive* on a 1-5 scale, and the results were particularly positive. Almost 70% of the people willing to fill out the survey gave the webcomic a 5/5, and practically no one rated it lower than a 3. The average rating is a 4.66.
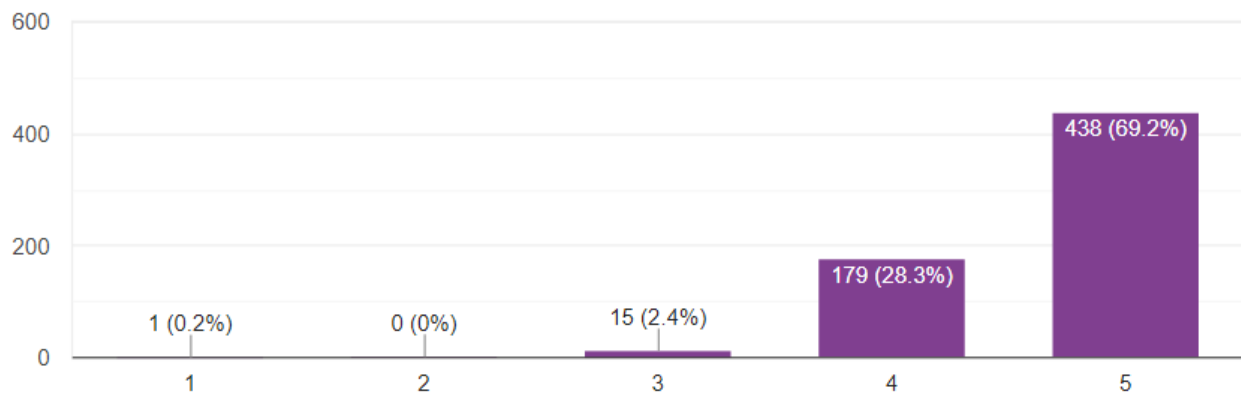
2.2 Reading El Goonish Shive: NewsPaper

638 people responded to this question. The majority of respondents are caught up with *El Goonish Shive: NewsPaper*.

Have you read EGS:NP	No.	%
I follow updates live	414	64.9%
I regularly catch up	106	16.6%
Most of it	43	6.7%
About half	17	2.7%
Very little	20	3.1%
No	38	6.0%
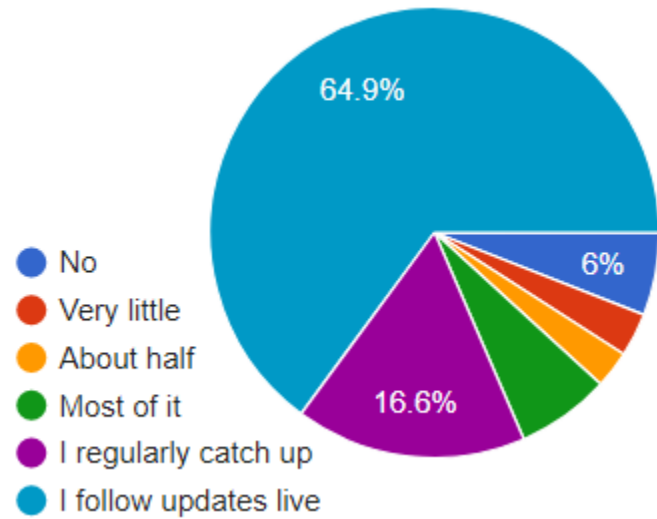
628 people responded to the next question: A third of respondents have read *NP* exactly once, and just over half of respondents have read *NP* more than once.

How often have you read	No.	%
More than 10 times	74	11.8%
5-9 times	32	5.1%
2-4 times	226	36.0%
Never fully	87	13.9%
Once	209	33.3%
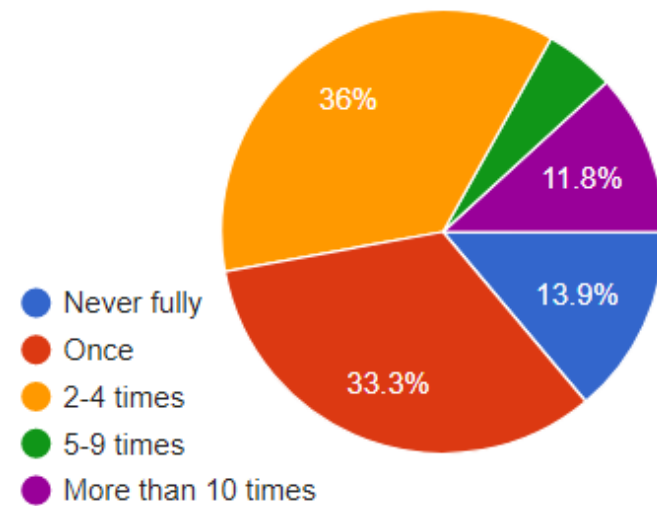
605 people reviewed *NP* on 1-5 scale, and the results were a bit more mixed, albeit still strongly positive. The average rating is 4.20.
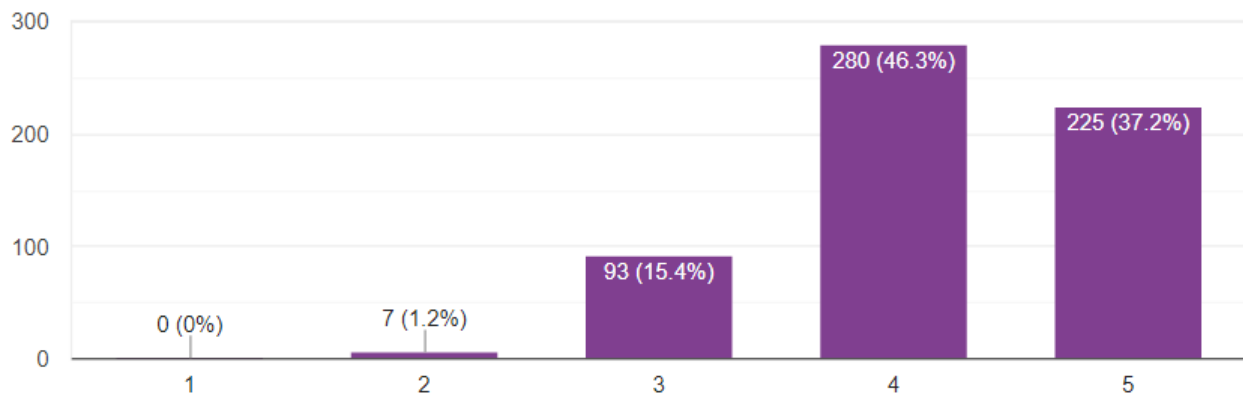
2.3 Reading Sketchbook

636 people responded to this question. Just over half of all respondents have read the entire *Sketchbook* archive.

Have you read Sketchbook	No.	%
All of it	320	50.3%
Most of it	144	22.6%
About half	70	11.0%
Very little	65	10.2%
No	37	5.8%
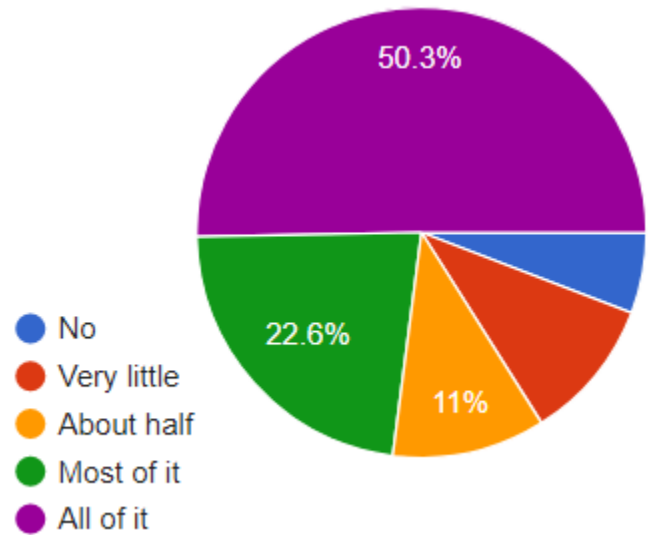
3. Characters

3.1 Favorite characters

618 people responded to the question on who their favorite character in the "Main 8" is.

Who is your favorite "Main 8" character in El Goonish Shive?

618 responses

Favorite "Main 8"	No.	%
Tedd	203	32.8%
Susan	159	25.7%
Grace	83	13.4%
Ellen	61	9.9%
Elliot	47	7.6%
Nanase	27	4.4%
Sarah	24	3.9%
Justin	14	2.3%

586 entered a favorite character overall.

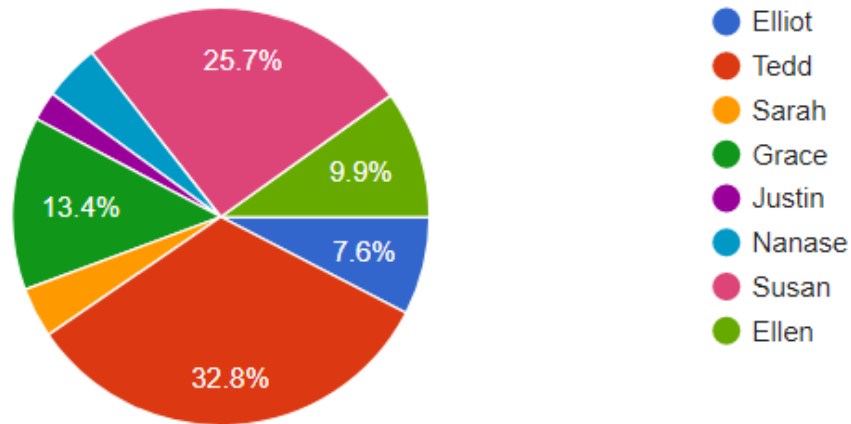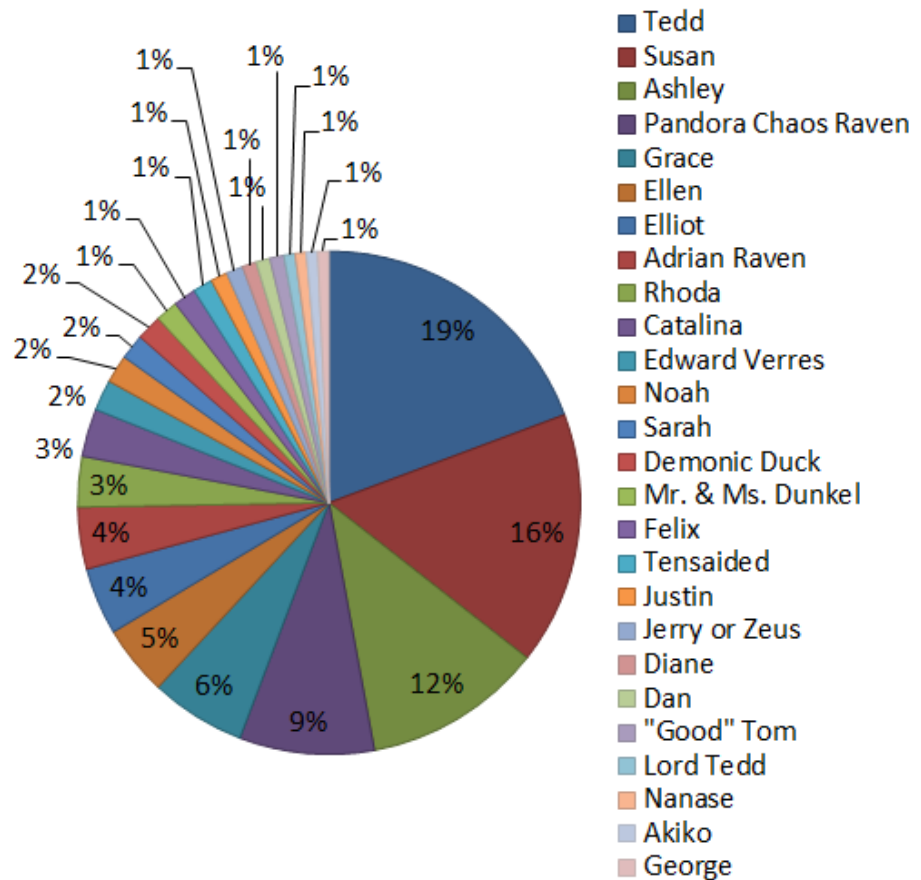| Favorite overall	No.	%
Tedd	107	18.3%
Susan	90	15.4%
Ashley	64	10.9%
(blank)	52	8.9%
Pandora Chaos Raven	48	8.2%
Grace	34	5.8%
Ellen	25	4.3%
Elliot	24	4.1%
Adrian Raven	22	3.8%
Rhoda	18	3.1%
Catalina	17	2.9%
Edward Verres	11	1.9%
Noah	10	1.7%
Demonic Duck	9	1.5%
Sarah	9	1.5%
Felix	8	1.4%
Mr. & Ms. Dunkel	8	1.4%
Tensaided	7	1.2%
Jerry or Zeus	6	1.0%
Justin	6	1.0%
Diane	5	
"Good" Tom	5	
Dan	5	
Lord Tedd	4	
Akiko	4	
George	4	
Nanase	4	
Liz	3	
Magic	3	
Greg	3	
Kaoli	3	
Vlad	2	
Magus/Ellen	2	
Duck	2	
Kitty	2	
Hedge	2	
Sam	2	
Goo	1	
Griffins	1	
Magic Emissary	1	
Amanda	1	
William or Gillian	1	
Some Guy	1	
Minion	1	
Luke	1	
Sirleck	1	

3.2 Least favorite characters

522 people responded to the question on who their least favorite character in the "Main 8" is.

Who is your least favorite "Main 8" character in El Goonish Shive?

522 responses
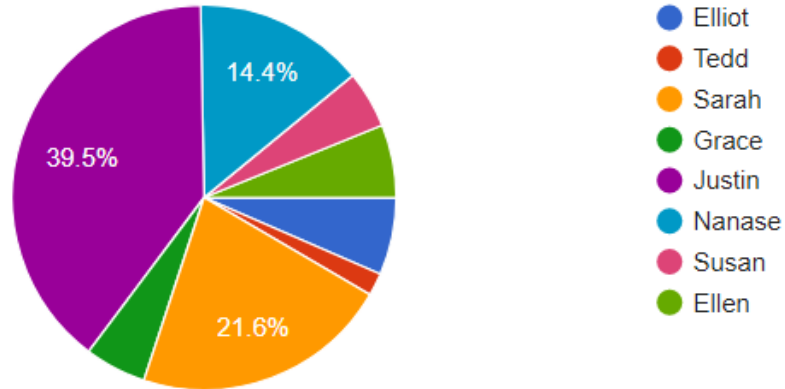
Worst "Main 8"	No.	%
Justin	206	39.5%
Sarah	113	21.6%
Nanase	75	14.4%
Elliot	34	6.5%
Ellen	32	6.1%
Grace	27	5.2%
Susan	25	4.8%
Tedd	10	1.9%

510 people selected a least-favorite character overall.
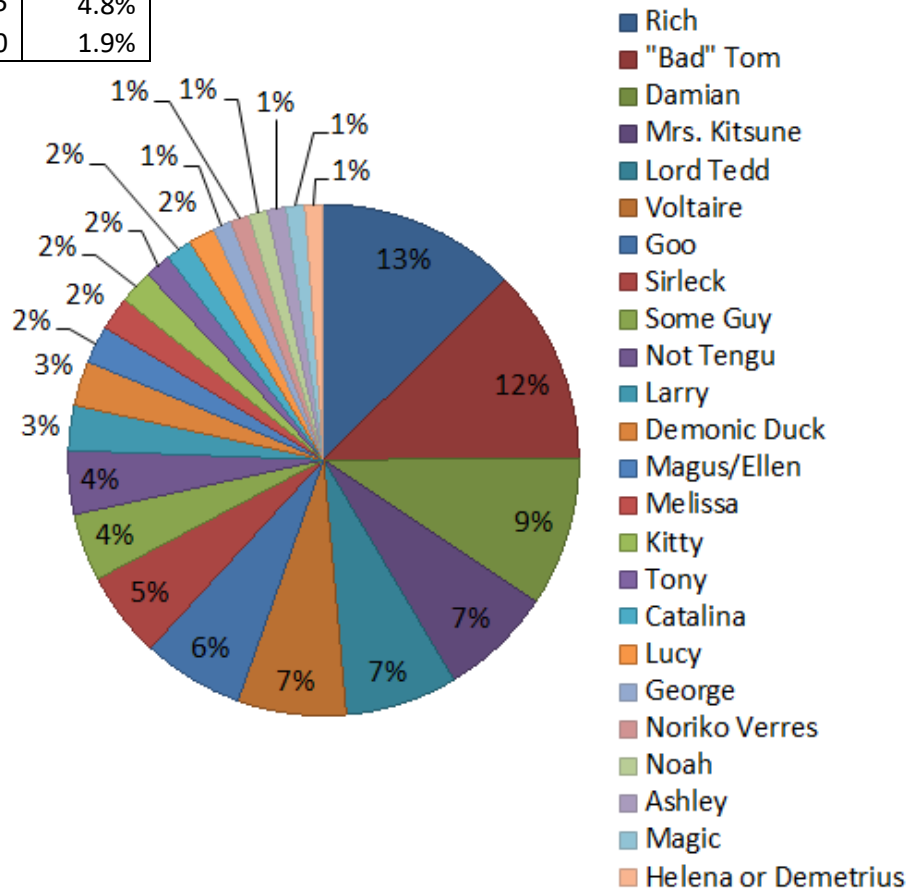
Worst overall	No.	%
Rich	53	10.4%
"Bad" Tom	52	10.2%
Damian	40	7.8%
Mrs. Kitsune	30	5.9%
Lord Tedd	30	5.9%
Voltaire	29	5.7%
Goo	27	5.3%
Sirleck	23	4.5%
Some Guy	18	3.5%
Not Tengu	17	3.3%
Larry	12	2.4%
Demonic Duck	12	2.4%
Magus/Ellen	10	2.0%
Melissa	9	1.8%
Kitty	9	1.8%
Tony	7	1.4%
Catalina	7	1.4%
Lucy	7	1.4%
Noriko Verres	5	1.0%
George	5	1.0%
Helena or Demetrius	5	1.0%
Ashley	5	1.0%
Noah	5	1.0%
Magic	5	1.0%
Chika	4	
Duck	4	
Hedge	4	
Diane	4	
Justin	4	
Vlad	4	
Tensaided	4	
Arthur J. Arthur	4	
Nioi	4	
Greg	3	
Theater Clerk	3	
Luke	3	
Minion	3	
Lavender	3	
Rhoda	3	
Amanda	3	
Magic Emissary	3	

Worst overall	No.
Felix	2
Sarah	2
Dan	2
Agent Wolf	2
Ellen	2
Nanase	2
Abraham	2
Susan	1
Liz	1
Adrian Raven	1
Jerry or Zeus	1
"Good" Tom	1
Akiko	1
Carol	1
Dex	1
Edward Verres	1
Matt Cohen	1
Rhea	1
William or Gillian	1
Guineas	1
Charlotte	1

3.3 Other character questions

Nothing surprising going on here. People just love creatures nature never intended, but forget about Max.

Fav cat	No.	%
Jeremy	420	71.3%
Brownie	144	24.4%
Max	25	4.2%

I greatly underestimated how many forms Elliot has. Promoted in the survey were Cheerleadra, the three secret identities, 'blonde girl', and 'cat'. Quite a few of the 610 respondents were luckily kind enough to remind us of Default Elliot and some of his other forms. Sadly, these didn't get all the attention they deserved.

Elliot-form	No.	%
Cheerleadra	124	20.3%
Rose Elliot (pink-haired)	108	17.7%
Heidi (Party Animal)	102	16.7%
Angsty Goth	81	13.3%
Mild-mannered	72	11.8%
Blonde girl Elliot	45	7.4%
Cat Elliot	40	6.6%
Default Elliot	20	3.3%
Alt!Cheerleadra	4	0.7%
Vs. Magus Form	2	0.3%
Mall goth fusion	2	0.3%
Gracelyn	2	0.3%

My favorite write-in answers:

—"All of them, because Elliot rocks."

—"All really?"

—"Whichever one Elliot likes the most."

Who is your favorite cat?

589 responses

- Jeremy
- Brownie
- Max

71.3%
24.4%

0% 0%
1% 0%
3%
7%
8%
12%
13%
17%
18%
21%

- Cheerleadra
- Rose Elliot (pink-haired, Date at the Mall)
- Heidi (Party Animal Socialite)
- Angsty Goth
- Mild-mannered
- Blonde girl Elliot
- Cat Elliot
- Default Elliot
- Alt!Cheerleadra
- Gracelyn
- Mall goth fusion
- Vs. Magus Form
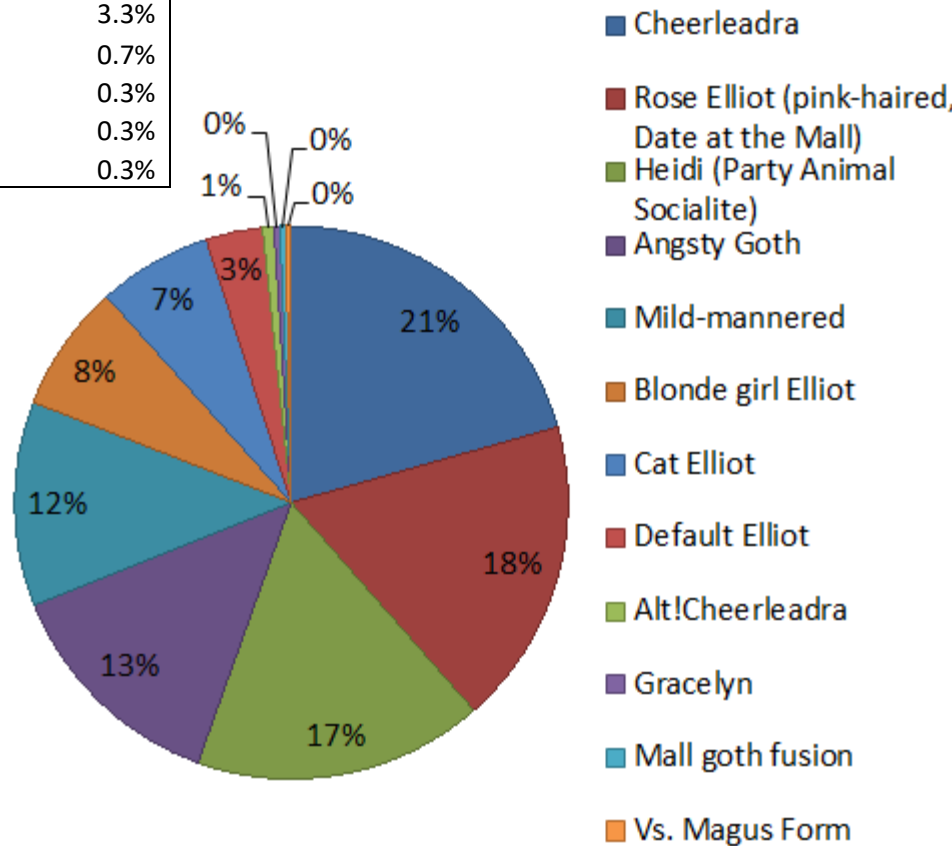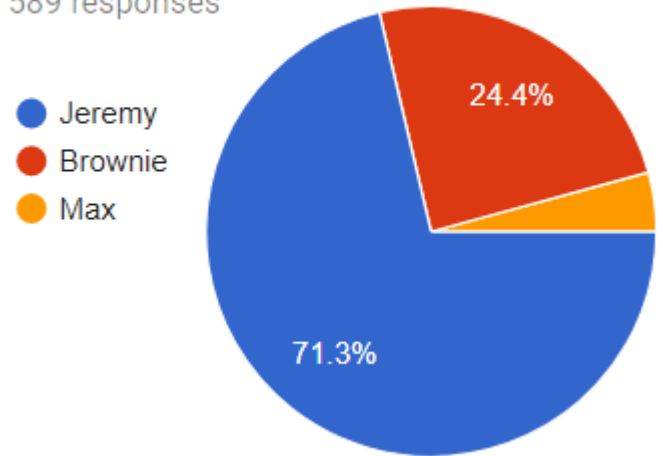
4. Story arcs

Unlike the characters questions, respondents were allowed to pick more than 1 favorite story arc.

What is your favorite major arc in El Goonish Shive?

550 responses

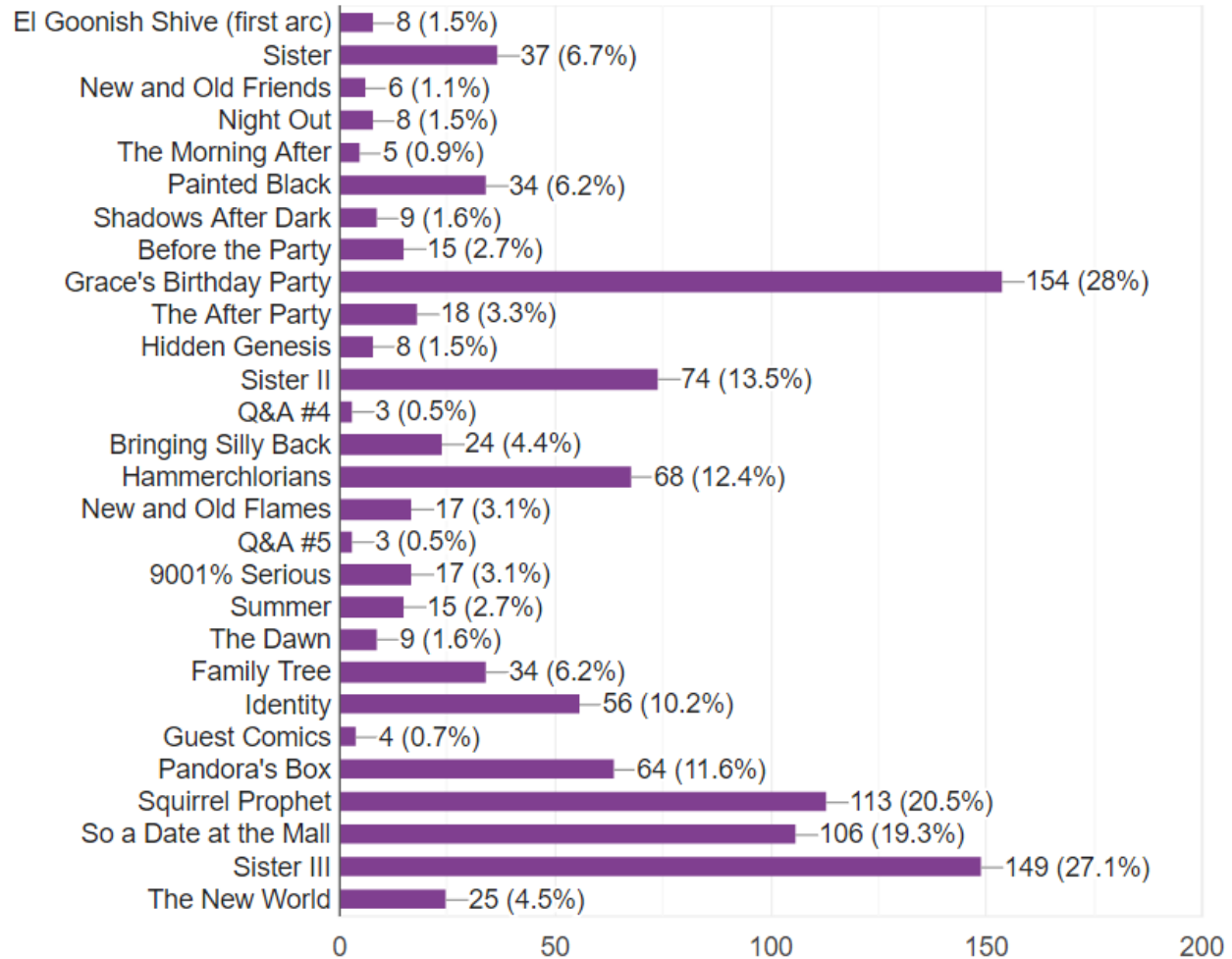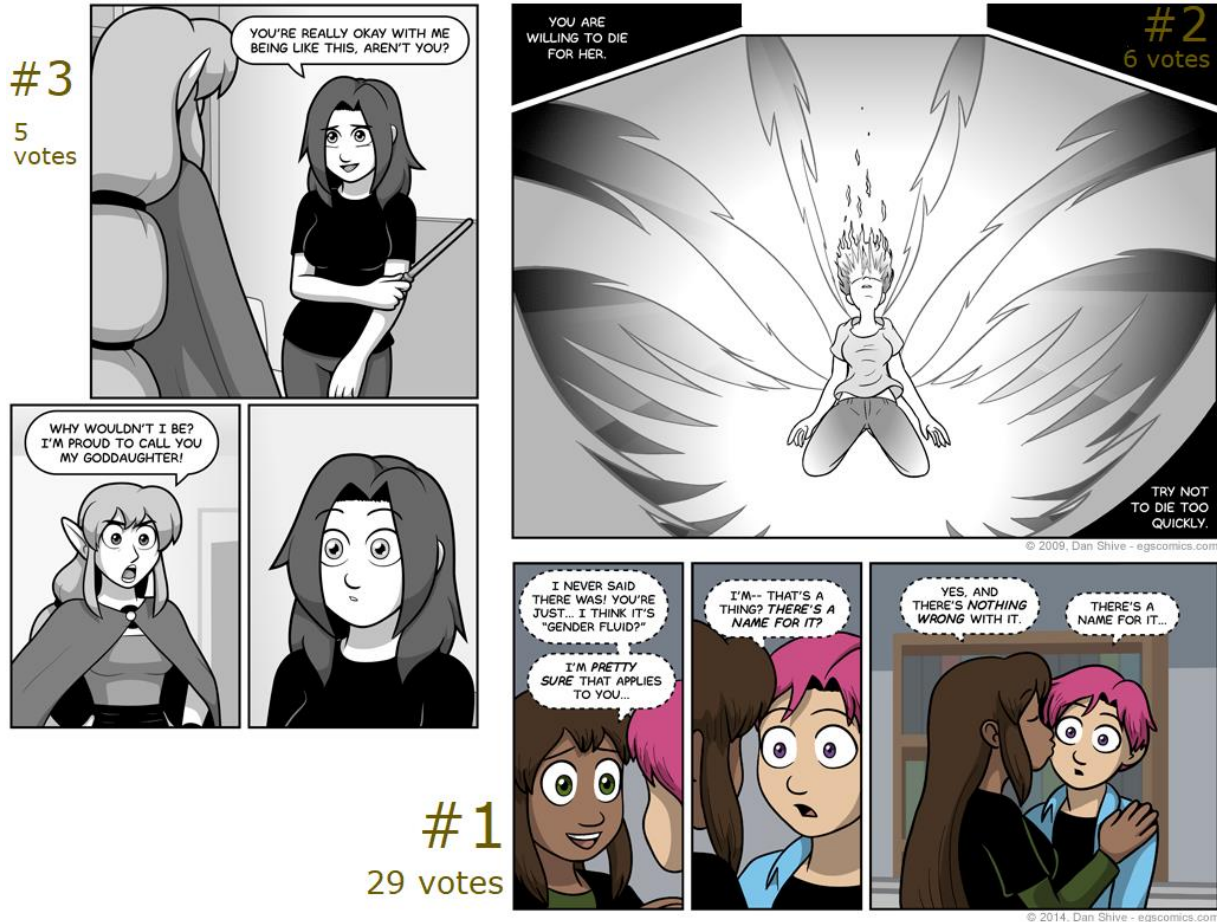| Arc	Responses
El Goonish Shive (first arc)	8 (1.5%)
Sister	37 (6.7%)
New and Old Friends	6 (1.1%)
Night Out	8 (1.5%)
The Morning After	5 (0.9%)
Painted Black	34 (6.2%)
Shadows After Dark	9 (1.6%)
Before the Party	15 (2.7%)
Grace's Birthday Party	154 (28%)
The After Party	18 (3.3%)
Hidden Genesis	8 (1.5%)
Sister II	74 (13.5%)
Q&A #4	3 (0.5%)
Bringing Silly Back	24 (4.4%)
Hammerchlorians	68 (12.4%)
New and Old Flames	17 (3.1%)
Q&A #5	3 (0.5%)
9001% Serious	17 (3.1%)
Summer	15 (2.7%)
The Dawn	9 (1.6%)
Family Tree	34 (6.2%)
Identity	56 (10.2%)
Guest Comics	4 (0.7%)
Pandora's Box	64 (11.6%)
Squirrel Prophet	113 (20.5%)
So a Date at the Mall	106 (19.3%)
Sister III	149 (27.1%)
The New World	25 (4.5%)

138 people picked a favorite page from among the entirety of *El Goonish Shive*. This is my personal favorite question, as it is a joy to see all the personal and "canonical" favorites. Here are a few random personal favorites picked by individuals:

- Looking in the mirror and someone else looks back: http://egscomics.com/comic/2002-10-02
- Focus on what is important now: http://egscomics.com/comic/2006-06-14
- I'm an endless barrel of exposition: http://www.egscomics.com/comic/2008-11-26
- Bunnies solve everything: http://egscomics.com/comic/2010-07-07
- Box! http://egscomics.com/comic/2016-10-17
- It's good to have a sister to talk identity with: http://egscomics.com/comic/2017-05-15

However, some clear fan-favorites appeared from the survey results… *drum rolls*


All 'favorite pages' picked by two people or more are listed in the tables below; one ordered by popularity, the other by date. 2019-08-04 doesn't match any page, so I don't know why it's here.

Page	No.
2014-07-01	29
2009-10-03	6
2017-08-04	5
2009-09-27	4
2017-05-12	3
2006-09-29	3
2018-01-12	3
2018-10-24	2
2013-04-05	2
2017-02-22	2
2003-01-28	2
2017-10-30	2
2010-07-14	2
2015-03-20	2
2019-08-04?	2
2019-08-30	2

Page	No.
2003-01-28	2
2006-09-29	3
2009-09-27	4
2009-10-03	6
2010-07-14	2
2013-04-05	2
2014-07-01	29
2015-03-20	2
2017-02-22	2
2017-05-12	3
2017-08-04	5
2017-10-30	2
2018-01-12	3
2018-10-24	2
2019-08-04?	2
2019-08-30	2

It is possible to plot the number of "favorite page" choices by year, resulting in a graph like this. Needless to say, 2009 featured the conclusion of "Sister II", and 2014 introduced us to "There's a name for it."
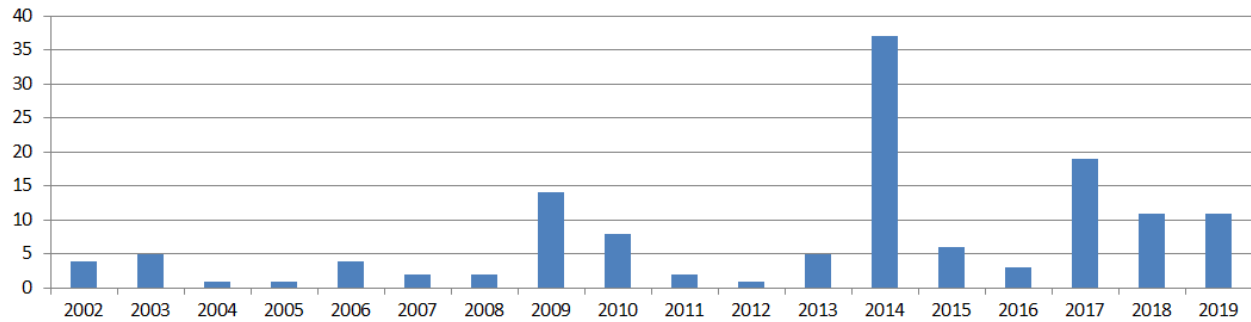
Only 398 people felt able to select a least favorite arc. Nearly half of these people selected "El Goonish Shive", the first storyline that introduced seven of the eight main characters, and included several non-canon chapters like "Introductions" and "April Fools Week".

What is your least favorite major arc in El Goonish Shive?

398 responses
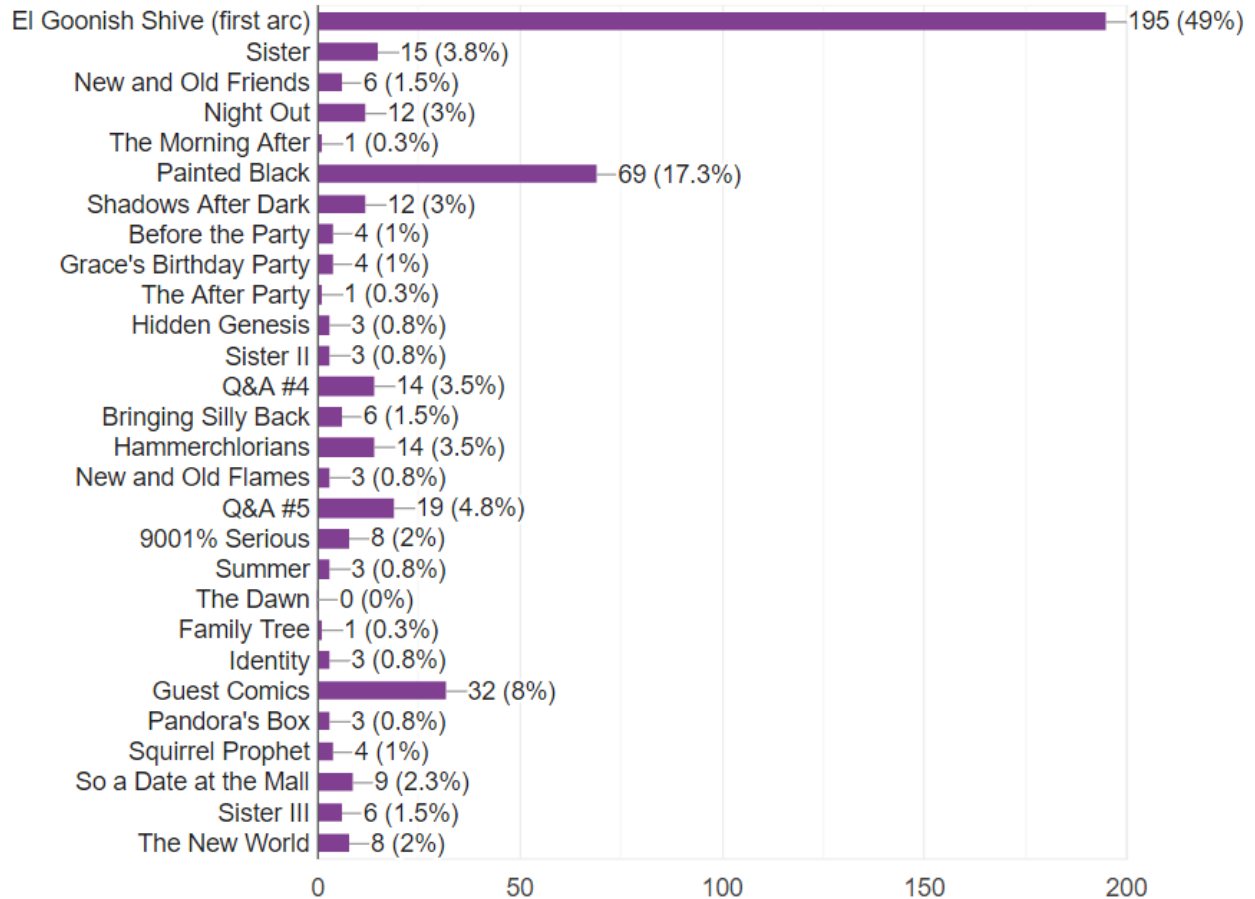
With regards to people's favorite artstyle, there is a clear bias in favor of colored storylines such as "Sister II" and "Squirrel Prophet". In general, however, people appreciate the art of more recent arcs over that of older arcs, and the most recent storyline "The New World" received a clear plurality of votes.
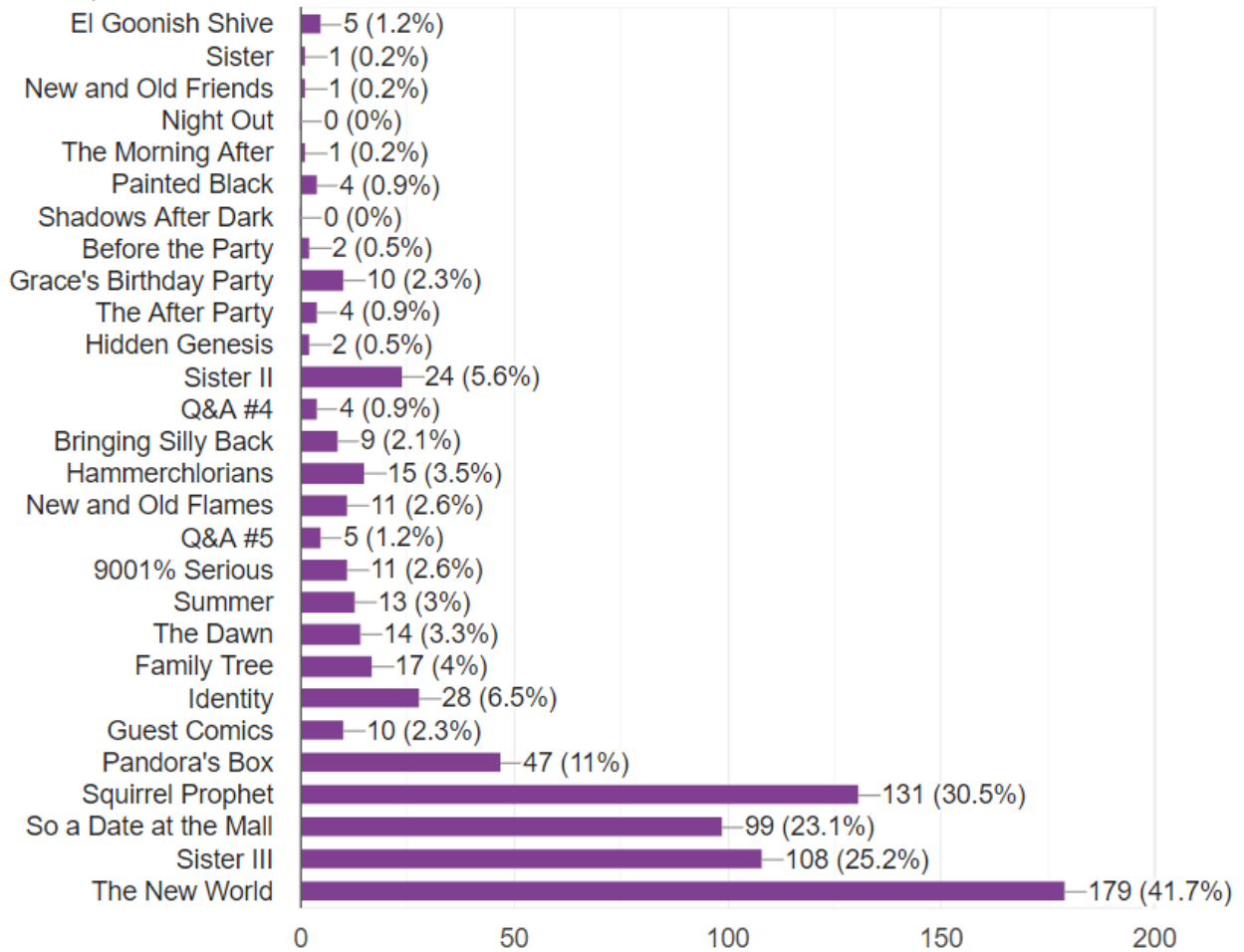
Which arc of El Goonish Shive features your favorite artwork or artstyle?

429 responses

| Arc	Votes
El Goonish Shive	5 (1.2%)
Sister	1 (0.2%)
New and Old Friends	1 (0.2%)
Night Out	0 (0%)
The Morning After	1 (0.2%)
Painted Black	4 (0.9%)
Shadows After Dark	0 (0%)
Before the Party	2 (0.5%)
Grace's Birthday Party	10 (2.3%)
The After Party	4 (0.9%)
Hidden Genesis	2 (0.5%)
Sister II	24 (5.6%)
Q&A #4	4 (0.9%)
Bringing Silly Back	9 (2.1%)
Hammerchlorians	15 (3.5%)
New and Old Flames	11 (2.6%)
Q&A #5	5 (1.2%)
9001% Serious	11 (2.6%)
Summer	13 (3%)
The Dawn	14 (3.3%)
Family Tree	17 (4%)
Identity	28 (6.5%)
Guest Comics	10 (2.3%)
Pandora's Box	47 (11%)
Squirrel Prophet	131 (30.5%)
So a Date at the Mall	99 (23.1%)
Sister III	108 (25.2%)
The New World	179 (41.7%)

5. Community

5.1 Identity

The survey included several questions aimed directly at the LGBT subcommunity, and how *El Goonish Shive* has allowed people to explore their own identity. There was a bit of bias going on in asking these questions, as the questions were largely based on the incorrect notion that the majority of *El Goonish Shive* readers are some shade of transgender. Regardless, the results do show that the lives of a large portion of the community have been quite affected by *El Goonish Shive* and its community.
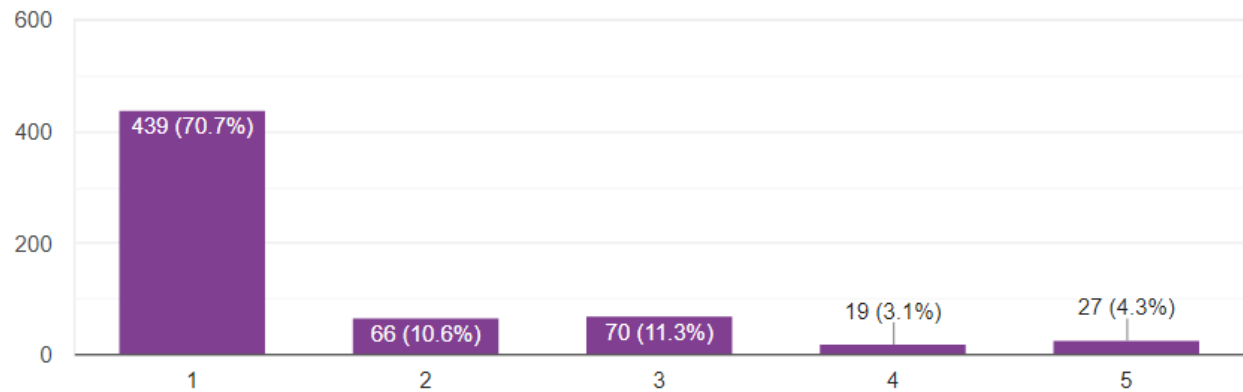
1 = full no, 2 = full yes.

Did El Goonish Shive help you figure out your (gender) identity?

632 responses
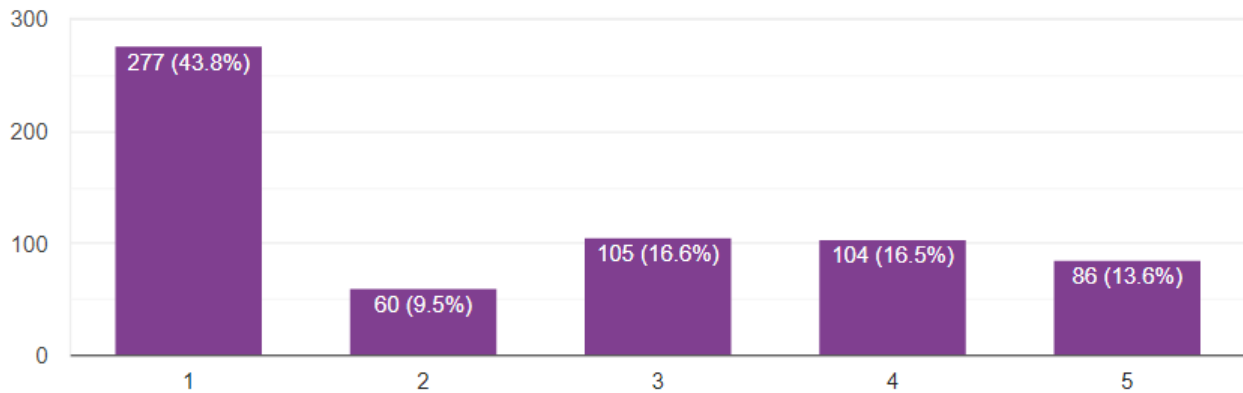
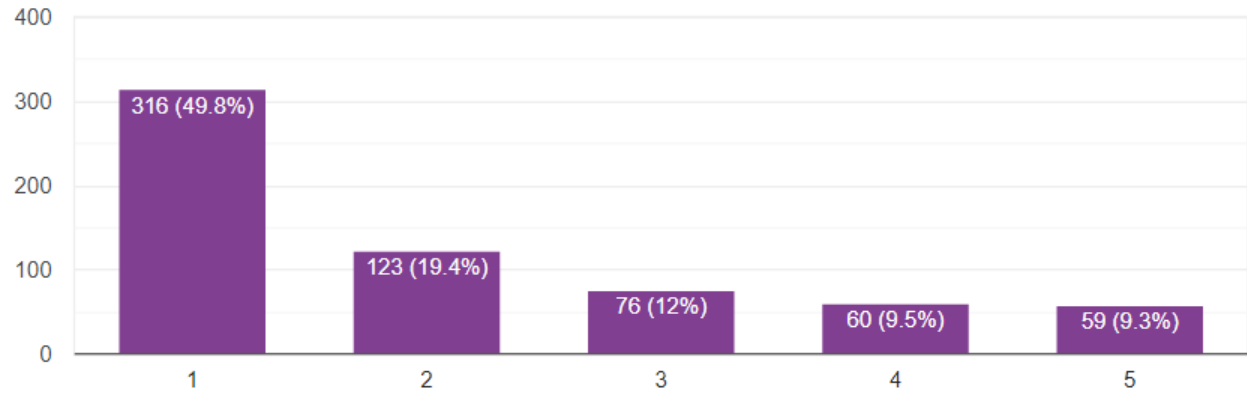## Did El Goonish Shive the community help you figure out your (gender) identity?

621 responses

El Goonish Shive is also in large part a furry webcomic, though the story has not explored this subject in much depth recently.

Do you consider yourself a furry?

634 responses

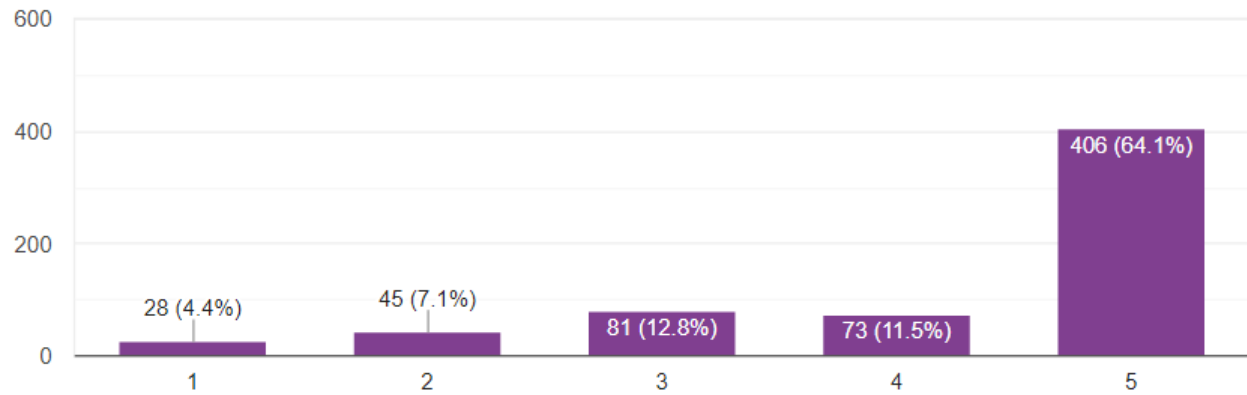| Response	Count
1	316 (49.8%)
2	123 (19.4%)
3	76 (12%)
4	60 (9.5%)
5	59 (9.3%)

Despite the largely cisgender community, most readers would not decline a gender transformation spell.

On a scale of 1 to 5, how much would you want access to a 'transgender' spell like those of Elliot and Tedd?

633 responses

Response	Count
1	28 (4.4%)
2	45 (7.1%)
3	81 (12.8%)
4	73 (11.5%)
5	406 (64.1%)

5.2 Fanworks

Most *El Goonish Shive* readers have never read any related fanfiction.
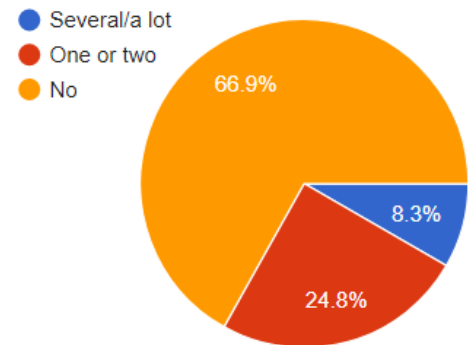
Fanfiction	No.	%
No	426	66.9%
One or two	158	24.8%
Several/a lot	53	8.3%

Over a third of respondents do enjoy NSFW fanart or fanfiction.

NSFW fanworks	No.	%
Yes	235	36.9%
Neutral	126	19.8%
No	29	4.6%
I dislike such content	34	5.3%
I have not seen any	212	33.3%

Have you read El Goonish Shive fanfiction?

637 responses

- Several/a lot
- One or two
- No

Do you enjoy NSFW El Goonish Shive fanworks?

636 responses

- Yes
- Neutral
- No
- I dislike such content
- I have not seen any
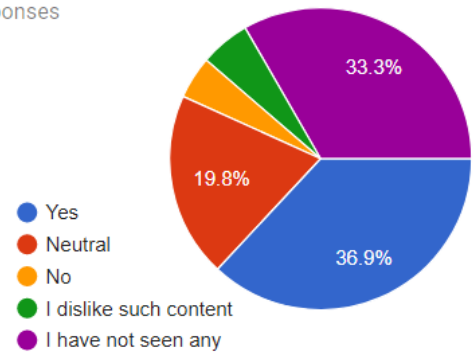
5.3 Platforms

448 of the 640 respondents (70%) reported to follow Dan on some form of social media. The poll included Twitter, Reddit, Tumblr, Patreon, and RSS, though some respondents also wrote in Facebook and deviantArt; two platforms Dan uses that were absent from the survey.

Social media	No.	%
Twitter	264	58.9%
Tumblr	174	38.8%
Reddit	148	33.0%
Patreon	98	21.9%
RSS	41	9.2%
Facebook	14	3.1%
deviantArt	10	2.2%
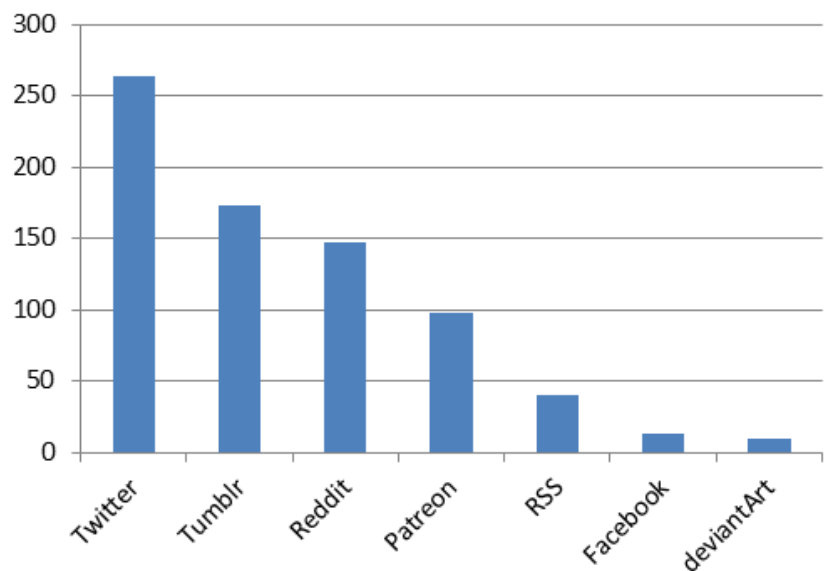
The majority of respondents do not support Dan on Patreon, though 113 of Dan's Patreon supporters did respond to the survey, and 74 more will hopefully be supporting him by the time this report is published.

Patreon support	No.	%
No	392	63.3%
Yes	113	18.3%
I plan to now/very soon	74	12.0%
I have in the past	40	6.5%

When we asked people about their activity in online *El Goonish Shive* community hubs, we listed three options: Reddit, Discord, and the 910CMX forum. One major oversight here was the Facebook group, which brought in over twice as many respondents as the forum.
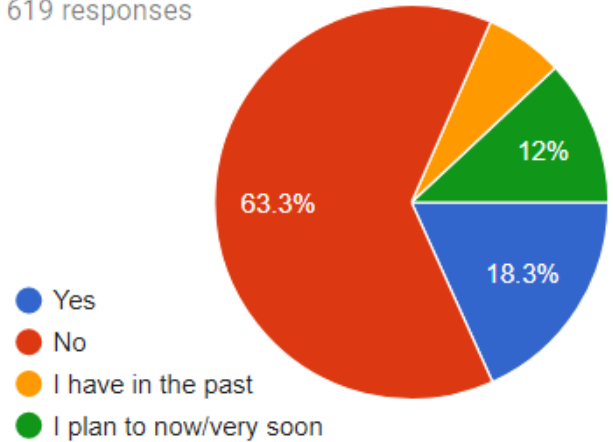

Do you support Dan on Patreon?
619 responses
- Yes
- No
- I have in the past
- I plan to now/very soon

Community hub	No.	%
Reddit	170	53.8%
Discord	85	26.9%
Facebook	42	13.3%
Forum	19	6.0%

Several respondents specifically noted that they primarily lurk the *EGS* subreddit, without posting. Three respondents said they were highly surprised to find out about the existence of the *EGS* Discord server, and were interested in joining it.

Individual respondents also mentioned the TVTropes forum, Archive of Our Own, Quora, and Tumblr as hubs for the *El Goonish Shive* community.
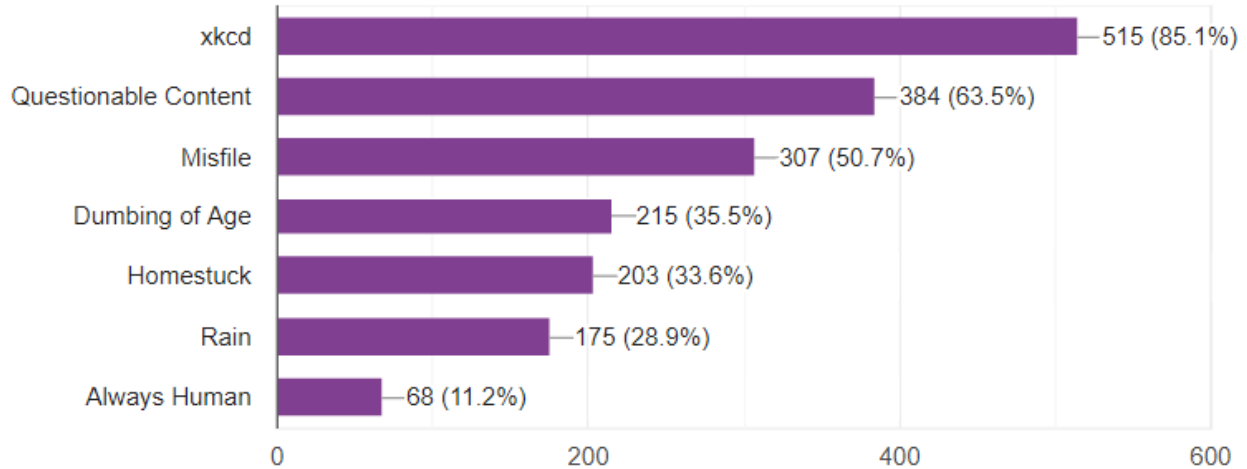
6. Related works

Several webcomics, manga, and other media covers similar themes as *El Goonish Shive*, be it character-driven high school kids forming their own identity, sci-fi and fantasy in an urban setting, geeky calculations and analysis, or of course LGBT and gender bender storylines. The survey asked respondents about a few specific popular webcomics:

Have you read any of these webcomics?

605 responses

| Webcomic	Responses
xkcd	515 (85.1%)
Questionable Content	384 (63.5%)
Misfile	307 (50.7%)
Dumbing of Age	215 (35.5%)
Homestuck	203 (33.6%)
Rain	175 (28.9%)
Always Human	68 (11.2%)

The survey also included an open question regarding people's favorite webcomic. Perhaps unsurprisingly, everyone's favorite webcomic is *El Goonish Shive*.

Webcomic	No.	Webcomic	No.
El Goonish Shive	238	Sleepless Domain	6
Order of the Stick	32	Stand Still, Stay Silent	6
Questionable Content	26	Kill Six Billion Demons	5
Homestuck	20	Misfile	5
Girl Genius	18	Saturday Morning Breakfast Cereal	5
Gunnerkrigg Court	15	Freefall	4
Rain	13	Goblins	4
Grrl Power	12	How to be a werewolf	4
xkcd	10	Kevin & Kell	4
Dumbing of Age	9	O Human Star	4
Dominic Deegan	8	Something Positive	4
Schlock Mercenary	8	Dan and Mab's Furry Adventures	3
Always Human	7	Sister Claire	3
Paranatural	7	Wapsi Square	3

Ignoring *El Goonish Shive*, which is over seven times more favorited than the second place, we can plot the popular webcomics as such:
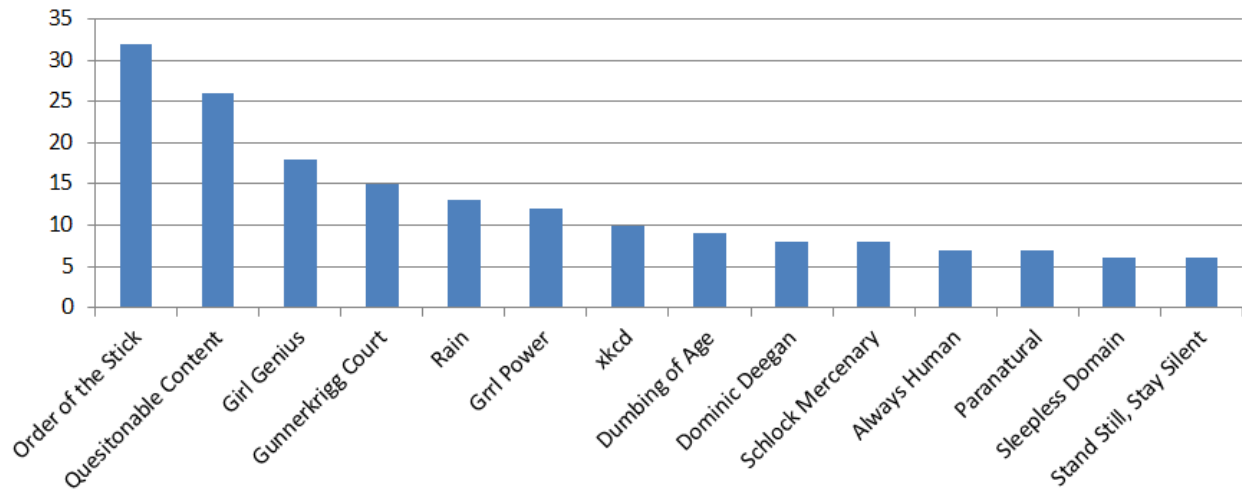
I would feel amiss not to list everyone's favorite webcomic, so here are the webcomics picked by only two people:

- Awkward Zombie
- Cassiopeia Quinn
- Dr.McNinja
- Dresden Codak
- Erfworld
- Girls with slingshots
- Go Get A Roomie
- Housepets!
- Monster Pulse
- Narbonic
- Prequel
- Sluggy Freelance
- Strong Female Protagonist
- The Property of Hate
- Twokinds
- White Noise

And here's a list of all webcomics selected by only a single individual:

- A Better Place
- A Softer World
- All Night Laundry
- Archipelago
- Ask White Pearl and Steven
- Bob & George
- Brawl in the Family
- BSandL
- City of Reality
- Collar6
- Decrypting Rita
- Demon's Mirror
- Denma
- Drop-Out
- Ennui Go
- Far Side of Utopia
- Ghost Lights
- Goodbye to Halos
- Grand Line 3.5
- Harpy Gee
- HELM
- Hitmen for Destiny
- It's Walky!
- Kiwi Blitz
- Lady of the Shard
- Leif and Thorn
- Looking for Group
- Lore Olympus
- Magical Boy
- Magical Girl Neil
- Megatokyo
- My Dragon Girlfriend
- Namesake
- Never Satisfied
- Newman
- No need 4 Bushudo
- Not a Villain
- Ozzy & Millie
- Paradigm Shift
- Phoebe and Her Unicorn
- Sakana
- Sammy
- Sandra & Woo
- Scandinavia and the Word
- Second Empire
- Shattered Starlight
- Siren's Lament
- Skin Horse
- Snow by Night
- Soil That Binds Us
- Spiderella
- Spinnerette
- Star Power
- SuperFogeys
- Supernormal Step
- The Glass Scientists
- The Locked Maze
- The Skybox
- The Whiteboard
- Three Panel Soul
- Too Much Information
- Unsounded
- Venus Envy
- Weregeek
- Whomp!
- Widdershins
- Wilde Life

Another open question was posed with regards to favorite "queer media". This question got an enormous variation in responses, ranging from *Ranma ½* to *Legend of Korra*, from *Sense8* to *Some Like It Hot*, and from *RuPaul's Drag Race* to *My Lesbian Experience with Loneliness*. The most common responses seem to have been:

- El Goonish Shive (90 people)
- Steven Universe (22 people)
- She-Ra (13 people)
- Rain (11 people)
- Homestuck (7 people)
- Bloom Into You (4 people)

I do not feel prepared to dig through all of the responses and compile them as I did for "favorite webcomic." However, I am happy to make the raw list of responses available.

Moreover, I want to apologize for asking such a vague question, which was strongly based on my own experience on Twitter and the *El Goonish Shive* and *Rain* Discord servers. The question confused and possibly even offended a part of the people who responded to it, and I should have put more thought into it.

Lastly, the majority of the community does not actively read gender bender manga

Reading gender-bender	No.	%
All I can get my hands on	40	6.4%
A lot	46	7.3%
Several	112	17.9%
One or two	202	32.3%
No	226	36.1%

Do you read gender bender manga?
626 responses
17.9%
32.3%
36.1%
- No
- One or two
- Several
- A lot
- All I can get my hands on
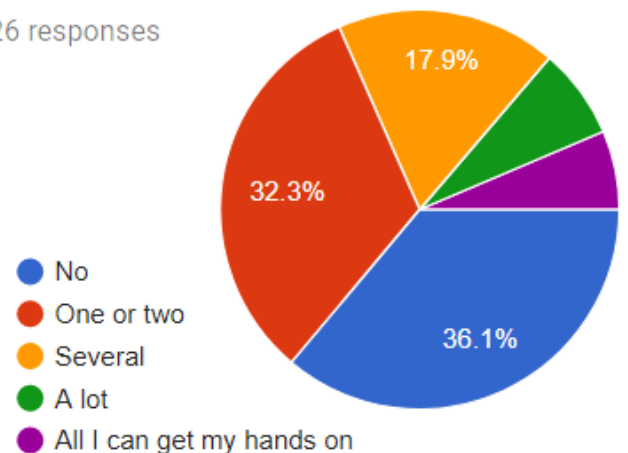
7. Messages from the community

One open question we asked at the end of the survey was "Do you have any thoughts on *El Goonish Shive* you want to share?" This question received 218 responses. This section contains a selection of messages from the community. A full list of these responses will also be made available.

- A sketch doesn't cut it, we want the Demonic Duck back. Especially since we last saw him in a car accident
- Amazing evolution over the years. Keep up the good work.
- As good as the comic is, what really impresses me is Dan's work ethic. He gets it out on time, every time, except when he doesn't. When he doesn't, he drops us a line, lets us know. Sometimes a story is so compelling I'll find myself checking throughout the day and it's irritating when I don't know when or even *if* a new comic is going to show up. With Dan, I always know.
- Ashley is the best and I hope she continues to feature prominently. This is such a great comic!
- Back when i was still in school, I wasn't very popular, and absolutely hated it. EGS actually made me look forward to Monday, rather than dread it.
- Change up the character dynamics more!
- Dan is a golden god.
- Dan is surprisingly cool with some of the nonsense the fandom provides
- dan needs a buffer and a vacation
- dan pls gimme dat font
- Definitely transgender nirvana.
- EGS has meant so much to me over the years, and has some of the most affecting moments of any webcomic I follow. More than once I've teared up reading it, or punched the air in triumph, or wanted to hug a character SO BADLY... And Tedd's 'there's a NAME for it', Susan's 'is the only reason because I view men as the DEFAULT', and the strip I said was my favourite mean SO MUCH to me personally... Dan has created a wonderful thing, and I am SO GLAD it's still around all these years later, and has grown so much into what it is today.
- EGS has raised questions about my gender and gender identity, but I'm no closer to an answer than when those questions were first raised.
- egs is rough around the edges in exactly the way i needed
- El Goonish Shive makes me feel warm and fuzzy inside. It really holds a special place in my heart <3
- First off, I had no idea EGS:NP stood for NewsPaper! The heading for it disappeared from Oct 29, 2009 and on. Second, I enjoy the main storyline but wish you would use EGS:NP to cover the loose ends, the side stories that we wonder about (like you did with Sarah getting her magic mark.)
- Give justin some love
- Honestly I don't care so much about all the gender stuff. It is executed well and that's nice to see but in my eyes it plays only a supporting role. The reason why I really EGS is because it's a good story. It has a good balance between slice of life and high stakes situations. And Everyone acts intelligent (for the most part but everyone makes mistakes sometimes even Thrawn did) and in character. TLDR; the writing is very good
- Honestly I just love when Susan and Justin hang out
- I demand a return of the pie that turns people into bunny girls when you fling it at their face. That's a good pie, ya know.
- I feel like I know the characters like I do my IRL friends. I love EGS so much and it has been an incredibly important part of my life.

- I haven't really resonated as much with what seems like an influx of fan service and ship service content lately, but I've always appreciated the comics role in highlighting lgbt issues, even if I no longer personally connect with any main characters. I also liked Greg. Need more Greg pls. Also more good Tom.
- I just want kitty and felix to come back tbh. Who cares about the main cast let me see more adventures of the (seemingly in denial) lesbian catgirl-fan and her trans gf
- [Eleven people literally wrote "I love it" or variations thereof]
- I particularly like the way the exceptionally "nice" characters provide a support system for each other that provides an in-comic justification for how their adventures haven't left them all non-functional from PTSD.
- i read it for the positivity. the genderbending and overthought magic system are just bonuses.
- I really appreciate that you have a version of it where you can have side stories and non canon fun.
- I really appreciate the use of the extraordinary being the norm. As it backlights the normalicy of character development and people being people and really brings it to the forefront. Reminds me of Sir Terry Pratchett.
- I think EGS handles gender issues quite deftly, but I don't really consider it to be wholly ABOUT gender issues...
- I think it is a fantastic exploration of LGBTQ+ themes through a fantasy background, because of how many issues it addresses.
- I think it's cool.
- I'm a psychiatrist in training and I learnt a lot about (issues with) gender/sexuality/... from this comic - thank you!
- It's amazing. Though it didn't help me with my own gender identity, EGS and QC certainly helped prep me for when my sister came out and then came out as trans. Sam's struggle is real.
- It's been a mid-level enjoyable ride. Moves like molasses especially with different story lines and a 'uge cast. I find some of the panels overly grounded in exposition or "covering bases" but I'm not a comic writer so what do I know. There comic does have a lot of heart though. Characters feel like they come from a genuine place even if they mature and learn at a glacial pace for to comic's scope. As a hetero cis boy I read this comic and kinda just confronted and learned bits and pieces about expressions of sexualities, identities, and even a little trauma mitigation by personality. I have genuinely loved this comic in the past even if I've let that flame ember.
- It's been a ride. Both the art style and the storytelling have gone through peaks and valleys, but it's been on an upswing for years now. I'm glad it's a welcoming, representative, often goofy, sometimes kinky webcomic. I'm glad it's helped people, and it was a useful, validating work for myself in coming out.
- It's been an awesome ride and I don't want it to stop.
- [Five people just wrote "It's great"]
- It's grown into one of the best pieces of media I have experienced - and I have no personal stakes in the subject matter.
- I've been reading this comic since I was a child, and it's had an enormous impact on me. I love that it's grown with me, and that it has remained relevant and enjoyable into my adulthood. I have a very deep affection for it, and I hope it continues for many years to come.
- Keep being wonderful.
- Keep doing you, Dan.
- [Six people said "Keep up the good work!"]
- Nearly 10 years ago, I fell into a deep depression. Back then, reading webcomics like EGS were the only thing getting me out of bed in the morning. Eventually, I found myself on the other side. Bit by bit, I

- stopped reading many webcomics, but this one has stayed with me, and I have no intention to stop reading it.
- Needs more NSFW
- put more justin in things, preferably luke :3
- Tedd being genderfluid makes me so so happy, as a genderfluid person it made me happy flap when she and Grace talked about it. I love Tedd so much.
- Tedd is such a cutie
- Tedd/Elliot is totes adorbs
- Thank you
- Thank you so, SO much.
- Thank you!!!
- The art is superb. The story telling is good. THe characters are mostly likeable.
- The character writing in this webcomic is so excellent, and Dan Shive has been absolutely knocking it out of the park recently, with Elliots realization of his relationship to gender and Diane's whole arc recently. It's his greatest strength as a writer, and I'm glad to see he is only getting better.
- The progression of artistic style is encouraging, and remains an inspiration to keep trying myself.
- the series needs more fur. for the most part we only really have grace and she's a walking disappointment cause she never uses her nonhuman forms anymore.
- This is easily one of the best webcomics I've ever read, and it's legacy has definitely touched the internet in an awesome way!
- This is one of the few webcomics I always come back to. The story is great, the characters are great, and it just keeps getting better.
- Trying to review an older strip always leads to rereading at least that arc
- While I absolutely love conflicts being resolved by people communicating and working things out, I do feel like the comic occasionally treads the line between reasonable solutions and just plain anticlimax.
- While it didn't help me in particular this way, I love how it helped so many people, including its authors, discover themselves and become more comfortable in their identity and their interests.
- You should try to do single color plus grayscale sometime. Each panel/comic could have a unique color. I think it'd be a cool experiment
- You're amazing, the comic is amazing, may it never end

A full list of comments will be made available at a later date.

8. Conclusion and credits

I am incredibly happy with all the positive responses I have gotten for this survey, and how many people were willing to fill it in! 640 people is only a fraction of all *El Goonish Shive* fans (Dan has more than twice as many Patreon supporters), but it is still an enormous number of people. And it is quite a diverse crowd, though it does seem to consist predominantly out of white USians.

It is good to see that people feel like the webcomic and its art has been consistently improving over the years, and that fan feel that the webcomic is at its height of quality, at least since Grace' birthday party. All of the main characters are much beloved, and fans seem to dislike almost exclusively villains (though I will never understand the Some Guy hate personally).

I hope this survey will give everyone a better idea of where to find community and what similar works there are to read and watch and experience.

We have gotten a lot of great feedback from the survey, and we will definitely apply it all for future surveys, be they for the *El Goonish Shive* community next year or for a different webcomic.

Credits

This survey and this document were produced and compiled by Maplestrip, with the help of Good Hunter Gwenevere, Pongles, kuilin, and yd12k. You can find me on http://maplestrip.space, on Twitter @Maplestrip, or by email at maplestrip@gmail.com.

I want to thank everyone in the community, on Discord, Facebook, Reddit, Tumblr, and Twitter, for sharing this survey.