

4) INTRODUCTION TO SUPERHEROES



NATIONAL 4: HEROES

What makes Superman a hero is not that he has power, but that he has the wisdom and the maturity to use the power wisely.

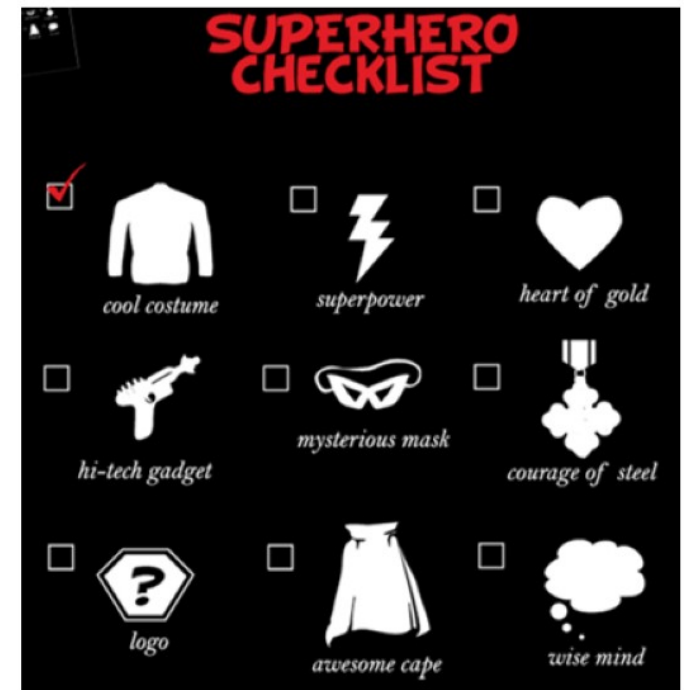
Christopher Reeve

WE ARE LEARNING TO:

- We are learning to recognise the features of a superhero.

SUCCESS CRITERIA:

I can use the features of a superhero to create my own.



WHAT IS A SUPERHERO?



1. Someone who has extraordinary powers
2. Fights day-to-day crime
3. Also has an archenemy who wants to take over the world
4. Usually wears a costume or disguise.

COMMON TRAITS OF A SUPERHERO

Superheroes Never Give Up

Superheroes Are Crystal Clear of their Purpose

Superheroes Do Not Seek Glory...But They Get it Anyway

Superheroes Help Others

Superheroes Always Get the Job Done

Superheroes Are NOT Flawless

Superheroes' True Strength Comes From Their Character

Superheroes Can Do it By Themselves But Are More Powerful in Teams

Superheroes Are the Best at What They Do

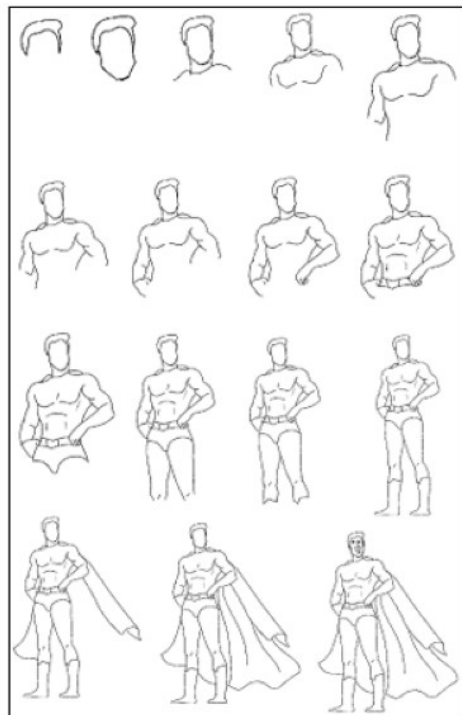
Superheroes Accomplish Huge Feats

WHY DO WE HAVE SUPERHEROES?



Flawed as she is, as they all are, that only serves to make her more empowering as a role model. You can imagine a young generation of girls watching this movie and thinking they want to be like her, now fighting for good, able to take down aliens and bad men and get bruised and bloody but never give up.

TODAY'S TASK:



You are going to use the features of a superhero to create your own.

This will demonstrate that you can take information from one source and apply this information in a new way

FEATURES OF A SUPERHERO; SUPERPOWER

Superheroes need a superpower in order to do things that ordinary humans can't. It will form part of their identity and what makes them unique. This superpower will also allow them to inspire an ideal.

Some are born with superpowers (e.g. Superman) while others are attained deliberately or by mistake (e.g. Spiderman). Some superheroes, like Batman and Ironman, use technology to create their superpowers.



APPLYING KNOWLEDGE; SUPERPOWER

Decide what your hero's superpower is and how he/she got it. (Born with it/Mutation/Man Made)

Possible superpowers include

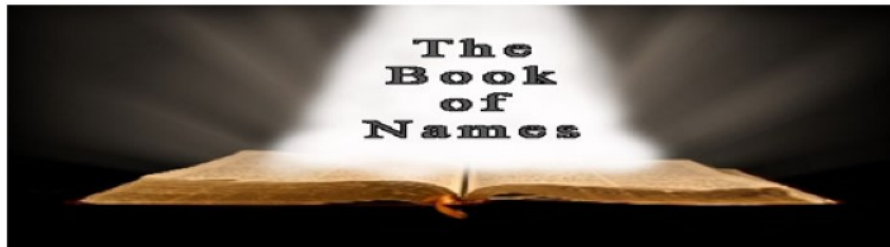
- X-ray vision
- Regeneration
- Total Recall
- Teleportation
- Weather Control
- Force Fields
- Underwater Breathing
- Super Strength
- Mind Reading



FEATURES OF A SUPERHERO; NAME

A Superhero's name can come from:

- Their powers (e.g. Cyclops or Storm)
- A positive adjective (Incredible Hulk, Wonder Woman)
- Something that reveals the character's story (Spiderman or Green Lantern)
- A name that sums up something about their character (Wolverine or The Punisher)



APPLYING KNOWLEDGE; NAME



Create a name for your superhero.

Below are some examples from The 50 Greatest Superhero (and Villain) Names of All Time List

Steel	Oracle	Sabertooth	Storm	The Maxx
Thing	Iron Monger	Mister Fantastic	Magneto	
Mystique	Gambit	Black Widow	Batman	
Dr. Manhattan	The Incredibles	Rampage	Quicksilver	
Black Knight	Blade	Daredevil	Silver Surfer	
Catwoman	Wonder Woman	Flash	Iron Man	

FEATURES OF A SUPERHERO; HUMAN FLAW

It is important that a superhero has a flaw or weakness.

This makes them more believable and likeable to the audience, who will then care what happens to them.

This clip from film critic Mark Kermode helps explain this in more detail.



APPLYING KNOWLEDGE; HUMAN FLAW

Write down a flaw for your superhero:

- It could be related to their power (e.g. Bruce Banner cannot control **The Hulk** when he is angry)
- It could be something that makes them weak (e.g. Superman and Kryptonite or The Green Lantern and the colour **yellow**)
- It could be a physical weakness (e.g. **The Daredevil** is blind)
- A piece of equipment (e.g. Wonder Woman's bracelets)
- Their personality (e.g. Peter Parker's sense of responsibility)

FEATURES OF A SUPERHERO; ALTER EGO



Most superheroes have alter-egos that keep them safe from enemies and help them navigate the normal human world; this is a huge part of what makes them so good, as most people feel like they have to hide their true selves from others.

It can also create tension in the story, as the character fears exposure to his alter ego

APPLYING KNOWLEDGE; ALTER EGO



One of the ways that a superhero protects their identity is to wear a mask (unless you are Superman) It also helps create their superhero identity. Decide if your superhero wears a mask and draw it onto your character

Create a name and job for your superhero's alter ego.

FEATURES OF A SUPERHERO; THE COSTUME

The whole reason superheroes have costumes is so that they can stand out. Also, superhero costumes are outward sign of what that character represents. There needs to be a distinctive look for the character, whether it's Batman's cape and cowl or Captain America's blue scale mail. They need to be visually different than a normal person.



APPLYING KNOWLEDGE; THE COSTUME

Design your costume. Think of the colour that you want to use to represent something about your character.

Red	The colour red is a warm and positive colour. It exudes a strong and powerful energy. Red is energizing. It motivates us to take action. It signifies a pioneering spirit and leadership qualities, promoting ambition and determination.
Yellow	The colour yellow relates to knowledge. The colour psychology of yellow is uplifting and illuminating, offering hope, happiness, cheerfulness and fun. Yellow is the best colour to create enthusiasm for life and can awaken greater confidence and optimism.
Green	The colour green is the colour of balance and harmony.. It renews and restores depleted energy. Green is an emotionally positive colour, giving us the ability to love and nurture ourselves and others unconditionally. A natural peacemaker, it must avoid the tendency to become a martyr.
Blue	The colour blue is one of trust, honesty and loyalty. Blue hates confrontation, and likes to do things in its own way. Blue is reliable and responsible. This colour exhibits an inner security and confidence. You can rely on it to take control and do the right thing in difficult times.
Pink	The colour pink represents compassion, nurturing and love. It relates to unconditional love and understanding. It is the passion and power of red softened with the purity, openness and completeness of white. In color psychology, pink is a sign of hope. It is a positive colour inspiring warm and comforting feelings, a sense that everything will be okay.
Gold	The colour gold is the colour of success, achievement and triumph. This color is linked to the power of the sun. Optimistic and positive, gold adds richness and warmth to everything with which it is associated - it illuminates and enhances other things around it.

FEATURES OF A SUPERHERO; ASK AN EXPERT

Stan Lee is considered to be *the* expert on superheroes, he has created Spiderman, The Incredible Hulk and The Fantastic Four to name a few!

In this clip he discuss how he creates characters and what is needed to interest the reader.



CONSOLIDATION: SUPERHERO EVALUATION



You are now going to peer assess someone's superhero.

How successful were they in:

- Creating a superhero name?
- Creating a alter ego?
- An interesting costume?
- A superpower and flaw that seem believable?