

Group work presentations on superheroes:

Do research on your superhero and present it in class

Group 1	Batman Present Batman in pictures, giving us his background story, special abilities and most famous comic strips and -films, producer. The presentation must be 5-6 minutes long.
Group 2	Captain America Present Captain America in pictures, giving us his background story, special abilities and most famous comic strips and -films, producer. The presentation must be 5-6 minutes long.
Group 3	The Hulk Present The Hulk in pictures, giving us his background story, special abilities and most famous comic strips and -films, producer. The presentation must be 5-6 minutes long.
Group 4	Wonderwoman Present Wonderwoman in pictures, giving us her background story, special abilities and most famous comic strips and -films, producer. The presentation must be 5-6 minutes long.
Group 5	Spider-man Present Spider-Man in pictures, giving us his background story, special abilities and most famous comic strips and -films, producer. The presentation must be 5-6 minutes long.
Group 6	Superman Present Superman in pictures, giving us his background story, special abilities and most famous comic strips and -films, producer. The presentation must be 5-6 minutes long.
Group 7	Black Panther Present Black Panther in pictures, giving us his background story, special abilities and most famous comic strips and -films, producer. The presentation must be 5-6 minutes long.
(Group 8)	Wolverine Present Wolverine in pictures, giving us his background story, special abilities and most famous comic strips and -films, producer. The presentation must be 5-6 minutes long.
(Group 9)	Captain Marvel Present Captain Marvel in pictures, giving us her background story, special abilities and most famous comic strips and -films, producer. The presentation must be 5-6 minutes long.

Force of nature:

Naturkraft

Selfish: Egoistisk

Gain: Gevinst

Villain: Skurk

Arch nemesis:

Ærkefjende

At the expense of:

På bekostning af

Order ... restored:

Orden ...

genoprettes

Defeat: Bekæmpe

Adversity:

Modgang

Chapter 8

Why Do We Love Superheroes?

Due to their overwhelming popularity, superheroes have endured for over 80 years. Why do we love superheroes so much? There are several reasons and some fans might like them for different reasons than others. Here are the biggest:

Good vs. Evil

Ever since man sat around the campfire telling stories, we've been entertained by tales of good versus evil. The evil could be a scary monster, a deadly force of nature, a warring clan that may want to attack, or a bad person who hurts others for their own selfish gain. In these instances we want the story to resolve with a good guy defeating the bad guy and showing us that everything will be alright.

In the case of superhero stories, the superhero is the good guy, defending the innocent by battling an evil super villain. In the case of Superman, his arch nemesis Lex Luthor may be running a corporation with the evil goal of profiting at the expense of millions of innocent civilians. It is Superman's job to stop him, like we wish a superhero could save us from evil corporations affecting our lives. In the case of Batman, he battles evil mobsters trying to profit from crime in Gotham City, while residents live in fear and struggle to pay their bills. Or Batman could be fighting a psychotic madman who has escaped Arkham Asylum and plans to kill innocent people just for fun. In the case of the X-Men, they are fighting against prejudice and racism.

As the audience, we want order to be restored and for superheroes to stop injustice. We want to see good defeat evil and the good guys live happily ever after. Just as we want to overcome evil and adversity in our own lives.

Glossary:

Vicariously: vha. en
stedfortræder

Impervious:
Uigennemtrængelig

Escapism: the
tendency to seek
distraction and relief
from unpleasant
realities, especially
by seeking
entertainment or
engaging in fantasy.

Chores: Pligter

Funeral: Begravelse
Immediate family:
Nærmeste familie

Superpowers

We can also live through our superheroes vicariously, watching them do things we wish we could do. Who doesn't wish they had super powers? Who doesn't wish they could fly? Or be impervious to harm? Or have incredible strength to fight back against the bullies who torment them? What boy doesn't wish he had x-ray vision so he could see inside the girls locker room? Part of the fun of comic books and superhero movies is imagining what it would be like to do the amazing things these characters do.

Action/Adventure/Escapism

Another reason we love superheroes, is the same reason we love any Action/Adventure story... escapism. Real life can be pretty boring or even depressing. But superhero stories are fun, exciting, amusing, entertaining. What would you rather do on a Saturday afternoon after your chores and homework are done? Look for more chores and homework to do? Or go to a movie theater and watch Superman fly through the sky, fight super villains, and blow things up with his laser eye beams? I'd rather be watching *Superman*.

Relatable

Another reason we love superheroes is because we can relate to them. Most heroes have a tragic backstory, including a person close to them who died. For Batman: his parents were shot by a robber. For Spider-Man: parents died in a plane crash as a kid and his Uncle Ben (who helped raise him) was murdered by a thief. For Superman: his adoptive father died of a heart attack (or in the Zack Snyder version his father committing suicide during a thunderstorm). I think most of us can relate because by the age of 10, we've attended a funeral. Not because the person we know had been killed, but because we suffered a personal loss... whether it was someone in our immediate family, a grandparent, aunt or uncle, friend-of-the-family, or neighbor. Seeing a superhero go through a similar experience connects us to them emotionally and makes them

Glossary:

Relatable: Noget
man kan relatere til

Orphan: Forældreløs

Trait: Kendetegn

Braces: Tandbøjler

Occasion:

Begebenhed

relatable.

Another relatable trait is many superheroes are outsiders, and many of us see ourselves as outsiders. Superman is an outsider because he's an immigrant. Batman is an outsider because he's rich, an orphan and doesn't have many friends. The X-Men are outsiders, rejected by the world for being mutants. Most people at sometime during their childhood feel like outsiders. Maybe they've gone to a new school where they don't have any friends. Maybe they don't fit in with other kids because they don't have the same interests. Maybe they're an only child so they don't have siblings growing up or maybe they don't get along with their siblings. Maybe they see themselves as an outsider because of a trait that makes them different from everyone else around them, their height, weight, hair, skin color, braces, where they grew up, or how much money they have. People who feel like outsiders in real-life can more easily relate to superheroes who are also outsiders.

Idealism

Another reason we love superheroes is because they live up to ideals that we mere mortals can only try to. Imagine if (like Batman) police could fight crime without guns, using only their superior fighting skills and cool gadgets. We know in real life this is impossible. If someone were to pull a gun on a cop in real life and the cop ran at him attempting to spin kick the gun out of his hand, the cop would be shot and killed. But Batman can do this all night long, every night and on the occasion he gets shot, he always lives to fight another day.

Superman represents the ideals of truth, justice and the American way. The X-Men represent the ideals of acceptance and equality. Iron Man represents the ideals of a rich man using his money and technology to help mankind. Spider-Man represents the ideals of great power and great responsibility. Superheroes can be an example, showing us the ideals we wish we could live up to.

Chapter 9

Superheroes, Past, Present and Future

Glossary:

Marvel: Marvel Comics is the brand name of many of the biggest comic books. It was started in 1939 and counts characters such as Spider-Man, Iron Man, Captain America, Hulk, Thor, Wolverine, The Wasp, Captain Marvel, Falcon, She-Hulk, Avengers, X-Men and many more.

DC Comics: Another American Comic Book publisher
Warner Bros (Brothers): A multinational mass Media and entertainmant company (like Disney)
Pixar, Star Wars, Fox: Broadcast companies

As we discussed, Superheroes have been around for more than 80 years. Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman are three of the longest running and most popular. I think each of them will continue in popularity for another 80 years. Some of the Marvel characters have not existed as long but are equally as popular today, if not more-so, especially Spider-Man and the Avengers. I am equally certain they'll be around for another 80 years as well.

A hundred years from now some of these characters might be in the public domain, unless the copyright laws are changed. For example, what would happen if Superman fell into the public domain in 2062? Would people still be buying his comic books from DC comics? Will Warner Bros. still be producing Superman movies? Or will the doors be wide open for anyone to make and sell Superman comic books, movies, and TV shows? Similar to how Sherlock Holmes went into the public domain a few years ago and now look how many different versions there are. Anything can happen between now and then. Maybe by 2062 Disney will buy Warner Bros./DC and add that to their growing collection of everything in the universe, from Marvel to Pixar, Star Wars and Fox.

In 2018, there are more big-budget superhero movies and TV shows currently in production than ever before. But how long can this trend last? Will millions of people be buying tickets to see *Avengers 10* in theaters? Will the movies continue to make \$1 billion, \$2 billion, \$3 billion or more? Or will the proverbial bubble burst and ticket sales start to decline? How many Batman, Spider-Man, or X-Men movies can studios make before they stop being profitable and fans move on to other things?

With television ratings slipping from year-to-year, how

Glossary:

Profitable:

*Something you can
earn money on*

long can all these superhero TV shows last? Back in the days when there were only four television networks, the top TV shows were viewed by 10 million people a week or more. Nowadays a TV show is lucky to get 3 or 4 million viewers per week. With cell phones, Facebook, YouTube, and hundreds of cable stations out there, it looks as though TV ratings will continue to decline year after year. How low can ratings get before superhero shows are no longer profitable?

Thanks to the Internet, independent comic book creators can now publish their own comic books without a major publisher like DC, Marvel, or Image. This means a new generation of artists could create their own superhero characters which go viral online. Independent producers could also create their own films and web series, releasing them on YouTube or other video streaming platforms and build a cult following. Perhaps the next most popular superhero may not even come from DC or Marvel but from independent artists and producers. If so, will new characters be gobbled up by DC or Marvel, or will independent creators follow the lead of guys like Todd McFarlane and stay independent? Only time will tell.

No matter what happens 50 years from now, I think superheroes will still be popular. Maybe more popular than today, maybe less popular. In any event, I predict we'll always have new movies, TV shows, web series, etc. to look forward to. With any luck, I'll be one of the guys bringing them to you.

Why do we love superheroes?

The difference between heroes and superheroes

(extracted from: Jeph Loeb and Tom Morris, chp. 2: Heroes and Superheroes)

[Heroes%2520and%2520superheroes.pdf \(pbworks.com\)](#)

1. In pairs discuss: What makes a hero? What makes a superhero? Are there any differences? Why do we love superheroes?
2. In pairs, try to explain what is meant by the quotations below from Jeph Loeb and Tom Morris: Heroes and Superheroes
 - *"(...) these characters embody our deepest hopes and fears, as well as our highest aspirations, and (...) they can help us deal with our worst nightmares. They chart out questions we'll all have to face in the future. And they shed new light on our present condition. In addition, they do all this in such a way as to give us a new sense of direction and resolve as we live our own lives."* (p. 11)
 - *"A superhero is an extraordinarily powerful person, with weaknesses as well as strengths, whose noble character guides him or her into worthy achievements."* (p. 12)
 - *"They (superheroes) are moral examples. Superman can inspire us. Batman can keep us going even when the going is very tough. Spider-Man can help us understand that the voice of conscience is always more important than the cacophony of voices around us, who may be condemning us, belittling us, or just dismissing what we think of as so important."* (p. 19)
 - *"With an image of the superheroes in mind, we may find it a bit easier to stay true to the high moral road that alone will satisfy us in the end. What would Superman do? Go do your version of it. The world always needs one more hero."* (p. 20)
3. In pairs discuss: Do you agree with the quotations above? What's missing (if anything) in the definition of a superhero and why we love them? (compare with Charles Dewandeler's definition of superheroes and why we love them)