

Summer Term - Heroes and Superheroes

Year 2 Summer Term: Week 2

About this term

This term, we are going to look at heroes and superheroes.

Each week, there will be a number of tasks based around heroes and superheroes.

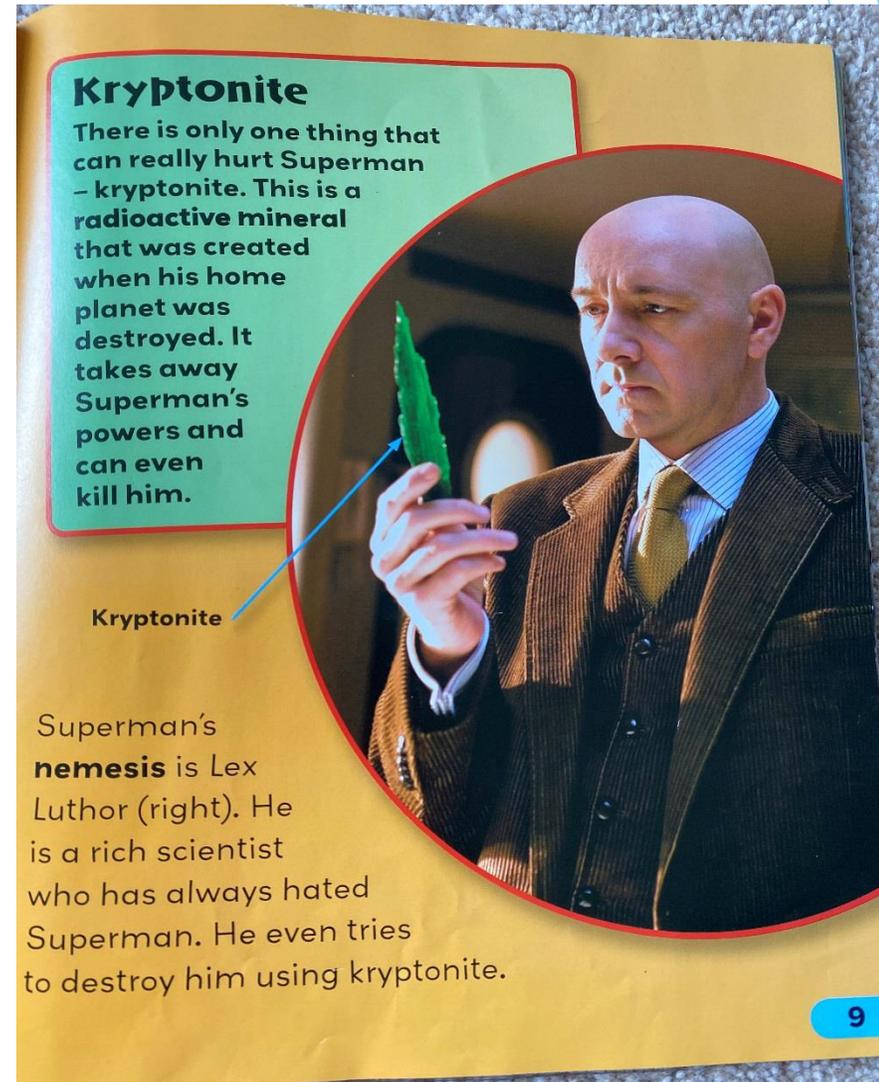
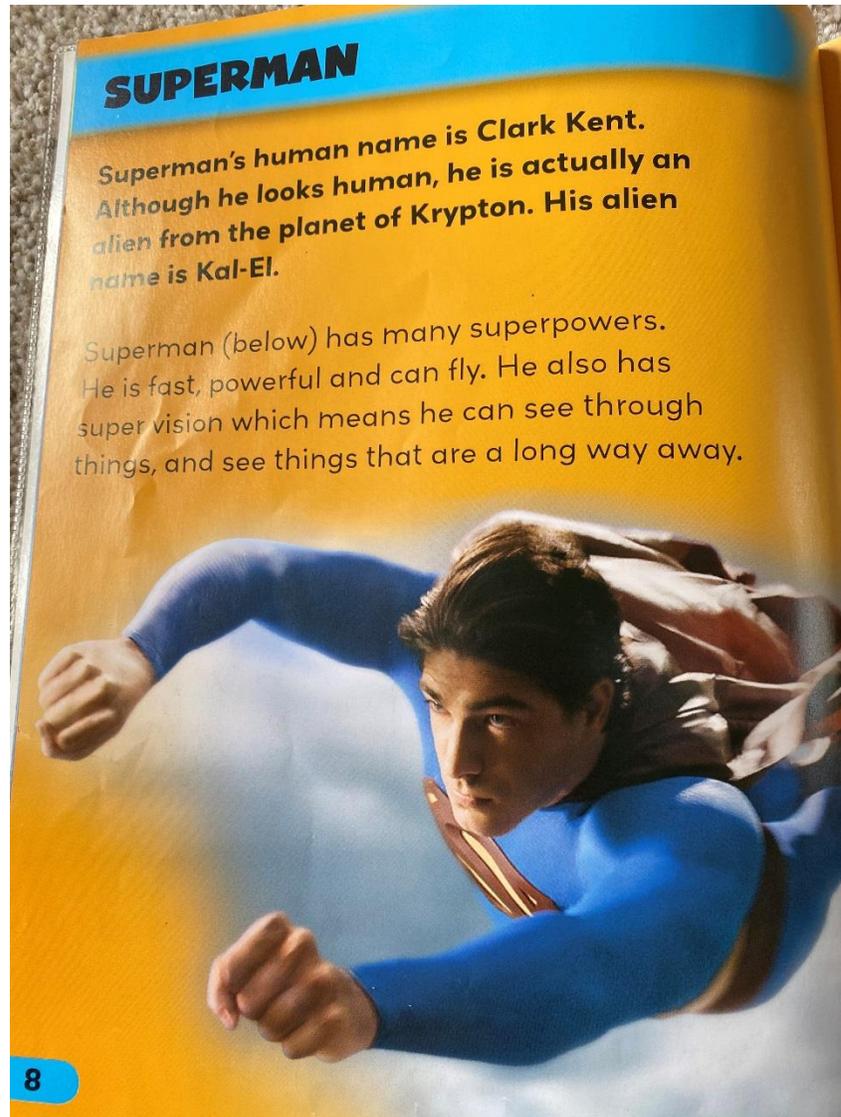
In literacy, the final outcome is to create character profile and then create a comic strip for a superhero, but this will be built up through a range of activities.

This week, we are going to be doing some reading comprehension to find out more about superheroes.

This booklet does not need to be printed off, as the tasks can be done on plain paper.

Monday:

Today we are going to find out all about Superman.



Monday: Questions about Superman

1. What Superhero can you learn about on page 8-9? Write it in the box below.

2. Find and copy the two missing words from the text.

(Page 8)

Although he looks human, he is actually an _____ from the planet _____.

3. What is Superman's human name?

4. What is Superman's alien name?

5. There are many comics, drawings and photographs of actors who have played Superman. Write a description of his costume. Try to use an adjective string and a simile.



6. What powers does Superman have? Tick four. {

He is extremely powerful and strong.

He can move fast.

He can become invisible.

He can fly in the sky.

He can read people's minds.

He can see through things.

He can change into different things.

He can turn things into ice.

7. Superman has super vision. What does this mean?

8. Most superheroes have a weakness. What is the one thing that can hurt Superman?

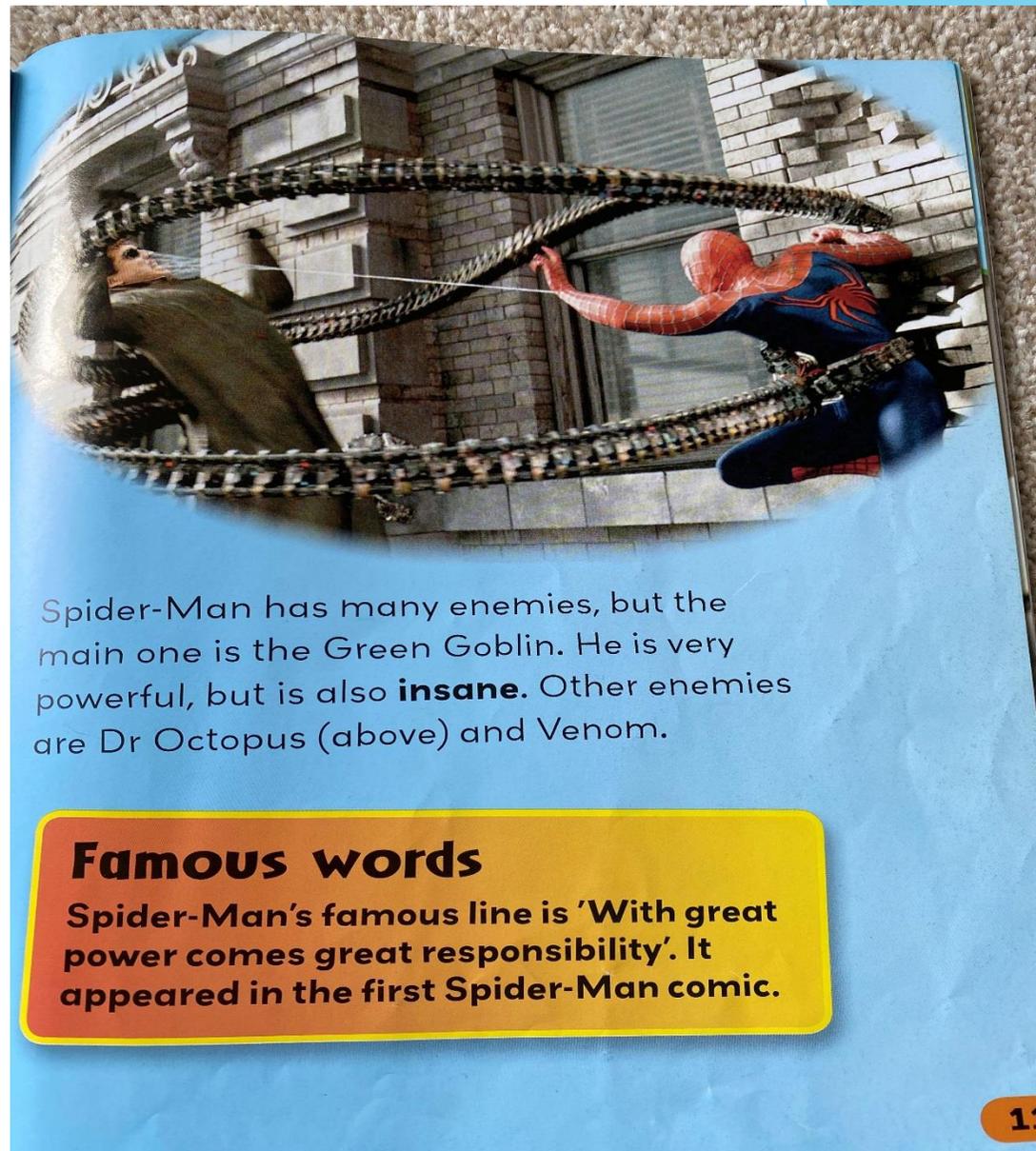
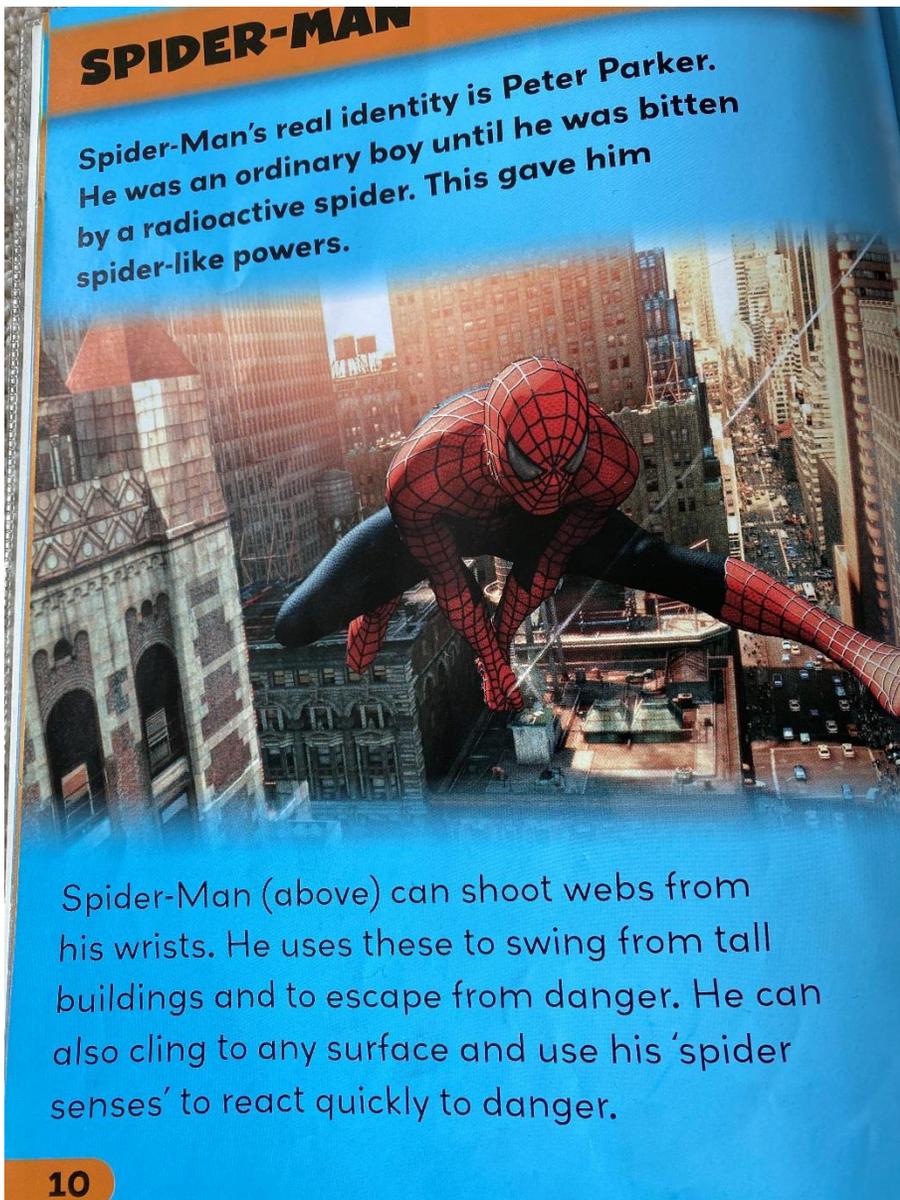
9. Lex Luthor is Superman's nemesis. Use the glossary to define 'nemesis'. Write it in the box below.



10. Circle two words in the text below that show Lex Luthor does not like Superman.

Lex Luthor is a rich scientist who has always hated Superman. He even tries to destroy him using kryptonite.

Tuesday: Today, we are going to find out all about Spiderman.



Tuesday: Questions about Spiderman

1. What Superhero can you learn about on page 10-11? Write it in the box below.

2. Underline the word in the text, which means the same as 'normal'.

Spiderman's real identify is Peter Parker. He was an ordinary boy that lived with his aunt and went to school.

3. How did Spiderman get his powers

4. Circle three verbs in the text below.

Spiderman can shoot webs from his wrists so he can swing from tall buildings and to escape from danger.

5. Imagine you are Spiderman. What could he be saying? Remember to use the correct punctuation.

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6. Spiderman has many enemies, but the main on is Green Goblin. There are two others. Name them and draw a picture of them below.

Green Goblin	_____	
		

7. Spiderman's enemies are powerful but insane. Use the glossary to define insane.

8. Use the Use ticks to complete the table below. One has been done for you.

Statement	True	False
Spiderman is actually a boy called Peter Parker.	✓	
Spiderman can turn into a spider with eight legs.		
Spiderman can shoot webs from his wrists.		
Spiderman can become invisible to hide from his enemies.		

9. What is Spiderman's famous line to say?

10. Would you rather be Superman or Spiderman? Give reasons for our answer.

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Wednesday:

Today, we are going to find out about Origin Stories and why they are important.

The Origin Story

Every superhero has an origin story. The origin story is the story of how the superhero came to be a superhero. It explains what motivates the superhero and why we should care about them.



Some superheroes were born with their powers. For example, Wonder Woman is really Amazon Princess Diana from Paradise Island. When a wounded Steve Trevor appears on its shore, Diana accompanies him back to his world. There, she uses her extraordinary abilities to fight crime.

Marvel developed a reputation for superheroes who get their powers as a result of their character flaws; their heroism doesn't just come from the powers that they acquire, but from the wisdom they have gained from their very human experiences. For example, in Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's *Fantastic Four #1*, Reed Richards, his fiancée, her brother, and his friend Ben Grimm are bombarded with cosmic rays when they steal a rocket. They then use the powers they gain for the good of others.

Still other superheroes gain their powers as a matter of circumstance. Superman is a "normal" baby on his home planet of Krypton, but when his parents sent him to Earth in order to save him from Krypton's destruction, exposure to the Earth's sun gives him superpowers. Daredevil, born Matt Murdoch, gains his super acrobatic abilities after being doused with radiation while saving a blind man from being hit by a truck. Spiderman, Peter Parker, is bitten by a radioactive spider.

Another variation on the origin story is that the powers can be an aspect of something that was already inside the person who becomes a superhero, but some circumstance was needed to bring them out. For example, when Bruce Banner is doused with radiation, the anger that is already within him allows him to become the Incredible Hulk whenever he gets angry.

Wednesday: Questions about Origin Stories:

1. What is an origin story?
2. Name a superhero who was born with their powers.
3. “There she uses her extraordinary abilities to fight crime.” Give another word for extraordinary.
4. How did the Fantastic Four get their powers?
5. Why did Superman’s parents send him to Earth?
6. What is radiation? Use a dictionary or research to find out.
7. What is Daredevil’s real name?
8. Daredevil has “super acrobatic abilities.” What is acrobatics?
9. Was Hulk angry before or after he got his powers? How do you know?
10. If you were a superhero, how would you get your powers? Using what you know and your own imagination, create a quick origin story for yourself.

Thursday:

Today, we are going to find out about Marvel Comics and their creator, Stan Lee.

Marvel Comics and Stan Lee

Stan Lee created some of the most popular and well-loved superheroes of all times. When Stan started working for Timely Comics as an office assistant in the 1940s, he was only 17 years old. He worked his way up to the position of Interim Editor by the time he was in his twenties.



In an interview for Inc.com, Stan characterized Timely Comics as “a company who imitated.” Lee’s boss Martin Goodman (who was also the husband of Stan Lee’s cousin) often asked Stan to come up with something comparable to what other companies were doing. Timely’s biggest rival was D.C. Comics, creator of the Justice League of America. Martin wanted Timely to have their own famous set of superheroes, and he asked Stan Lee to create one. Stan was tired of imitating other comics on demand, and he wanted to quit. But his wife

encouraged him to do at least one more comic his way, instead of Martin’s way. The worst case scenario, she said, was that he would get fired — not much to lose for someone who wanted to quit anyway. Taking her advice, Stan worked with illustrator Jack Kirby to co-create The Fantastic Four. Stan says he tried to make the characters different by giving them real emotions and problems. It was a hit, and Stan was given free reign to create characters that were no longer copycats.

Around this time, Timely Comics became Marvel Comics. Stan felt that the company should rename itself because The Fantastic Four had been so successful that the company was no longer the same as what it had once been. Remembering that the first comic book Martin had published had been called Marvel Comics, he suggested that they rename the company Marvel. They did, and for Marvel Comics, Stan went on to create such memorable characters as Spider-Man, The Incredible Hulk, Thor, Doctor Strange, Daredevil, and the X-Men.

Thursday: Questions about Marvel Comics and Stan Lee.

1. Why is Stan Lee important, when we look at superheroes?
2. Who did Stan Lee start working for?
3. When did he start working for them?
4. Stan Lee describes Timely Comics as a “company who intimidated.” What does this mean? What is imitation?
5. Stan Lee wanted to quit. How do you think he felt? Why do you think he wanted to quit?
6. Who convinced him not to quit?
7. Who were the first superheroes Stan Lee created?
8. How were they different from previous superheroes?
9. What is a copycat?
10. Find out more about Stan Lee and the characters he created.

Friday:

Today, we are going to look at my favourite superhero, Batman.

Batman

Batman is unique in the realm of superheroes in that his “powers” are completely human. He wasn't born with superhuman abilities. He didn't become a superhero in the aftermath of exposure to radiation. He wasn't gifted the powers by an extraterrestrial intelligence. Batman's superpowers are within the realm of human possibility, which is perhaps why he is one of the most beloved and admired superheroes ever created.

When Bruce Wayne was a boy, he witnessed the murder of both of his parents when they were shot by a mugger. This is the defining event in Bruce Wayne's life, driving him to devote his life to fighting crime. He trains to transform his body into peak physical condition. He also trains his mind, becoming increasingly intelligent, rational, and unswayed by emotion. He selects his costume, that of a bat, in order to strike terror into the hearts of criminals. He protects his secret identity, pretending to be a rich playboy.



Batman uses a variety of ingenious inventions in his vigilante work. His armored costume protects him from gunfire and from other significant impacts. His utility belt contains many tools, weapons, and instruments that he uses to fight and subdue the criminals he pursues. One of these tools is a projectile that shoots a retractable grappling hook attached to a cable. Batman uses this to “fly” across the rooftops of Gotham City. One weapon that is not found on his utility belt is a gun; Batman refuses to use a gun as a way of protesting the weapon that killed his parents. He travels in the powerful Batmobile. And his home base is the Batcave, a secret bunker beneath his mansion, Wayne Manor. There, Batman uses his supercomputer, conducts surveillance, creates new weapons, and stores his vehicles and equipment.

Part acrobat, part inventor, part scientist, and part philosopher, Batman's relentless pursuit of justice has inspired generations.

Friday: Questions about Batman.

1. Why is Batman different to other superheroes?
2. What does the word unique mean?
3. What are Batman's superpowers?
4. What do the words beloved and admired mean?
5. What was the defining event in Batman's life?
6. How does Batman protect his identity?
7. Name 3 of Batman's ingenious inventions.
8. Why does Batman refuse to use a gun?
9. In the text, it says Batman trains his body and his mind? Which is more important? Why do you think this?
10. Where does Batman live? Can you draw a picture of Wayne Manor and the underground Batcave? Remember to label it.