

Why Comics? Interdisciplinary Lesson Plan

Learning Objectives	Topics	British Values, Identity
<i>To get students to engage and relate with contemporary British identity and values; To explore communicating ideas creatively</i>	Age	8-10
	Time	4 Lessons, 50 mins each
	Trigger Material	<i>The Croydon Avengers script excerpts</i>

Suggested Creative Activities

- **Superhero alter ego.** Think of something that you would like to do to help people or make the world a better place. What makes a superhero 'super'? What skills, qualities and superpowers would you need? What name would you give yourself? Explore personal values, and their relation to wider society.
- **Act out your superhero's moves and pose.**
- **Draw your superhero.**
Superhero costume. Does the fabric have performance qualities like being heat or bullet-proof? Do you have gadgets attached or hidden in parts of your costume? How are these gadgets activated? Remember to think about what your superheroes mission is and have your costume perform accordingly.
Superpowers. What colour and shapes might represent your powers best? Think about what symbols, motifs or logos will convey your identity to others.
- **Design a superhero costume.** Children could:
 - a) Draw around each other on large pieces of paper and use their own outline to create real-life sized superheroes.
 - b) make a set of designs onto paper. A design works like a visual diagram – it's not about making a fantastic drawing, but conveying information about how your costume works, so can have labels, arrows and explanations. (You can do more than one design as ideas often develop as you draw.)
 - c) Cut simple cape shapes from cotton or calico, cut out symbols and motifs from contrasting fabrics and glue or stitch them onto the cape. Better work is produced if there is a design stage before the actual making.
- **Create a superhero comic.**
Backstory. How did you become a superhero? What set of events led to your transformation? Was it an incident which happened to you (like Spiderman being bitten by a spider and gaining spider-like qualities) or are you more like Batman or Ironman – an inventor of gadgets with a score to settle?
Living the values. How does your superhero stand up to challenges? Using a story mountain children can plan a narrative around the challenges that the superhero faces.
- **Back-up creative options: Poem - Poster**

Follow-Up Ideas Media representation: Interview with a superhero; Letter of persuasion; 'Impartial' journalism and Truth

We are curious!
Hashtag the work your students produce to #whycomics