

# Term - Séquence 5 : Mythes et héros

## Superheroes

Tâche finale : 1<sup>st</sup> You work for Marvel and your boss just asked you to create a new superhero. In pairs create a new superhero (drawing) and make a short description of his appearance and talent/powers.

2<sup>nd</sup> Now your boss wants you to write a story in which your superhero is the main character. If your story is the best you'll get a promotion.

### Séance 1

- Guessing game (find which superhero your partner is thinking about by asking him/her about the superhero's look, outfit, abilities)
- Who is your favorite superhero and why? Try to convince your partner. [superlatives]
- Brainstorming on Superman/Batman/Spiderman etc. (classement: private life/public image)
- TE

### Séance 2

- Recap!
- Compare the superheroes (cities/abilities/look...) [comparatives]
- Iron man 2 poster



Describe/ how much do you know about him?

-TE

### Séance 3

-Recap!

-CO trailer 'Iron man 2' <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNQowwwwYa0>

(who? where? What, why?) + Write a description of the hero/superhero (look/ abilities/ personality)

### Séance 4

-Recap!

-CE 'The Origin of Spider-Man' (Mission 2<sup>nd</sup> p.60)

WH-question + lien avec la photo (impressions)

-TE

-HW: Review what we have done (vocabulary, description, etc; )to be ready for your CE test for next class

## The Origin of Spider-Man

In Spider-Man's debut issue<sup>1</sup>, the other kids in Peter Parker's high school class in Queens, New York call our hero "puny"<sup>2</sup> Parker. He is frail and shy, a pampered orphan who lives with his elderly Aunt May and Uncle Ben.

Peter visits a science exhibit on experiments in radio-activity. While there he is bitten by a spider that has accidentally absorbed "a fantastic amount of radio-activity".  
Feeling strange, the teenager steps aside. He is so focused, his entire body charged with some sort of fantastic energy, that he fails to see a car speeding toward him. Peter leaps out of the way and that's how he discovers he now possesses incredible strength and can climb walls.

He realizes that the spider in some miraculous way has transferred its own power to him! Peter tests his new found abilities for prize money on the wrestling<sup>3</sup> ring. When he is successful he decides to create a costumed alter ego for himself and go into show business to help support his family.

The masked Spider-Man is a hit<sup>4</sup>. However, during his first public appearance, he fails to see an escaping thief. This act will come back to haunt him for the man he let escape turns out to be the burglar who later murders his beloved Uncle Ben.

"My fault, all my fault!" laments Peter. "If only I had stopped him when I could have! But I didn't and now Uncle Ben is dead." As Peter walks off into the night, he knows, at last, "that in this world, with great power there must also come great responsibility!"

Paul Kupperberg, *The Creation of Spider-Man* (2007)

1. first time Spider-Man appeared in a comic book, in 1962

2. small, weak, not very impressive

3. a sport in which two people fight by holding each other and trying to force the other one to the ground

4. a success



## Real-life superheroes



She calls herself Street Hero, says she is a former prostitute, knows martial arts and takes to the city's underbelly<sup>1</sup> to protect women who work the streets. Her uniform includes a black eye mask, a black bustier and black knee-high boots. Then there is Red Justice, a substitute teacher from Woodside, Queens, who wears red boxer briefs<sup>2</sup> over jeans, a red cape made from an old T-shirt and a sock with eyeholes to mask his identity. He trolls the subways encouraging young people to give their seats to those who need them more.

They call themselves real-life superheroes, and they were just a few of the do-gooders who gathered near Times Square yesterday for what was billed as the first meeting of a group called Superheroes Anonymous. They all declined to give their real names because they said they wanted to protect their identities.

The meeting was part news conference, part documentary film shoot and part patrol duty. There were locals and out-of-towners, most were in uniform (don't dare call them costumes) and all said they were serious about helping make their respective communities cleaner, safer and kinder places. The 13 or

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<sup>1</sup> (ici) quartier défavorisé

<sup>2</sup> caleçon

so who gathered yesterday are part of a growing community of activists across the country and beyond.

Chaim Lazaros, 23, a student at Columbia University and an independent filmmaker, co-founded Superheroes Anonymous along with Ben Goldman to bring to New York as many superheroes as he could for interviews and to record them for a documentary he is making about the movement.

"This is a serious job," Mr. Lazaros said. "We are out in the streets fighting crime in a legal way. But most of all we are fighting the worst crime of all, apathy."

"We're not these crazy people," said one man, Geist, who traveled to New York from Minnesota. "We just have an unorthodox approach to doing good."

The Super is a superintendent<sup>3</sup> of a building in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, who fixes faucets<sup>4</sup> and does electrical work for people in need. The Super, who also declined to give his real name, said he took on the alter ego after a friend was hurt by debris that had fallen from scaffolding<sup>5</sup>. "I said to myself, if we have to wait around for the city or the mayor to fix everything wrong or dangerous in this city, it'll never get done," the Super said.

He acknowledged that his self-proclaimed role - as well as what he wears - has drawn derision. He said he had been laughed at, stared at, egged and stoned.

"I don't have many friends," he said. "A lot of real-life superheroes stumble along the way. And part of it can definitely make you feel isolated, like nobody understands you."

*The New York Times* (October 29<sup>th</sup> 2007)

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<sup>3</sup> gardien

<sup>4</sup> robinets

<sup>5</sup> Echafaudage

## Questions:

1) Fill in (when possible) the 3 superheroes identity card. -Where? -Age? -Occupation? -costume?

2) True or false? Justify your answer with one sentence from the text.

a-The real-life superheroes gathered in Washington.

b-The group likes it when people say they wear costumes.

c-They want to help their communities.

3) Who founded Superheroes Anonymous?

4) What does the photo represent?

5) Using the photo and the text, tell how many real-life superheroes attended the meeting. Justify your answer with one sentence from the text.

6) Why don't real-life superheroes give their real name?

7) True or false? Justify your answer with one sentence from the text.

a-They want to be out in the streets to have fun, it is a game for them.

b-The Superheroes Anonymous have many friends and people love them.

8) List all the things each superhero does to help.

## Séance 6 **salle info**

Start creating your superhero in pairs.

(Look, abilities, etc.)

-HW: Finish drawing/making your superhero for next class

## Séance 7

-Recap!

-Make a written description of your superhero (name/physical and psychological characteristics/ abilities/ family background/ private life/ origin of his/her powers/desires)

-HW: Review vocabulary and everything we have done to be ready for your EE test for next class.

## Séance 8

-EE test: Imagine an adventure happening to your superhero. Remember to be precise about places, people, what happens. You must have a beginning and an end (200 words or more).