A comic book created by youth for youth in Albany

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The Story Behind the Stories

Welcome to a special comic book created by youth for youth. Through a grant from the New York State Banking Department, school children in Albany, NY created comic books on what it means to be a superhero. This collection of art and writing represents the hard work, critical thinking, and character development of the many children who participated. View samples from all the comic books at www.ComicBookProject.org. See the inside back cover of this book to learn about the process.

The Comic Book Project is an arts-based literacy and learning initiative hosted by Teachers College, Columbia University. The Project encourages children to make a connection between what they write and what they draw, and it puts children in the role of creators, rather than merely receivers of information. Children create comic books about their personal experiences, interests, and environments, thereby engaging them in the learning process and motivating them to succeed in school, after school, and in life. For more information about The Comic Book Project, please contact:

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www.banking.state.ny.us
(877) BANK-NYS

This project was produced in partnership with the City School District of Albany. For more information about the arts in the Albany schools:

City School District of Albany
www.albanyschools.org/district/academics/art.html
(518) 462-7262
I wish I could do something about this.
Stop! Please!
I shocked myself!!

Wait a minute...

They have no armor... I could electrocute them through their feet... since I'm using...
Hey... um thanks for saving me there.

Any time.
Whoa...What a... weird dream!
Thia was thinking of ways to free Jim-Jim.

Jim-Jim

Yo, Shrimp. The only way you can get Jim-Jim is if you beat me fair and square.

Meet me in the alley at 10:00 tonight.
Thia left her house and started her way to 3rd street.

Poor Jim Jim, I have to help him.

Rachel was getting ready to beat Thia.

Let's go, you stupid monkey!

I was a fairy.

It's Rachel and that monkey.
Jim-Jim didn’t seem like his old fun self.

Thia’s room

Rachel lost!

Thia and Jim-Jim reunite!

Heh heh!

Thia: you seem different.

You seem different.

Soo sorry!
BY

NIA WILLIAMS (9TH GRADE)
PHILIP LIVINGSTON MAGNET ACADEMY
It was a sunny day in Park City until all of a sudden the sky turned dark and people are going crazy.

"Run!!" someone yelled.

"He's gone!" said a girl.

We finally rid of him.

He had Super-Lady and he socked all the powers out of her.

That night he was walking through the alley and then...

"Help!"
Then he told Lady Bug that if she did not join his team or she would no longer have powers. She didn’t want to risk her powers, so she joined him. Finally, I had her.

When Super Lady woke up, she wondered what happened to her. Her head was pounding, her hair was messed up, and her manicure was ruined. She tried to fly away, but she couldn’t. She tried to shoot fire, she couldn’t. Her power was gone.

Oh no! Where is Lady Ice?

All of a sudden, Super Ice came crashing in.
Then she suddenly realized nobody was dressed like an evil villain, and what was she doing there?

Tell me you didn’t become me or Jury!

I sure did!

She was furious with Lady Justice but she was more mad at Evil Villain because she wanted her powers.

You give me back only if you join me!

Not a chance.

Super lady and definitely not joining evil, and she warned Superbaby.

Super baby look what am I going to do?

Super lady never felt so bad. She knew her duties as a hero were not to make someone pause.

I need help! I need you people!

Evil Villain and his crew were heading out to do their Master Plan.
Once again it was a nice day in New York until Evil Villain Crew came as they were doing their "Player Smashing" program. "Whoa!" somebody cried. "My chicken fell!"

She saw her old pal Super Lady and threw back her powers and once again the death of Evil Villain's was over. Because I'm only a human, I can't do good."

"I'm sorry," she said."

"I'm sorry," she said."

The End?"
Queen Hoops

By

Amhara Hernandez (5th Grade)
Public School 19 / YMCA
I know, we have some hoops after basketball practice, but I’m coming.

Hurry up!

Okay!

After all... I wasn’t expecting you to not play basketball after practice... you are Queen Hoops!

I guess I am!!
About The Comic Book Project

The Comic Book Project engages children in a creative process leading to literacy reinforcement, social awareness, and character development, then publishes and distributes their work for other children in the community to use as learning and motivational tools.

OBJECTIVES:

1) **Academic Reinforcement:** Children reinforce and improve their literacy skills through the arts by engaging in a fun, project-oriented, and creative process.

2) **Social and Character Development:** Children use the project as a pathway to personal understanding and cultural tolerance, which are illustrated by their own artistic creations and displayed in a variety of formats.

3) **Community Building:** Children spread positive messages to other children and adults in the community via the distribution of their work to community outlets such as schools, after-school programs, and community centers.

The Comic Book Project began as a grassroots movement in the after-school education community of New York City. In 2002, the project was piloted with over 700 children at 33 after-school sites with the help of three important advocates for urban education: The After-School Corporation, Partnership for After-School Education, and the Youth Development Institute at the Fund for the City of New York.

In the 2003-2004 school year, The Comic Book Project received a grant from the Cleveland Foundation for a citywide implementation in Cleveland on the theme of conflict resolution. In that same year, the United States Environmental Protection Agency awarded a grant for the citywide implementation in New York City on the theme of urban environmentalism. These projects impacted over 20,000 inner-city youths.

The 2004-2005 school year marked the national launch of the project. Thousands of students in the following ten cities were involved: NYC, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington DC, Chicago, Hartford, St. Louis, Bridgeport (CT), and New Brunswick (NJ). The theme was “leadership,” and the project resulted in a national publication and a touring exhibit of the students’ comic books.
**THE PROCESS**

**Step 1: Instructor Training**
Albany teachers attended a training workshop about The Comic Book Project.

**Step 2: Introductory Activities**
Students used the *Activity Booklet* to learn how to write and design a comic book.

**Step 3: Writing the Manuscript**
Students used the *Manuscript Starter* to plan, draft, and sketch their comic books.

**Step 4: Creating the Comic Books**
Students used the *Comic Book Canvas* to write, draw, and produce their comic books.

**Step 5: Celebrating the Comic Books**
Every student who finished a comic book is featured on the website art gallery at [www.ComicBookProject.org](http://www.ComicBookProject.org). A select comic book from each participating site was chosen to appear in this publication. Also, an exhibit of the children’s work was established for students, parents, teachers, and community members.
I wish I could do something about this.