A comic book created by youth for youth in Cleveland

MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM
THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION
HOSTED BY TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOUNDER and DIRECTOR
Dr. Michael Bitz, Ed.D

HOSTED BY
Teachers College, Columbia University
Center for Arts Education Research
Dr. Harold Abeles and Dr. Judith Burton, Co-Directors

CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Department of Arts Education
Karen Clark-Keys, Visual Arts, ICARE,
Curriculum and Professional Development Director

Sandra Noble, Cleveland Project Manager

DESIGN and LAYOUT
Tom Kurzanski

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Welcome to a special comic book created by youth for youth. Through a grant from the Cleveland Foundation, children in public school art classes across Cleveland 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:

Teachers College, Columbia University
Dr. Michael Bitz, Ed.D, Project Founder and Director
525 West 120th Street - Box 139
New York, NY 10027

www.ComicBookProject.org
meb53@columbia.edu
(212) 330-7444

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The Cleveland Foundation
www.clevelandfoundation.org
(216) 861-3810

This project was produced in partnership with the Cleveland Municipal School District. For more information about the arts in Cleveland public schools:

Cleveland Municipal School District
Department of Arts Education
(216) 574-4326
www.cmsdnet.net/artseducation
PROMISE

BY

JENNIFER TRAN (10TH GRADE)

JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL
As the mayor of this city, I would like us to honor our Super hero.

Cindy Kooper

She may not wear a cape, or have a secret disguise, and have odd shaped ears. She is still our super hero.

She saved our city from man eating turtles.

Loud noises heard.

She fought crimes.

And defeated many other villains.

Hmph.

You accepted this medal Cindy. Before you accept this medal.

Promise us that you'll always do good.

I promise!

Yay!

Clap Clap Clap Clap
After the ceremony, at the park

I can't believe that the mayor gave me this medal.

Hey! You want a cigarette?

No, thanks.

Hey...
BOD
GASP

I'm not going to bite you. Calm down.

How did she move in front of me?

She's very fast! Why do you not want a cigarette?

Very gory. Smoking is bad for your health. It can give you cancer, yellow teeth, and kill you.

Those are the negative side of smoking.

You have to look at the positive side of smoking.

Smoking makes you look cool.

Smoking makes you look oo so cool.

The positive side?

Do you want to be cool?

Umm, well... yes, but... Many of the cool kids and the movie stars do it.
"To be cool..."

Why don't you have a cigarette?

Well...

I guess one cigarette can't hurt.

I'm still holding onto the medal?

Oh!

Our City's Super Hero

Before you accept this medal...

Promise us that you'll always do good.

I promise!

So...

What am I'm doing!?!?

Are you going to take a cigarette?
This is wrong.

Plastic surgery

I will not give in to peer pressure.

I made a promise to always do good. Smoking is not cool, it is bad.

Nobody is going to change my mind about smoking.

Whatever.

What are you doing?

I'm going to take you to get some help.

Let's go.

The end.
by

ENDIA BROWN-BEY (6th GRADE)

NEWTON D. BAKER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

By
This is Park Avenue.
The Bully.

And she says to you, "What are you talking about?"

"Oh... I don't know what you're talking about!"

"Yeah, you better run. Ha, ha."

Two -
Man, I love bullying, not only if I could bully all the kids in the world. I wish I had super powers.

OK, mom.

Later.

Pock'n

Caution
Shut up, punk!

Whoa, you were... no... Never mind!

Ha ha ha ha ha.

Gur gur gur gur gur gur.

Bath.

ROOM.

Muffled

Ahaha.

But.

Ahaha.

Gur gur gur gur gur gur.
14
Bic ran out the bathroom, went outside and went for a walk.

Maybe I should call myself a hero...

I could be a good guy...

No, I can't... I'm stupid.

Help... help... help...

I'll save you.

Good girl!

...and this.

Super Bic to the rescue!
As PX turned the corner

Hm... I think it would be kind of cool to be a super hero...

Then if I was a villain, I would just meet up and get in jail. Hmm.

What you gonna do about it?

Help me.

Oh, leave her alone, you'll see.

-Bim

-Pow

Ooh! I think it'll be a good idea to become a super hero.

You?
The Adventures of
Braver Gal!

BY
JAIME LIZ SANTANA (7TH GRADE)
SCRANTON SCHOOL
I'm Bravey Gay! Sworn protector and fighter of evil! Not just evil, the most evil of all evils!

Smokestack is a gangsta drug dealer all around criminal!

But the only people more dangerous than Smokestack is his gangsta stones.

Bullet Bob...
Stick Boy... and Smokey

They all terrorize the innocent people of Greensville while striving to protect them!

But I know their weaknesses, just say NO! They're always trying to get you in their gang and do the things they do. NO! JUST SAY NO! That sounds simple, but it's harder than it sounds. They start telling you how cool it is to be the point where you believe it.

Sadly some people fall for it. Pity.

It pains me to see what Greensville has become.

I don't think I should do this.
I heard you could get addicted to this stuff. My teacher told me so. But it could never happen to me. Or could it?

Before you smoke that, come with me!

WHO? SAID THAT?

I

DID!

Curse you, Bravery Girl! You’re always taking my business! Come back here!

ZOOM
HOSPITAL - What are we doing here? At a hospital? This hospital cares for many people who suffer from cancer of the liver and lungs.

LIVER cancer is caused by drinking... and as you know, cancer can lead to death...

Cancer is caused by smoking.

Wow, I didn't know smoking and drinking could be so serious.

Yeah... come on, I still have more to show you.
Nothing good ever comes out of gangs. For example...

(Smoke, Steck & Gang)

THE STONER

Poor Stecy died at the young age of 10. She was killed by a stray bullet.

...the bullet came from a shoot out between rival gangs.

Gang Violence

Drugs

This is cool?

It's so sad. It wasn't even her fault.

Gang Violence

Drugs

That is why you should say...

No!
Orelse you'll get sick, addicted or die.

Stay away from these things or you'll end up in this place...

Jail

Greensville is now safe... I can now move on to another city and help others learn of the dangers of drugs, gangs & violence.
There was a boy and his name was Moreno. He trained hard every day. One day while he was training, Moreno stumbled upon a mirror with a purple aura. He slashed it open to find a wristband. Once he put it on, the wristband turned itself around and wrapped on his hand to make him the summoner of not only dragons but of everything mystical and powerful.

BY
ZAKI AL-MUHTASEB (6TH GRADE)
ROBINSON G. JONES SCHOOL
GREAT WORK!!

Comic Book Selections from Cleveland Children

Cordell Hillsman (8th grade)
Carl & Louis Stokes Central Academy

Rana Daghash
Weber Wright School

Dajeaun Powell
Audubon School

Jane Annorzie (6th grade)
Watterson-Lake School

5/5/07 10:39:39 AM
THE PROCESS

Step 1: Instructor Training
Cleveland 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. A select comic book from each participating site was chosen to appear in this publication. Also, a community-based exhibit of the children's work was established for students, parents, teachers, and community members.
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