I am a SuperHero

A comic book created by youth for youth in New Jersey

PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BONNER SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY & MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE
FOUNDER and DIRECTOR
Dr. Michael Bitz, Ed.D

HOSTED BY
Teachers College, Columbia University
Center for Arts Education Research
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THE COLLEGE of NEW JERSEY, BONNER CENTER
Patrick Donohue, Director

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE, DEMOCRACY HOUSE
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Welcome to a special comic book created by youth for youth. This year children from across New Jersey 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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“I Am a Superhero” was produced in partnership with the Bonner Scholars Program at The College of New Jersey and Middlesex County College. TCNJ’s Bonner Center for Civic and Community Engagement coordinates community-engaged learning and community-campus outreach efforts so that students and neighborhood partners can collaborate to sustain and advance the communities in which we live and work. For more information:

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The College of New Jersey  
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Democracy House is Middlesex County College’s Center for Civic Engagement, where college professors, students, and nonprofit partners work together to create a more informed, participatory and egalitarian civic community. For more information:

**Democracy House**  
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(732) 548-6000, x3262  
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BY

OPE SOKAN (8TH GRADE)
HANGOUT HAVEN, MORROW MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
MAPLEWOOD
This is me, Victor. As you can see, I'm dreaming. Let's discover what about.
10 minutes later...

I wonder what's for breakfast?

Smoke Mr. Ow!
M - mom!

Victor...

Mom... Are you okay?!

No... it's so hot!
What's going ON?!

...world-wide panic as the heatstroke due to global-warming continues to take effect...

Was it all... a dream?

Mom?
Man... it seemed so real...

NO!
Uh... Victor, honey? Are you okay?

Yeah...

That was weird...

Why did you do that?

Well, I just think it'd be better if you... uh... recycled that can.

When did you become such an environmentalist?

My hero.

Aw, mom, stop...

You're embarrassing me.
If I Were a Superhero...

The Adventures of Gang Green: "Gang Green Defeats Mr. Fantoxic!"

BY
ANOTHONY McQUEEN, ABIGAIL NABBIE,
MCLEE GUILLAUME, CARLOS GRAJALES,
MARITZA COLON, GENE JARDA (6th-8th GRADE)
FARRAKHAN CHAMBLISS, PEER LEADER (11th GRADE)

IMPACT 21 CDC / DESTINY AFTER SCHOOL HAVEN "DASH"
RAHWAY
It was a beautiful day in the city of Cleansville.

The Bees were buzzing, the sky was blue.

The sun was shining as people enjoyed their lunch and walked their dogs.

Meanwhile the town’s local scientist, Professor Nabbie, is busy fussing with her assistant.

Marissa, must I say it for the hundredth time, $E = mc^2$.

How many times must we go over this?!

Yes but why $E$? I still don’t get it.

And then......

This can’t be good.
The toxic chemicals fall down the drain......

....and into the sewer.

Anyone who ingested or even came in contact with the contaminated water was instantly affected.

People began to lose interest in the up-keeping of their town.

This really can't be good.

They became almost like zombies.
As the people went down so did the town. Crime rates went up; stores were robbed as well as cars and people.

Everything was stolen.....

....everything but the cleaning supplies.

It seemed like things couldn't get worse than they already were.

From the sewers of Cleansville arose.

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh! My children are doing their master's work!
You’ve done very good, now go! Go out to the other towns and cities and do more damage!

With Mr. Fantoxic as their leader, the world really wasn’t safe.

Meanwhile at Gang Green Headquarters in Greenland...

Guys! There seems to be some trouble going on somewhere in New Jersey!

This looks like a job for...
Let's go!

Mr. Fantastik, your days of polluting are done forever. Gang Green is Going to stop you!

Yea! You're going down!

What are you guys going to do about it! If you want this town back, you'll have to take it from me!

Well that's easy. All we have to do is clean up.

Don't Touch that!
Ewwww!

I take that back. It's not that easy.

Let's dance to the jam.
Too late for that buddy!

Stop! Stop! Stop! I take it back. I'll leave this town alone.

Awww, don't worry, lil' fella, we're gonna take a lil' trip.....

And like that, Mr. Fantastic was defeated.

Stop spritzin' into me, you fool!
The C A R E - T A K E R  P E R K S IT UP

BY

VIVIENNE JOSEPH, CELIA ACCARDI,
RACHEL LISENCO (4TH GRADE)
JEFFERSON SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
MAPLEWOOD, SOUTH ORANGE
Introducing Terama Eleanor!

Terama doesn't care about anything but friends and family.

And another time she calls her mom in the hospital.

And another thing happens... So many sad things.

And another.

I don't feel like going to church today.
Terama didn't care about anyone but friends and family until one of her friends' parents lost their job and they became poor. She then realized what she had done and how bad it was.

A sad time for Yah

Here's some money. Thanks.

You can stay with me.

So, Terama finally noticed that every little bit helps.
Terama, Age 18

Get a job. Stay sober. For free here!

By the time Terama was 19, she was nicknamed the "Corkboks".

CARETAKER

Terama paid for houses for the homeless.

Here is your money.

Here is your money.

Here is your money.

Here is your money.
Terama was associated with the Santa business and in 2008, helped a whole lot with it.

And finally, she won the Nobel Peace Prize!

But there was one person who wasn't happy with what Terama was doing, and his name was Jeremy Mikes.

Sooner or later, she was going to find out, so her friend Alia told her...
Alia telling Terama...

So Terama tried to stop him.

Yeah, so here are the reasons to put him in

But Jeremy started robbing banks etc.

Ha, Ha!
With no powers, Primm had to think of something! And quick!

If I can't get all the people in the city to get together, maybe I can stop him.

The city council meeting at City Hall.

And finally, they figured out a way to stop Jeremy Mixes.

Finally!!!!!!
Suddenly, helicopters came out and caught him in the flesh.

Put your hands in the air!

So Jeremy Mires finally got caught and went to jail.

So everything went back to normal.

The End
BY

ZENA SALEM (3RD GRADE)
NELLIE K. PARKER SCHOOL
HACKENSACK
It was beautiful UNTIL...
Now I got the gun, I can shoot you AND rule the world. Then the world won't have a hero anymore. Mua ha ha ha ha!

Take this

Thank you

Love
GREAT WORK!!
COMIC BOOK PANELS FROM NEW JERSEY CHILDREN

the super girls pick up the the gang members and take
then far away from Justin & Maria.

TIMOTHY BANKS (5th grade)
ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL / PUERTO RICAN ACTION BOARD
NEW BRUNSWICK

Gabriela Bario, Hilario Balitista,
Dolores Cerda, Gleni Mejia
NEW BRUNSWICK MIDDLE SCHOOL / PUERTO RICAN ACTION BOARD
NEW BRUNSWICK
What are you doing in my hideout, Giant Floating Head!? 

The Giant Floating Head is destroying his machines. 

I heard you didn’t like the tree. Well you’re not leaving tonight! 

I finally caught you to you. You didn’t think you could escape, did you? 

I believe when you were 10 you said you would never see me again.
First page:

ANSHUL VYAKARNAM
2nd grade
SOUTH MOUNTAIN SCHOOL
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
MAPLEWOOD, SOUTH ORANGE

This scene goes to the bank to find the coconuts.

LUIS JIMINEZ (5th GRADE)
LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL
21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
NEW BRUNSWICK

They are making a plan.

JAVIER M. (4th GRADE)
RIVERA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
EDUCATIONWORKS
TRENTON

This is x-10 and Dr. Spy. Dr. Spy is on the left and X-10 is on the right.

AMSHUL VYAKARNAM (2nd GRADE)
SOUTH MOUNTAIN SCHOOL
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
MAPLEWOOD, SOUTH ORANGE
Step 1: Instructor Training
Educators from New Jersey 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 after-school program was chosen to appear in this publication. Also, community-based exhibits of the children's work were established for students, parents, teachers, and community members.
People began to lose interest in the up-keeping of their town.

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Visit www.ComicBookProject.org to view samples of all the comic books!