I am a Super Hero

A comic book created by youth for youth in New York City

Made possible by a grant from
The Union Square Arts Awards

Hosted by Teachers College, Columbia University
Produced in partnership with the After-School Corporation

Printed and distributed by Dark Horse Comics

Covers by Jimmy Tapa, Kevin Melendez, Luis Quiles (8th grade)

IS 349 / Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen Council, Brooklyn
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Dr. Michael Bitz, Ed. D

HOSTED BY
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Welcome to a special comic book created by youth for youth. Through a grant from the Union Square Arts Awards, children in after-school programs across New York City 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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Dr. Michael Bitz, Ed.D, Project Founder and Director  
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“I Am a Superhero” was made possible by a grant from the Union Square Arts Awards. The Union Square Awards program was established in 1998 by an anonymous donor to recognize and support innovative grassroots projects and organizations responding to pressing social issues in New York City. Launched in 2006, the Arts Award recognizes the important and leadership role played by arts and culture in creating educational opportunities, building community, and promoting social change. For more information:

**Union Square Awards**  
www.unionsquareawards.org  
212-213-6140  
info@unisonsquareawards.org

This project was produced in partnership with The After-School Corporation (TASC). TASC was created in 1998 with a generous challenge grant from George Soros’s Open Society Institute to enhance the quality, availability, and sustainability of after-school programs. For more information:

**The After-School Corporation**  
www.tascorp.org  
(212) 547-6950  
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This comic book was printed and distributed by Dark Horse Comics. For more information:

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BY
DEVAUGHN TESTMAN,
REINALDO LASSALLES,
ALCIDES LOPEZ, PIERRE CASTILLIO,
CHRISTOPHER LOPEZ, NATHANIEL SINGLETON (6TH-8TH GRADE)

MS 203 / EAST SIDE HOUSE SETTLEMENT
BRONX
Planet Xerega

Planet xerega is mine!

Why is th-that?

Hey, wh-who are you?

DIE!!

NOOOOOO!!!
Planet Earth

The twin towers

What is that?

What happened over there?

It's a boy!

Some time later

Where am I?
AWW, I'm late for class!

Hey, loser!

I remember now. I am Elemental!

Helen, come over here quick!

What is it?

I've got some business to attend to!

HELP US!!

GREETINGS, Earthlings. I am Scorion and I've come to destroy you!

I hope I am not too late!

We are under attack; who will save us??

BREAKING NEWS

Ms. 203
what are you doing HERE??

I Am Elemental, I come from the planet Xerga, and you will pay for what you've done!

who are you ???

makes no difference who you are, I will destroy you and this planet !!

DIE !!!

Now I'm mad!!
You will never win; I won't let you.

Now you will see my true power.

NOW THIS IS THE END!

GET READY FOR MY ELEMENTAL BEAM.

NOOO!!!

HAH !!!!

Finally the nightmare is over.

And the earth was once again at peace thanks to Elemental. But for how long??
SUPER MARKET

BY

JESSICA ARRAYA, INNTING WANG,
YEXI ZOU, VIVIAN ZOU (6TH GRADE)

PS 120 / FLUSHING YMCA
QUEENS
In a world where children and food existed there was a thing called a Super Market. It was the most best thing in a child's eye.

The Supermarket was where Super Heroes lived. And it was a place of safety. If you would step on the magic pond (first you have to find it and you could get 3 wishes).

Many people tried to find it. The Children treated the Super Heroes with great respect because they saved the world.

There was no life outside the Supermarket.

No life, no hope, NOTHING!
But now it was a cool windy day and the only thing left in an unknown town called "South Play Ground..."

There were a lot of people who used to live in "South Play ground." They all decide to leave because they heard talking fruits.

So later on in the supermarket...
They were tired, so they went to sleep!
After they sleep, the bad guys—pineapple and watermelon—
came in.

Watermelon & pineapple are the best!
Pineapple and watermelon started
throw the hot-dog on other people,
so they would get away.

And then they all went there.
They saw pineapple and watermelon

OUCH! IT HURT

YUMMY!

“And when they saw Kisses eat the hot-dog, Hr. CocaCola had an idea!”
Then Mr. Coca Cola and other people tried to catch the hot-dog, and they put the hot sauce on it. Then threw it back to watermelon and pineapple.

That night everyone cleaned the whole super market.

After they cleaned they were very tired, but they were happy.

Goodnight

The End
by

ESTHER KLINGBIEL (5TH GRADE)
BEGINNING WITH CHILDREN
CHARTER SCHOOL / TASC
BROOKLYN
Just a Trial Day....

.....that would lead to a moment that would change history, and it's all because of a girl named Sophie Buler.

Class, I have some very exciting news for you.

Save the Environment Competition.
My news is we will be having a competition. Environment competition. And... You get an award and a superpower that can only be used once...

Everybody wanted to win. Well, except for the sleepin' kid. Wow!

I have to win!

Sophie knew what she was going to do. I'll clean up that dirty old lot and turn it into a garden. I know what I'll do!
So Sophie sketched what her garden would look like.

So Sophie got right to work.

First, she cleaned up all the trash.

Next, she planted some trees and flowers.

Next, she dug a big hole and put water and fish into it.
FINALLY, SHE TOOK PICTURES FOR THE COMPETITION.

A FEW MONTHS LATER.......

SOPHIE, THERE’S A LETTER FOR YOU!

Dear Sophie, you have won 1st place in our Save the Environment competition.

Please come to our award ceremony.

.... So you can receive the award and special recognition.
AT THE CEREMONY.

And the winner is...

What? May I have your attention please?

Sophie Buler!

Here is your award.

Thank you.
AND now,

YOUR POWER

I wish...

TO CLEAN up the ENVIRONMENT
The Troll Lost in Time

BY

JACOB GARCIA, RACHEL HERNANDEZ, CELMIRA RODRIGUEZ, FRANCIS TURBI, ANA CORONA, SANDRA CHABLA, JAILENE MARTINEZ, ROSELLE TOLENTINO, BRANDON ALVAREZ, CHRISTIAN PEREZ, TIARA ADAMS, DIAMOND WEST, DEANNA REYES, MICHAEL VIDAL, ALEXANDRA LAMPEL, ANGELY URENA, MARCUS MARIN (4TH-5TH GRADE)

PS 28 / WASHINGTON HEIGHTS-INWOOD COALITION MANHATTAN
A LONG TIME AGO, IN A FAR AWAY PLACE.....

DON'T WANDER OFF TOO FAR, HEART PATCHER.

WHAT A WONDERFUL PLACE.

O.K., DAD!

BECAUSE YOU CAN GET LOST, HUN.
WHAT'S THIS??

MAYBE I'LL TAKE A QUICK LOOK.

WOW, WHAT'S THIS?

POLICE! THERE'S A WEIRDO!!

OH MY GOD!

AHHH!

NEW YORK

I HAVE TO GET BACK HOME!
GET HER!!! COME HERE!

WHERE’S OUR DAUGHTER? YOU MUST LOOK FOR HER!

WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

IT’S HER FEATHER! SHE MUST HAVE WENT THROUGH!

SHE DIDN’T LISTEN!
WHERE'S MY DAUGHTER?!

IT'S THE FATHER!!

WHERE ARE YOU?

CRUNCH!

I MISSED YOU, MOM!
I HOPE YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON, H.P.

YES, PAPA. SORRY.

IN THE FUTURE....

LISTEN, LOVE PATCHER, DON'T WANDER OFF TOO FAR! IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

YES, MOM!

MAYBE I'LL WANDER A LITTLE.

AND THE STORY CONTINUES...
GREAT WORK!!
COMIC BOOK SELECTIONS FROM NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN

Jennifer Jones (12th Grade)
Queens Public Library-Baisley Park
Queens

Chayim (3rd Grade)
Community Partnership Charter School/TASC
Brooklyn

Jensen Cheong (8th Grade)
1572 Massey-Peth Town Hall
Queens

Edwin Rivas (7th Grade)
318 PhIPPS Community Development Corporation
Bronx

Grades 4-5 Group Project
PS 20 / Moshulu Montefiore Community Center
Bronx

Blaming on your team mates? How foolish!

Mary Qui, Megan Coohill, Sally Ho (5th Grade)
PS 102 / Heartshare
Brooklyn

But there is a solution. Out of nowhere comes Anti-Dag Man.

Oh sure; it was made for you (in a sense)
Alberto Frias, DeSean Buggs (3rd Grade)
PS 161 / Harlem Dowling
Manhattan

Peter Chen, Marcos Reyes (4th Grade)
Sunset Park Recreation Center
Brooklyn

Adebayo Fayemi, Cornell Enekwechi (5th Grade)
Queens Public Library-Laurelton

Daniel Tam (3rd Grade)
Queens Public Library-Elmhurst

Jordan Yee
Queens Public Library-Kew Gardens Hills
MOUSUMI ISLAM (6th grade)
QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY - SOUTH JAMAICA

AARON LANDRES (3rd grade)
CS 200 / HARLEM AFTER 3
MANHATTAN

CHRISTOPHER RAMOS,
ALEJANDRA CONTRERAS (4th grade)
PS 147 / PROJECT REACH YOUTH
BROOKLYN

BRENDA YEUNG, JENNIFER LI,
Peggy Chen (6th grade)
PS 229 / MASPETH TOWN HALL
QUEENS

TENZIN UNAMO (8th grade)
QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY - RIDGEWOOD

TENZIN UNAMO (8th grade)
CS 134 / SPORTS & ARTS IN SCHOOLS FOUNDATION
BRONX
THE STARBURST GROUP (1st Grade)
PS 90 / Citizens Advice Bureau, Star Reach
Bronx

VERONICA MENA (4th Grade)
PS 79 / Good Shepherd Services
Bronx

DOUNIA TAZI (4th Grade)
Queens Public Library - Broadway

SHAKOOR TYRELL BESS, YAIRA CASTRO (3rd Grade)
PS 64 / New Settlement
Bronx

OLU PHIFER, TERRANCE WILSON (7th Grade)
MS 44 / Children’s Arts & Science Workshops
Manhattan

JEREMY SANCHEZ (5th Grade)
PS 81 / Abundant Waters After School Program
Manhattan
Step 1: Instructor Training
The after-school educators 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.

Samples by
Olu Phifer, Terrance Wilson (7th grade)
MS 44 / Children’s Arts & Science Workshops, Manhattan
LISTEN UP, CLASS! FOCUS PEOPLE ........
WE GOT A NEW TOPIC FOR JOURNAL TODAY.
OUR TOPIC IS "IF I WERE A SUPER HERO".
I WANT IT DONE BEFORE THE BELL RINGS.

IF I WERE A SUPER HERO
DUE TODAY!

NO EXCUSES

Covers by Jimmy Tapia, Kevin Melendez; Luis Quiles (8th grade)
IS 349 / Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, Brooklyn

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