A comic book created by youth for youth in Tucson

Front cover by Owl and Panther (K-Adult)
The Hopi Foundation, Center for Prevention and Resolution of Violence

MADE POSSIBLE BY SUPPORT FROM
THE ROBERT BOWNE FOUNDATION &
THE NATIONAL AFTERSCHOOL ASSOCIATION
HOSTED BY TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ARTSREACH
Welcome to a special comic book created by youth for youth. Children across Tucson 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
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“I Am a Superhero” was made possible by support from the Robert Bowne Foundation, which supports the development of quality programs that offer literacy education to children and youth, in the out-of-school hours, especially for those living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. For more information:

**The Robert Bowne Foundation**
www.robertbownefoundation.org

This project was also made possible by support from the National Afterschool Association. As a leading voice of the after-school profession, NAA is dedicated to the development, education, and care of children and youth during their out-of-school hours. For more information:

**National Afterschool Association**
(800) 617-8242
www.naaweb.org

This comic book was produced in partnership with ArtsReach. ArtsReach is a nonprofit organization in Tucson dedicated to creating communities of literacy for Native American students and families, encouraging cultural vitality and academic success through the power of imaginative writing. For more information:

**ArtsReach**
(520) 798-3196
artsreach@qwest.net
www.artsreach.net
by HANS SEBASTIAN RIVAS (10th GRADE)
PUEBLO MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL
PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPWARD BOUND
OUTSIDE TUCSON CITY LIMITS

"Two men die..."

FROM A MANTICAL
EXPLOSION...

YODIOO, A POWERFUL
FORCE... EVIL AS WELL.

CHRIS TARBAN
DIDN'T DESERVE
tO DIE...

WITH A LITTLE
MAGIC...

AND HE DIES...

DEATH WILL
MATTER ANHILE.

CRUNCH!!
DEATH WILL WAIT... BUT THE SINS MUST GO ON...

EVEN IF IT MEANS GOING ON TO LIVE SOMEWHERE ELSE...

BWWAAAAGG KKK!

KABOOOM IN RAYFAR... AND RIVER IS CORRUPT...
and sometimes corruption creates things uboven...

Ngh!

Hahaha!

Hahaha!
How... how can this be? I am alone? And my purpose??

And sometimes those things are...

Stupid...

Am superior?
I believe my whole purpose of existence is to rule the population of Earth!

Starting with you?

From now on I am your ruler; you will worship me and I will pity you.

Now do my bidding!
SKEEARK!

Just a moment...

You, Mr. Chicken, are out of line. You have upset the gods or many other beliefs...
How do you plea towards your creator?

Um...

... and you are?

... you can't be serious??

Unbelievable...

Sheesh?? Next tempo?
Story by: Jesus Ricardo Miranda III, Juanita Lee
Larissa Villa Ruedas, Anceli Miranda, Josh Frost
Illustrator: Jesus Ricardo Miranda
Calligrapher: Juanita Ruedas
Colored by: Anceli Miranda & Larissa Villa Ruedas

BY SHOOTING STARS (2nd-8th Grade)
KARE FAMILY CENTER,
A PROGRAM OF ARIZONA'S CHILDREN ASSOCIATION
IN COLLABORATION WITH CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS
PIMA PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP
THROUGH FUNDING FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES.
GRANT #90CV027301
ARMSTRONG MCDONALD FOUNDATION
The kid lived with his mother. She drank too much beer.

He's always hungry, and the place is a mess!

He wouldn't bring his friends over.

His clothes were always dirty. So he didn't go to school.
His mom was broke.

She got caught.

They put her in jail.

She didn't come home. So the kid hid under the bed for a while.
Then he went next door to his neighbors.

Then CPS Child Protective Services came and took him to a foster home.

And tells them the 3581 kid needs them.
Kare Caperman shows them the way to find the kid.

The grandparents get hired.

Finally, take him home.

Kare Caperman helps with the child's adoption papers.

Now, the kid always gets healthy foods.
He has clean clothes and smells good.

He lives in a house with you.

You can go to school everyday and make friends.

Now he can bring his friends over.

Can Cape Mars flies him to shooting stars?
Where the kid writes and draws with other kids.

They had the same problem as the kid.

You my dad got arrested.

My mom is an alcoholic.

They have the same problem.

My mom is an alcoholic too.
It helps him get it off his chest.

It also helps him be a better person.

Shooting Stars
The kid

And like all the shooting stars, the kid is not alone.

The kid lives happily ever after.

The End.
Rocko Man V.S. Dark Fairy

By
VICTORIA ENCISO (7TH GRADE)
LA CIMA MIDDLE SCHOOL
Hey guys! What's up? My name's Rocky, and I'm 16 years old. My band is called Silent Tuesday. I'm going to tell you my story of Rocko Man, my super hero identity. Just keep reading, please!
...Everything in the Dark Manor

I think they’re coming from the mountains.

Help me.

Dark Fairy’s Lair

Oh no! It’s the Dark Fairy!

[Image of a person being threatened by a fairy]

Who are you?

And what are you doing here?

I don’t think so!
You can't stop me this time. ROCKMAN!

I will abolish the world's music.

Well then, it's time for my Silver Guitar!

You want to play rough, okay then.
Oh!

Feel my wrath!

Ugh!

You missed!

Wa-bam!

You haven't seen the last of me!

Rock, Mom, it's only Fairly!
by

OWL AND PANTHER (K-ADULT)
THE HOPI FOUNDATION, CENTER FOR PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION OF VIOLENCE
When the world was new, the Creator gathered all the plants and animals.

Stay alert and stay awake for seven days and seven nights.

The second night found some of the plants and animals drooping.

The next night, almost all of them fell asleep.

When the seventh night ended, it was just the Owl and Panther, and a few plants like the pine, the hemlock, the cedar, the spruce, the laurel and holly who were still awake.
"I will reward you two animals with the Superpower to see in the dark."

"You plants now have the power of the moon."

"Take some of my leaves for tea."

"And the spirit of the Owl and Panther guided them, even through the darkest times."

"Follow this path and you'll find the water you need."

"The people began to forget the wisdom of the Owl and Panther."

"People left the forest for the city."

"26"
The earth was mistreated and sometimes those powers were ignored.
Whole cultures and peoples were destroyed.

There were wars and repression in Chile.

Y así muere nuestro pueblo in Guatemala.
In El Salvador children didn’t have a safe place to play.

There was corruption...

Children were taken as soldiers

There was war

in Uganda

in Mali

in Cameroon
And from all these places, people needed to flee their homes.

They traveled to find safety.

This way!

Here’s a tortilla!

Keep going!

Sometimes they were turned back...

Sometimes, people needed to cross rivers and deserts to find safety.

Stop!
Sometimes waiting in refugee camps...

Sometimes held behind bars...

Don’t give up hope...

Be Patient!

Welcome

Bienvenidos

Finally, a safe place...
The Spirit of the Owl
And Panther

*Inspired these children to be brave and creative.

By telling their stories, the children help others to find their own healing powers.

...and their work continues

In Tucson, AZ, the refugees write themselves out of their darkness.
GREAT WORK!!
COMIC BOOK PANELS FROM TUCSON CHILDREN

Sabrina Wood (5th Grade)
Lulu Walker
Elementary School / Reach

Jacob Cole (3rd Grade)
Word Journeys / Pima County Public Library

Rango the rat sneaks into the bird's tree and steals all the seeds.

With me you can do crazy sounds.
And play banjoo strings with me.
MICK BUDINGER (9th grade)
AMPHITHEATER HIGH SCHOOL

TERESITA MARTINEZ (5th grade)
HELEN KEELING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL / REACH
JOSE RICARDO URIAS (11th Grade)
STAR ACADEMIC CENTER

DAMIEN SIMS (5th Grade)
TUCSON INDIAN CENTER
CLAUDIA tells MARCELA that your boyfriend is not worth losing your best friend.

VANESSA ZAPATA & JOVANNA DURON (6th-8th GRADE)
LA CIMA MIDDLE SCHOOL

GENESIS ZAZUETA (4th GRADE)
RICHEY K-8 SCHOOL
Step 1: Instructor Training
Tucson 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 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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