

# The New York Public Library

# At Home Activities for Families

## Community Superhero Comics

### Overview

You will work with your child to create a six-panel comic strip featuring a superhero character who identifies and solves a problem in their community.

### Ages

Appropriate for children ages 6-9

### Materials Needed for One Child

- Pencil
- Superhero Story Sequence Template (pg. 5; printable; optional)
- Blank white paper or Six Panel Comic Strip (pg. 7; printable; optional)
- Colored pencils / markers / crayons

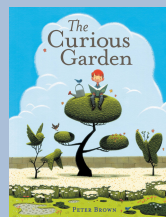
### Paired Books for Virtual Read Alouds

The e-books listed below can be accessed through the New York Public Library's digital collections and touch on the themes of the activity. We recommend reading them with your child before or after completing the activity.



#### [Marvelous Cornelius](#)

by Phil Bildner  
*Accessible through  
OverDrive*



#### [The Curious Garden](#)

by Peter Brown  
*Accessible through the Bookflix  
database*



# The New York Public Library

# At Home Activities for Families

## Activity Instructions

1. Ask your child to name a favorite superhero or, if they don't have a favorite, to name a few superheroes they are familiar with.
2. Tell your child that they are going to get to come up with their own unique superhero who solves a problem in their neighborhood and community! They cannot make a superhero that already exists. They have to make a new superhero. Discuss with your child about what makes someone a hero.
3. Discuss with your child one or more of the following community heroes for more inspiration for their superhero
  - *Nurses and Doctors*: they help everyone in the community stay healthy
  - *Sanitation Workers*: they ensure their community stays clean and beautiful
  - *Firefighters*: they fight fires and keep everyone in their community safe
  - *Teachers*: they help everyone in their community learn
4. Work with your child to identify their: 1) superhero character and name, 2) their superhero's sidekick or best friend, 3) their superhero's superpower, and 4) where their superhero lives. If your child struggles with coming up with ideas use the following suggestions:
  - *Superhero*: human; robot; talking animal
  - *Sidekick*: small animal such as dog, cat, mouse; best friend
  - *Superpower*: flying; super strength; invisibility; reading minds
  - *Place where they live*: town; city; spaceship; on a mountain



# The New York Public Library

## At Home Activities for Families

5. Brainstorm with your child about possible problems that their superhero could solve. Problems should be connected to real or possible community issues. If your child struggles to come up with their idea, use one of the three ideas listed below.
  - Someone stole all the books in the library!
  - People are throwing trash in the river, and it is becoming polluted.
  - Some kids are being bullies at school.
6. After identifying the problem, brainstorm with your child about how their superhero would solve the problem.
7. Explain to your child that their story will take place in six parts. Read the **Superhero Story Sequence Example** (pg. 4), and then work with your child to write down the six parts of their story. Make sure there is a clear beginning, middle, and end. Optional: Use the **Superhero Story Sequence Template** (pg. 5) to write down the six parts of your story.
8. Show your child the **Parts of a Comic Strip** (pg. 6) and then work with them to transfer their story onto a comic strip with six panels. You can create your own by drawing six boxes on a piece of paper or you can print the **Six Panel Comic Strip** (pg. 7). To view comic book examples, visit [NYPL's TumbleBooks database](#) and click on "Graphic Novels." When drawing and writing in each panel encourage your child to:
  - Draw what the superhero is doing and add in background and other detail.
  - Write out what their superhero is thinking or saying using speech or thought bubbles.
9. Have your child to share their completed community superhero comic with others!

# At Home Activities for Families

## Superhero Story Sequence Example

1. Super Maya and her sidekick, Acorn the squirrel, were walking around their neighborhood.
2. They passed the park and saw that it looked dirty. They walked closer to get a better look.
3. Maya and Acorn couldn't believe what they saw! There were empty water bottles, candy wrappers, and trash everywhere.
4. Maya and Acorn started to clean up, but realized they couldn't do it by themselves.
5. Maya used her flying superpower to quickly visit each of her friends' houses and ask them to help.
6. Maya, Acorn, and her friends cleaned up the park together, and then made signs that said "Please remember to recycle and throw away your trash!"

# At Home Activities for Families

## Superhero Story Sequence Template

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

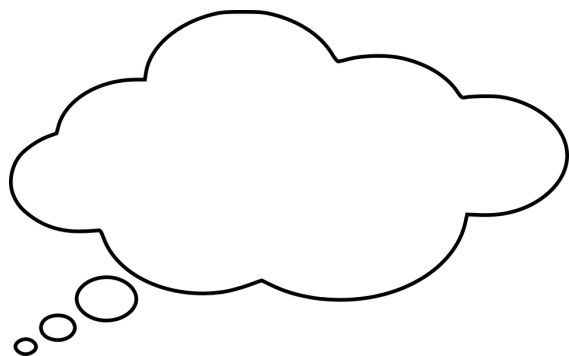


# At Home Activities for Families

## Parts of a Comic Strip



**Speech Bubbles:** Use a speech bubble to capture what a character says out loud.



**Thought Bubbles:** Use a thought bubble to capture what a character is thinking.



**Sound Bubbles:** Add these to your comic strip to show the sound effects of actions.



The New York Public Library

# At Home Activities for Families

## Six Panel Comic Strip

