

# Superhero Symbols



Lesson adapted from *Art Makes U Smart*

## Grade Level

1<sup>st</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Key Vocabulary

- Symbols
- Reflection
- Self-Awareness
- Social-Awareness

## Materials

- Tru-Ray® Smart Stack™ Construction Paper, P6586
- Tru-Ray® 9" x 12" Black Construction Paper, P103061
- Creativity Street® Wood Shapes, PAC3699-01
- Creativity Street® Mini Craft Sticks, PAC3894-01
- Creativity Street® Mini Clothespins, PAC3672-02
- Prang® Glue Stick, X15371
- Tape
- Scissors

## Objective

Students will use self- and social-awareness to choose super-powers they'd like to possess and why. Students will create artwork using symbols that represent their chosen super-powers, and describe why they chose the powers they did.

## SEL Competencies

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social-Awareness
- Relationship Skills

## Engagement

1. Begin by having a discussion with the class about superheroes, and super-powers. Ask students to come up with examples of superheroes, their super-powers, and how/why superheroes use those super-powers.
2. Ask students to imagine if they were a superhero, and read them the Superhero Origin Story.

### Superhero Origin Story

Your greatest gifts have yet to be seen.  
What's inside of you is beyond your wildest dreams.

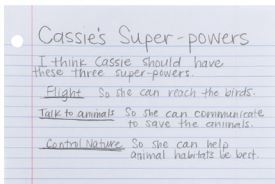
In times long ago, your ancestors would wear capes made of magic and smoke—almost thin air.

The capes bore symbols that few people knew.  
The capes gave them powers when the wearers were true.

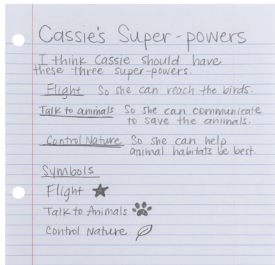
Pick only three symbols from the ones that you see.  
Design your cape, draw it, and find what powers will be.

3. After reading the Superhero Origin Story, ask students to use hints from the story to guess what they will be creating. Discuss symbols, and give examples of symbols and their meanings from around the classroom. Brainstorm some symbols that superheroes you discussed earlier have.

## Step 2



## Step 3



## Step 4



## Step 5



## Activity

1. Show students the list of super-powers, but do not disclose the symbols yet. Discuss the super-powers listed, and how those super-powers could be useful.
2. Pair students and have them consider their classmate. Explain they will be deciding the super-powers granted to this person, so they should consider what that person likes to do, what is important to that person, what super-powers would be most useful to that person, and why. Depending on the grade level, a sentence starter/template can be helpful here.

I think \_\_\_\_\_ should have these three super-powers.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Power) \_\_\_\_\_ (Reason)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Power) \_\_\_\_\_ (Reason)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Power) \_\_\_\_\_ (Reason)




3. Once students have chosen their partner's super-powers, display the symbols for each power and have students draw the symbols on their paper, along with the meaning. Encourage students how to consider how these super-powers could help themselves or the people around them, and why their partner might have chosen it for them. Students should draw the symbols that correspond with their given powers.
4. Next, have students design a cape using the three symbols that are associated with their super-powers. Students can choose their own cape design, or use the template provided at the end of this lesson.
5. Have students add a head to their superhero's cape, and mount the finished artwork on a piece of black construction paper. Allow students to name their Super Hero and write a few sentences describing their powers.

## Assessment

Once students have designed their capes, share the designs with the class. Depending on grade level, students can either share verbally or write a paragraph explaining how their life would be changed by the super-powers they chose, how they'd use them. After sharing as a class, have students consider which superheroes might make the best teams, considering their powers.

# Super-power Checklist

Show the *left side* of this list to students as they choose the super-power for their partner. After powers have been granted by their partner, show students the entire list, so they can identify the symbols they will use to design their cape.

Super-power		Symbol
Flight	→	 Star
Invisibility	→	 Triangle
Super strength	→	 Lightning bolt
Time travel (control)	→	 Hourglass
Read minds	→	 Concentric circles
Able to pass through walls	→	 Atomic model
Super eye-sight	→	 Eye
Super hearing	→	 Sound waves
Shape shifting	→	 Concentric shapes
Talk to animals	→	 Paw print
Control minds	→	 Key
Self-healing	→	 First-aid cross
Control nature	→	 Leaf

# Superhero Template

Students can either create their own cape template to follow, or use the one provided here.

