

Black Boys Have Superpowers Too

by Jeremiah Borgella, Grade 7, 826NYC. This piece was originally published in 826NYC's [The 826NYC Review, Issue No. 14](#).

Being Black is a superpower.

All of these goals and achievements.

My people will be proud of me.

My intelligence is a superpower.

The way my hoodie zips is a superpower.

The way this fro grows up on my head is a superpower.

Us Black people set trends.

New pair of kicks makes the fit complete.

The hate you give to my beautiful black skin.

What are you afraid of?

Me.

Us.

Society . . .

Marshmallows

by Athena, 826NYC

Under my superhero's costume is her skin,
Under her skin is her heart,
Under her heart is the power
To be a great friend
To have super strength and speed.
Under her heart is the power
To be invisible and fly over cityscapes.
She can talk to animals and shoot marshmallows
And other food from her hands.
Under her heart (besides all of her powers)
She is a force for the good, great, and the extraordinary.

Owl Girl

by Athena, 826NYC

I am from a family of owls.
They adopted me.
I now fly around on my owl wings
With my side cat, Snice.
By day I sleep in a comfy mountain,
But by night I climb into
My tree house and zip-line
To my secret headquarters.
I fight against Lo and JB,
Who try to hypnotize their fans.
I dart through the sky eating marshmallows
That shoot out of my hands.
I also love to bake.

Identity Statements

Identity refers to your many unique characteristics, as well as the experiences and perspectives that have shaped who you are. Finish the sentence starters below to start thinking about your identity. It's okay to skip ones that you might need more time to think about and come back to them later.

- A part of my identity I'm most aware of on a daily basis is . . .

- A part of my identity I'm least aware of on a daily basis is . . .

- A part of my identity I'm proud of is . . .

- A part of my identity I wish I knew more about is . . .

- A part of my identity is most misunderstood by others is . . .

- A part of my identity I find difficult to discuss or share with others is . . .

Superhero Statements

Parts of our identity can also be superpowers! Finish the statements below to begin thinking about the superpower you'd have, where it came from, and how you'd use it. It's okay to skip ones that you might need more time to think about and come back to them later.

- A part of my identity reminds me of a superpower is . . .

- The superpower it reminds me of is . . .

- When I imagine using this superpower, I see. . .

- I got this superpower from . . .

- I use this superpower to . . .

- My superpower is visible when . . .

- My superpower is invisible when . . .

Superhero-O-Matic: Create Your Persona

The Superhero-O-Matic is an imaginary machine that will help you design your new superhero persona. From the design of your uniform to the variety of superpowers you possess, you should have a full picture of your superhero persona after you complete this handout.

Physical Traits and Powers

1. **Describe your appearance as a superhero.** What do you look like? Do you look the same or different from your everyday, “civilian” self?

2. **Do you have any distinguishing physical traits?** These can be traditional superhero traits—like super strength or telekinesis—or they could be inspired by your own physical features. How did you acquire these distinguishing features?

3. **Describe your superhero costume.** What color is it? What does the material feel like? Do you wear a traditional accessory, like a cape or a mask, or do you wear something more special to you? Example: your grandmother’s necklace or your cousin’s favorite beanie.

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Internal Traits and Powers

1. **What motivates you superhero?** What are your goals? Can you find inspiration in any of the identity statements you completed on page 4?

2. **What are some of your internal, or invisible, superpowers that might not be seen until you spring into action?** Think about the internal traits you described in your freewrite.

3. **What is your superhero persona's favorite part of their identity? Why?**

4. **Finally, what is your superhero persona's name?** This may take some time, but try to think of a name that is unique to you and your physical and internal traits!
