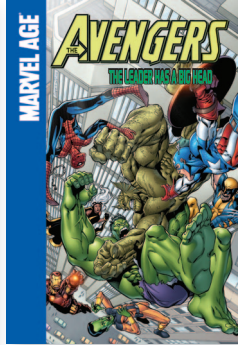


READING is a SUPERPOWER with Spotlight graphic novels & comic books!



THE AVENGERS SET 1

Comic book text is short, but that doesn't mean students don't learn a lot from it! Comic books and graphic novels can be used to teach reading processes and writing techniques, such as pacing, as well as expand vocabulary. Use this PDF to help students get more out of their comic book reading.

Here are some of the projects you can give to your students to make comics educational and enjoyable!

CHARACTER RESEARCH

- Character Graph – Use the handout provided on page 2 to research information about a character from the books. Pages 3-4 provide teachers with the answer key.
- Trivia Questions – Use the handout provided on page 5 to have students work independently, with a partner, or in a small group to research the trivia questions. Page 6 provides teachers with the answer key.

CREATIVE WRITING PROJECTS

- Create a Superhero & Superheroine – Use the handout from page 7 to provide students the questions to answer in order to create the background information on their own superhero or superheroine.
- Create a Graphic Novel – Use the handout from page 8 to form small groups and ask the groups to create their own graphic novels over the course of a week.

GLOSSARY WORDS

- A teacher reference list of all 5th and 6th grade level words found in the books with definitions is provided on pages 9-12. Please use as you like.
- Vocabulary Matching – Use the handouts on page 13-16 as games for students to match words to definitions. Answer sheet is on page 17.
- Vocabulary Words – Use the sheets on pages 18-21 to have students research and become comfortable using a dictionary to find the definitions of words. An answer sheet is on page 22.

ANOTHER CLASSROOM IDEA

- Fluency Practice – Comic superheroes and villains are famous for their heroic or diabolical voices, and so comic books are a great opportunity for fluent, expressive read aloud activities. Have students read independently, aloud with a partner, or in small groups. Have the students add different voices for the characters and sound effects as they read aloud. Make a recording of their read aloud and play it back.

CHARACTER RESEARCH

The Avengers

Directions: Pick one of the characters from below. Research the character to find the information.

Special Power(s):

Captain America

Storm

Hulk

Spider-Man

Giant-Girl

Iron Man

Wolverine

Appearance

(What does their costume look like?):

CHARACTER NAME:

ALTER EGO:

How did the superhero
get their power?

Who created the
character and when did
it first appear?

Write any other interesting information about the character.

CHARACTER RESEARCH-CHARACTER GRAPH ANSWERS

The Avengers

CHARACTER NAME: *Captain America*

ALTER EGO: *Steve Rogers*

SPECIAL POWER(s): *He is the "perfect" specimen of human development and conditioning*

APPEARANCE (WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?): *Red, white, and blue fireproof suit with attached hood – "A" on hood and star on chest and shield*

HOW DID THE SUPERHERO GET THEIR POWER(S)? *He was enhanced to human perfection by an experimental serum*

WHO CREATED THE CHARACTER AND WHEN DID IT FIRST APPEAR? *Joe Simon/Jack Kirby – March 1941*

WRITE ANY OTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHARACTER. *Answers will vary*

CHARACTER NAME: *Storm*

ALTER EGO: *Ororo Munroe*

SPECIAL POWER(s): *She can control the weather*

APPEARANCE (WHAT DOES THEIR COSTUME LOOK LIKE?): *White hair, cape, and black leather outfit*

HOW DID THE SUPERHERO GET THEIR POWER? *She trekked through the desert for thousands of miles and almost died. Soon after, she gained the ability to control the weather.*

WHO CREATED THE CHARACTER AND WHEN DID IT FIRST APPEAR? *Len Wein/Dave Cockrum - 1975*

WRITE ANY OTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHARACTER. *Answers will vary*

CHARACTER NAME: *The Hulk*

ALTER EGO: *Dr. Bruce Banner*

SPECIAL POWER(s): *Incredible feats of strength*

APPEARANCE (WHAT DOES THEIR COSTUME LOOK LIKE?): *Large, green, and muscular*

HOW DID THE SUPERHERO GET THEIR POWER? *He was exposed to a blast of a gamma bomb he invented*

WHO CREATED THE CHARACTER AND WHEN DID IT FIRST APPEAR? *Stan Lee/Jack Kirby - 1962*

WRITE ANY OTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHARACTER. *Answers will vary*

CHARACTER NAME: *Spider-Man*

ALTER EGO: *Peter Parker*

SPECIAL POWER(s): *He has super-strength and agility – ability to cling to surfaces – can shoot spider webs from his "web-shooters" – can react quickly with his "spider-sense"*

APPEARANCE (WHAT DOES THEIR COSTUME LOOK LIKE?): *Red and blue head to toe suit with spider on chest – white spider web-like markings on suit*

HOW DID THE SUPERHERO GET THEIR POWER? *A radioactive spider bit him*

WHO CREATED THE CHARACTER AND WHEN DID IT FIRST APPEAR? *Stan Lee/Steve Ditko - 1962*

WRITE ANY OTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHARACTER. *Answers will vary*

CHARACTER RESEARCH-CHARACTER GRAPH ANSWERS CONT.

CHARACTER NAME: *Iron-Man*

ALTER EGO: *Tony Stark*

SPECIAL POWER(s): *He has no supernatural powers. With his suit of armor he can fly, shoot beams of energy from his hands and chest. He can also resist the vacuum of space.*

APPEARANCE (WHAT DOES THEIR COSTUME LOOK LIKE?): *Red and gold suit of armor*

HOW DID THE SUPERHERO GET THEIR POWER? *He suffered a heart injury and created a powered suit of armor to protect him*

WHO CREATED THE CHARACTER AND WHEN DID IT FIRST APPEAR? *Stan Lee/Larry Liber/Don Heck/Jack Kirby - 1963*

WRITE ANY OTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHARACTER. *Answers will vary*

CHARACTER NAME: *Giant-Girl*

ALTER EGO: *Janet Van Dyne*

SPECIAL POWER(s): *She can change her size, usually to make herself larger. She can also change the size of inanimate objects through her touch.*

APPEARANCE (WHAT DOES THEIR COSTUME LOOK LIKE?): *Pinkish bodysuit with blue stripes – mask with antennas*

HOW DID THE SUPERHERO GET THEIR POWER? *She was given size-changing Pym particles*

WHO CREATED THE CHARACTER AND WHEN DID IT FIRST APPEAR? *Stan Lee/Jack Kirby - 1963*

WRITE ANY OTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHARACTER. *Answers will vary*

CHARACTER NAME: *Wolverine*

ALTER EGO: *James Howlett*

SPECIAL POWER(s): *He has animal-keen senses, enhanced physical abilities and senses, special healing powers, and retractable bone claws.*

APPEARANCE (WHAT DOES THEIR COSTUME LOOK LIKE?): *Yellow and blue suit with black stripes. He also has six retractable bone claws*

HOW DID THE SUPERHERO GET THEIR POWER? *His latent mutant abilities were triggered after seeing his father shot and killed*

WHO CREATED THE CHARACTER AND WHEN DID IT FIRST APPEAR? *Len Wein/John Romita Sr./Herb Trimpe - 1974*

WRITE ANY OTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHARACTER. *Answers will vary*

TRIVIA QUESTIONS

The Avengers

- 1. Who were the five original Avengers?**
- 2. Who is Captain America's alter ego?**
- 3. In what comic did Iron Man first appear?**
- 4. Who is Storm's husband?**
- 5. Who created the Avengers?**
- 6. What alloy is Wolverine's body covered with?**
- 7. What year did the Avengers first appear?**
- 8. What special power does Giant-Girl possess?**

TRIVIA QUESTIONS-ANSWERS

The Avengers

1. Who were the five original Avengers?

Ant-Man, Thor, Iron Man, Giant-Girl, and The Hulk

2. Who is Captain America's alter ego?

Steve Rogers

3. In what comic did Iron Man first appear?

'Tales of Suspense' #39

4. Who is Storm's husband?

Black Panther

5. Who created the Avengers?

Stan Lee and Jack Kirby

6. What alloy is Wolverine's body covered with?

adamantium

7. What year did the Avengers first appear?

1963

8. What special power does Giant-Girl possess?

She can change her size, usually to make herself larger. She can also change the size of inanimate objects through her touch.

Create a SUPERHERO & SUPERHEROINE

You can create a superhero or superheroine.

On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions:

WHO ARE YOU?

What's your superhero's name? Describe & draw your emblem & costume. Describe & draw vehicles your hero uses, if any.

WHAT ARE YOU?

What kind of superhero are you? Do you have superpowers, like Spider-Man, or are you a human being who uses inventions and gadgets, like Batman? Research the different kinds of superheroes. List your superpowers and weaknesses.

WHO ELSE IS THERE?

Every superhero battles villains, makes friends, falls in love. List the names of your arch enemies, friends & allies, and the loved ones in your character's life.

HOW DID YOU START?

How did your hero get started? A science experiment gone wrong, or a tragic event that makes you want to fight crime? Describe your origins, secret identity, your hideout, your hero's motivation, and other parts of your hero's story.

TYPES OF SUPERHEROES

NOTE: This list was adapted from several online sources. Many online forums discuss the types of superheroes. Select one, or mix & match hero types for your project.

Armored Hero: A gadgeteer whose powers are derived from a suit of powered armor, e.g. Iron Man, Steel. **Blaster:** A hero whose main power is a distance attack, usually an "energy blast" e.g., Cyclops, Starfire, Static. **Brick/Tank:** A character with a superhuman degree of strength and endurance and usually an oversized, muscular body, such as The Thing or The Hulk. **Elementalist:** A hero who controls some natural element or part of the natural world, e.g., Storm (weather), Polaris (magnetism), the Human Torch (fire). **Gadgeteer:** A hero who invents special equipment that often imitates superpowers, such as Batman. **Mage:** A hero who is trained in the use of magic, or discovers power from an ancient relic. **Martial Artist:** A hero whose physical abilities are mostly human but whose hand-to-hand combat skills are phenomenal. **Mentalist:** A hero who possesses psionic abilities, such as telekinesis, telepathy and extra-sensory perception, for example, Professor X or Jean Grey from X-Men. **Shapeshifter:** A hero who can manipulate his/her own body to suit his/her needs, such as stretching (Mister Fantastic, Plastic Man) or disguise (Changeling, Mystique). **Size changer:** A shapeshifter who can alter his/her size, becoming huge or super-small, like The Atom. **Slasher:** A hero whose main power is some form of hand-to-hand cutting weapon, either devices, such as knives or swords (Zorro), or natural, such as claws (Wolverine). **Speedster:** A hero possessing superhuman speed and reflexes, e.g., The Flash, Quicksilver

Create a GRAPHIC NOVEL

It takes many people to create a graphic novel. Writers and artists bring their talents together to create an illustrated story. You can work with your classmates to create a graphic novel.

Here's what you need:

- 1. WRITERS** - choose an author or two to write the story. Authors will work with the pencillers to decide narration, dialog, panel divisions, pacing, and descriptions of the art.
- 2. PENCILLERS** - choose artists to draw the panels in pencil. Pencillers will work with the authors to draw exactly what they envision. Pencillers will also work with letterers to provide enough space for the text and sound effects.
- 3. INKERS** - choose artists with a steady hand to outline the panels and important art in them. Inkers will work with the pencillers to decide what needs bold outlines.
- 4. COLORERS** - choose detail-oriented people to color the inked panels. Colorers have to keep colors consistent throughout the panels. Colorers will work with writers and pencillers to get the correct colors in the panels.
- 5. LETTERERS** - choose someone to insert the narration and dialog into the panels. Letterers work with pencillers to make sure there is enough room for the text. Letterers also work with the writers to make sure the text is in the correct place.
- 6. PRODUCTION MANAGER** - one person will need to oversee the entire project. He or she will coordinate the different team members and make sure they are able to talk to each other. The production manager will also create a schedule and make sure each team member follows it to complete the novel.

GLOSSARY WORDS

The Avengers: Finding Zemo – 37 terms

abduct – to take away a person by force.

adamantium – a nearly indestructible man-made steel.

allies – people or countries that agree to help each other in times of need. During World War II Great Britain, France, the United States, and the Soviet Union were called the Allies.

alter ego – the opposite side of a personality.

assume – to take as true.

avenge – to punish someone for the wrongs done to another person.

Axis Powers – countries that fought together during World War II. Germany, Italy, and Japan were called the Axis Powers.

brawn – muscular strength.

cyborg – a creature that is half man and half human.

dormant – a state of inactivity.

enhance – to improve the value, quality or attractiveness of something.

evacuate – to leave or be removed from a place, usually for protection.

fail-safe – having a feature that will automatically solve a problem that may arise.

feral – having gone back to the original wild or untamed state after being tame.

hydraulic – operated or moved by liquid.

insult – to treat someone offensively.

juggernaut – a massive force or movement that crushes whatever is in its path.

meddle – to interfere with something that isn't your concern.

methodical – arranged or performed with a certain order.

militia – a group of citizens trained for war or emergencies.

Nazi – a member of the German political party that controlled Germany under Adolf Hitler.

obliterate – to destroy or remove all trace of someone or something.

obsess – a continued, disturbing need to think about an object, idea, or feeling.

orchestrate – to arrange something to get the result you want.

Physiology – the anatomy of a person or a thing.

rash – act without caution.

recuperate – recover health or strength.

regret – to be very sorry.

repulsor ray – a weapon that uses an electromagnetic field to focus particles into a central ball of heat and energy. When the current is reversed, it can cause energy to be shot in a ball form.

restraint – a device that keeps something from moving.

serum – a drug.

subtle – difficult to understand or detect.

suspended animation – a temporary slowing of all vital functions that preserves a body without allowing it to die.

vigilance – the state of being watchful to avoid danger.

vintage – dating from the past.

voluntary – acting of one's own free will.

vulnerable – open to being hurt or attacked.

GLOSSARY WORDS

The Avengers: The Leader Has a Big Head – 44 terms

administer – to dispense or to give.

alter ego – the opposite side of a personality.

amass – to collect into a group.

arachnoid – resembling or related to arachnids.

bio-reading – a scan of a person's biological makeup to determine their powers.

bizarre – very odd or out of the ordinary.

breach – to break through a barrier.

carny – a person who works for a carnival.

contingency – an event that may happen.

cranium – the part of the skull that covers the brain.

delusion – something that is falsely believed to be true.

domination – to have power over another.

execute – to carry out fully.

extraneous – not an essential part of a group or thing.

fiend – a person who is very wicked.

force field – a barrier that is made of energy or charged particles that protects a person, area, or object from attack.

gamma rays – electromagnetic radiation that cause serious damage to living tissue.

imbecile – a fool.

irascible – having a hot temper or being easily provoked into anger.

irradiated – the process in which an item is exposed to radiation.

mandatory – something that is required.

megadose – a large dose of something.

megalomaniac – a mental disorder where a person has feelings of being more powerful and important than they are.

membrane – the outer layer or "skin" of a cell.

menace – a threatening or dangerous person.

mutate – to go through either a physical or chemical change in one's genetic material that causes changes to one's appearance, strength, or abilities.

organism – a living being.

passive – not acting or operating against something.

petulant – to act rudely in speech or behavior.

predict – to guess something ahead of time on the basis of observation, experience, or reasoning.

radiation – the transfer of heat through matter or space in the form of waves or particles.

reconcile – to become friends again.

redundant – using more words than is necessary.

repulsive – able to drive or beat back with rudeness or coldness.

repulsor ray – a weapon that uses an electromagnetic field to focus particles into a central ball of heat and energy. When the current is reversed, it can cause energy to be shot in a ball form.

revert – to go back to the way something was.

sovereignty – one that rules over others.

sustain – to feed.

technology – using scientific knowledge for practical purposes, especially in industry.

tendrils – an arm that curls and is used for sensing things.

toxin – a poison created in a living being.

transmitter – a machine that sends and receives electromagnetic waves.

unconscious – not being awake or aware of one's surroundings

venom – a poison produced by some animals and insects. It usually enters a victim through a bite or sting.

GLOSSARY WORDS

The Avengers: The Masters of Evil – 42 terms

allegiance – loyalty to a country, government, or cause.

alloy – a substance made of two or more metals or a metal and a nonmetal melted together.

alter ego – the opposite side of a personality.

artificial intelligence – the ability of a machine to act as a human.

avert – to turn away to avoid something.

barometric pressure – the pressure of the atmosphere, usually shown by the height of a column of mercury.

catastrophe – a tragic event.

catatonic – having no movement, activity, or expression.

console – the readouts or displays that an operator sees and uses to control a computer system, such as in a vehicle.

crisis – a situation that has reached a critical phase with the possibility of a bad outcome.

cubicle – a small space sectioned off from the rest of a room.

deviation – not using normal forms of behavior.

discourage – to try to stop from performing an activity.

disintegrate – to break into separate parts.

disperse – to break up something that is organized.

domination – to have power over another.

enhance – to improve the value, quality or attractiveness of something.

enrapt – completely held in overwhelming emotion.

facility – a building built for a specific purpose, such as a jail.

hacked – gained access to a computer illegally.

hostage – a person held captive by another person or group in order to make a deal with authorities.

illogical – senseless or without logic.

infiltrate – to enter in something for spying purposes. Someone who infiltrates is called an infiltrator.

inhibit – to restrain or stop someone from doing something.

ionic fields – a group of charged particles.

malfunction – to fail to operate properly.

mobilize – to assemble and make ready for action, especially related to war.

override – to dominate over another action.

proficiency – the state of being at full capabilities.

render – to cause to become.

repulsor ray – a weapon that uses an electromagnetic field to focus particles into a central ball of heat and energy. When the current is reversed, it can cause energy to be shot in a ball form.

scenario – an imagined series of events.

sentience – being perceptive or thoughtful.

solitary confinement – a punishment where a prisoner is denied contact with other people.

stealth – an action or behavior performed in a secretive or sneaky manner.

synapse – the place where a nervous impulse moves from one neuron to another.

tarnished – dulled or dirtied.

thermal energy – a rising current of warm air to produce electrical power.

utilize – to make use of.

virtual reality – an environment that is experienced through sights and sounds created by a computer.

warden – a person in charge of something.

GLOSSARY WORDS

The Avengers: The Replacements – 46 terms

- alloy** – a substance made of two or more metals or a metal and a nonmetal melted together.
- alter ego** – the opposite side of a personality.
- arachnid** – an order of animals with two body parts and eight legs.
- array** – a group of things.
- assess** – to determine the importance, size, or value of something.
- bioform** – a biological organism genetically modified to suit an alien environment
- blueprint** – a detailed plan or program of action.
- bogey** – an unidentified aircraft that is assumed to be hostile.
- camouflage** – to disguise in order to blend into the surroundings.
- commence** – to start.
- coordinates** – any of a set of numbers used to locate a point on a line or a surface.
- database** – a large collection of information.
- datastream** – a sequence of digitally encoded signals used to send or receive information that is in transmission.
- detain** – to hold or restrain.
- detonate** – to set off or explode.
- disproportionate** – out of proportion.
- endanger** – to put in danger.
- frequency** – the number of waves, such as sound or radio waves, passing a fixed point each second.
- futile** – not working.
- hierarchy** – a system of ranking.
- hostility** – having unfriendliness or being intimidating.
- impenetrable** – incapable of being entered.
- infantry** – soldiers trained and organized to fight on foot.
- inferior** – of poorer quality.
- ingest** – to take into the body for digestion.
- inverse** – opposite.
- juncture** – a point of time.
- meteorological** – having to do with weather and the atmosphere.
- mutate** – to go through either a physical or chemical change in one's genetic material that causes changes to one's appearance, strength, or abilities.
- neural** – of or having to do with the nerves in the body.
- physiology** – the anatomy of a person or a thing.
- pinnacle** – the highest point.
- potential** – capable of being or becoming. Something that is possible, but not actual.
- probability** – a measure of how likely something is to occur.
- prototypes** – a new type of design or construction.
- rational** – having reason or understanding.
- regeneration** – being reborn or recreated.
- repulsor ray** – a weapon that uses an electromagnetic field to focus particles into a central ball of heat and energy. When the current is reversed, it can cause energy to be shot in a ball form.
- reputation** – a quality or character seen by other people.
- retract** – to take back.
- scenario** – an imagined series of events.
- sequence** – a continued or connected series.
- serum** – a drug.
- sophisticated** – advanced.
- virtual reality** – an environment that is experienced through sights and sounds created by a computer.
- volatile** – explosive or violent.
- vulnerable** – open to being hurt or attacked.

VOCABULARY MATCHING

The Avengers: Finding Zemo

Directions: Match the words to their definitions.

meddle _____

1) act without caution

orchestrate _____

2) to arrange something to get the result you want

abduct _____

3) dating from the past

vintage _____

4) to interfere with something that isn't your concern

brawn _____

5) muscular strength

rash _____

6) to take away a person by force

Find a sentence in the book that contains one of the words from above. Write the sentence.

VOCABULARY MATCHING

The Avengers: The Leader Has a Big Head

Directions: Match the words to their definitions.

extraneous _____

1) using more words than is necessary

sustain _____

2) to feed

petulant _____

3) not an essential part of a group or thing

amass _____

4) a poison created in a living being

toxin _____

5) to collect into a group

redundant _____

6) to act rudely in speech or behavior

Find a sentence in the book that contains one of the words from above. Write the sentence.

VOCABULARY MATCHING

The Avengers: The Masters of Evil

Directions: Match the words to their definitions.

catatonic _____

1) not using normal forms of behavior

warden _____

2) a person in charge of something

avert _____

3) the state of being at full capabilities

illogical _____

4) having no movement, activity, or expression

deviation _____

5) senseless or without logic

proficiency _____

6) to turn away or avoid something

Find a sentence in the book that contains one of the words from above. Write the sentence.

VOCABULARY MATCHING

The Avengers: The Replacements

Directions: Match the words to their definitions.

blueprint _____

1) to take back

serum _____

2) a detailed plan or program of action

detonate _____

3) the highest point

retract _____

4) to set off or explode

array _____

5) a group of things

pinnacle _____

6) a drug

Find a sentence in the book that contains one of the words from above. Write the sentence.

VOCABULARY MATCHING-ANSWERS

The Avengers

The Masters of Evil

4

2

6

5

1

3

Finding Zemo

4

2

6

3

5

1

The Leader Has a Big Head

3

2

6

5

4

1

The Replacements

2

6

4

1

5

3

VOCABULARY WORDS

The Avengers: Finding Zemo

Directions: Write the definitions to the vocabulary words below.

vigilance

hydraulic

restraint

avenge

obliterate

VOCABULARY WORDS

The Avengers: The Leader Has a Big Head

Directions: Write the definitions to the vocabulary words below.

irascible

transmitter

cranium

menace

sovereignty

VOCABULARY WORDS

The Avengers: The Masters of Evil

Directions: Write the definitions to the vocabulary words below.

inhibit

tarnished

crisis

stealth

alter ego

VOCABULARY WORDS

The Avengers: The Replacements

Directions: Write the definitions to the vocabulary words below.

arachnid

hierarchy

infantry

prototypes

inverse

VOCABULARY WORDS-ANSWERS

The Avengers

The Avengers: Finding Zemo

vigilance – the state of being watchful to avoid danger

hydraulic – operated or moved by liquid

restraint – a device that keeps something from moving

avenge – to punish someone for the wrongs done to another person

obliterate – to destroy or remove all trace of someone or something

The Avengers: The Leader Has a Big Head

irascible – having a hot temper or being easily provoked into anger

transmitter – a machine that sends and receives electromagnetic waves

cranium – the part of the skull that covers the brain that covers the skull

menace – a threatening or dangerous person

sovereignty – one that rules over others

The Avengers: The Masters of Evil

inhibit – to restrain or stop someone from doing something

tarnished – dulled or dirtied

crisis – a situation that has reached a critical phase with the possibility of a bad outcome

stealth – an action or behavior performed in a secretive or sneaky manner

alter ego – the opposite side of a personality

The Avengers: The Replacements

arachnid – an order of animals with two body parts and eight legs

hierarchy – a system of ranking

infantry – soldiers trained and organized to fight on foot

prototypes – a new type of design or construction

inverse – opposite