

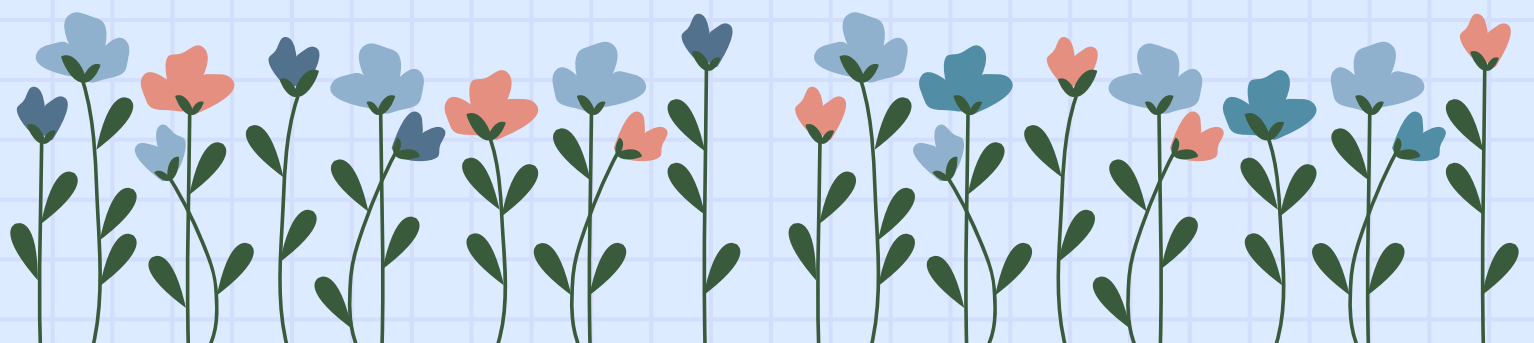
Arctic Reading Circle

Superheroes

June 2022

All writing is from our 2022 Spring Writing Contest.

Prompt: If you could be a superhero, what would your power be? Where would you use it in the world? How do you plan to make the world a better place?



Acknowledgements



Contest Team

Jiya Sanghvi: Outreach and more
Grace He: Planning and more
Angela Niu: Planning and more
Grace Ko: Planning and more
Jennifer Liang: Founder



Magazine

Selina Jiang: Graphic Design,
Layout, Editing

Grace Mi-Lan Ko: Minor edits

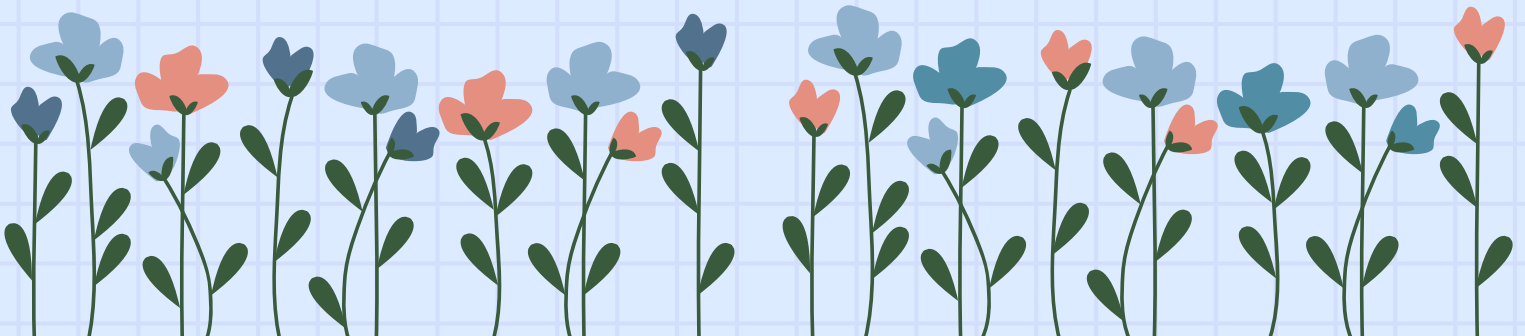


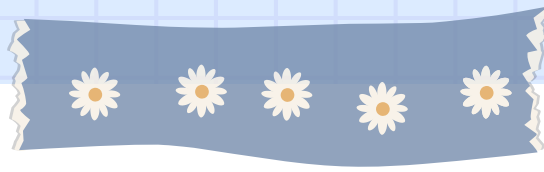
Submissions

Victor L.
Lizbeth B.
Owen H.
Eva C.
Thomas M.

Aaron M.
Alvin X.
Vincent L.
Irena

Since not all who did the contest gave permission to publish their work... Thank you to all else who joined!





Welcome!

The theme for this writing was “Superheroes.” Specifically, how the word “superhero” can be transformed to mean something completely different. We asked students to write about what *their* superpower would be, and how that would change the world.

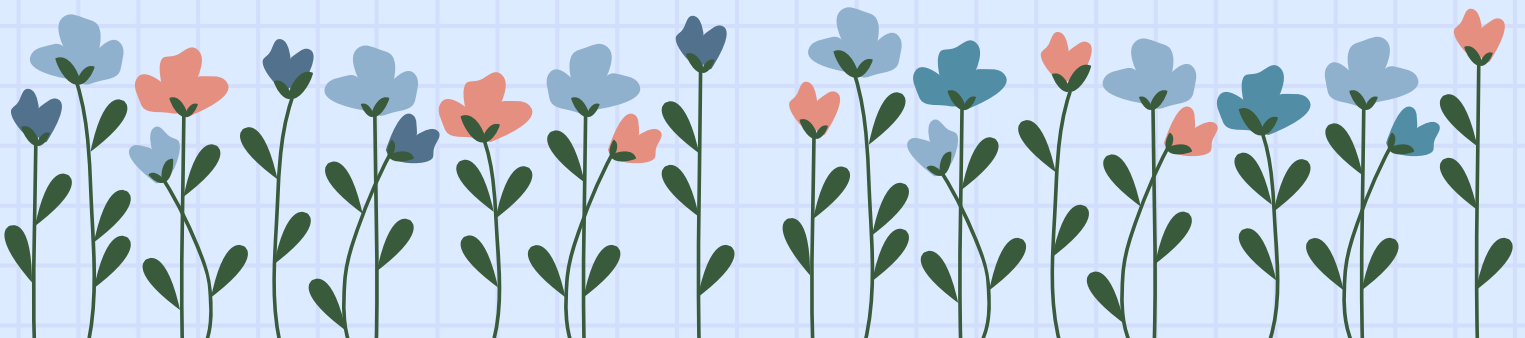
We start off with “My Life As A Superhero,” (Page 5) where Lizbeth B. explores different ways a superhero can help world conflicts. As well, Victor L. (Page 6) shows a unique story about how his superpower could prevent the crashing of the *Titanic*. On Page 8, Owen H. investigates a superpower that could solve climate change. Meanwhile, Thomas M. (Page 10) explored how changing people’s hearts would be the best superpower.

The journey continues on Page 12, where Eva C. shares a special and interesting story about what she would do with superpowers. Later on, in “My Power As A Superhero,” (Page 13), Aaron M. explores how he would use his power responsibly. Meanwhile, Alvin X.’s writing, on Page 15, explores superheroes, money and privilege. To finish our collection, we end with a short fantasy-based superpower story called “The Leaf,” written by Vincent L. We couldn’t have done this without all of our amazing student writers! Thank you so much for your hard work.

And to the readers of this collection: Please enjoy this amazing writing!

Sincerely,

The Arctic Reading Circle Team



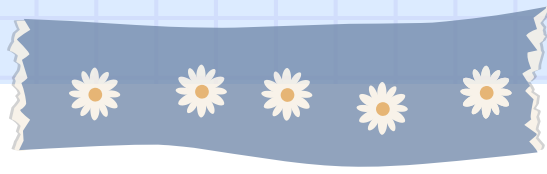


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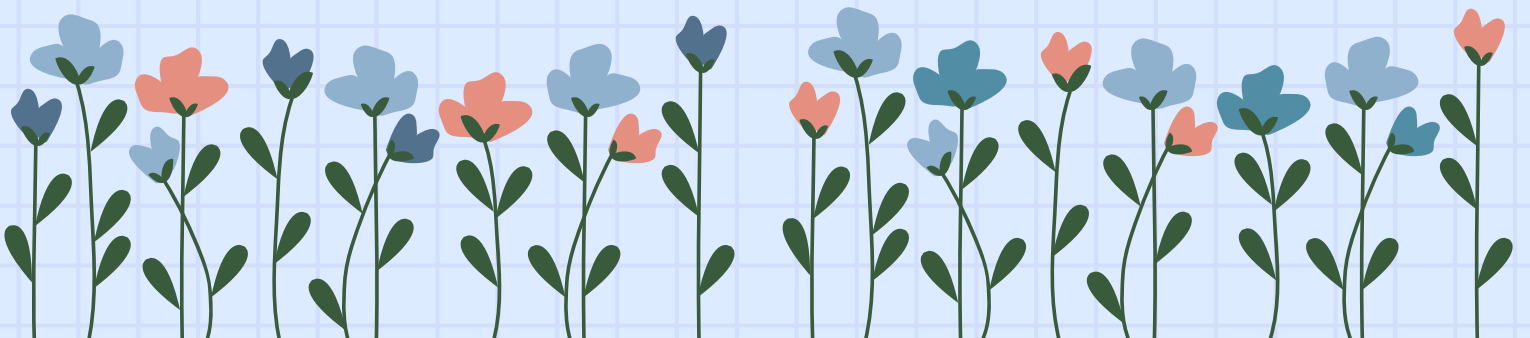
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MY LIFE AS A SUPERHERO

Written By: Lizbeth B.

If I could be a superhero, my power would be a “game-changer”. The power will give me the authority to make a significant influence on the current manner of doing or thinking about something in the world.

If I were a superhero, I would use the power in countries who have a weaker power or need support. Maybe I will consider using the power to stop Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The heroes’ lives and properties have been lost and damaged. I would save everyone from the attacks. Also, I would stop criminals and villains from entering the country or cities and from doing any harm or damage. I would want to have the game-changer power to make peace. Nothing else but peace. Imagine a world with second chances. Where everybody has a second chance to make it right.

As a superhero, I will want to plan on making the world a better place by ensuring that every individual is accountable for their actions. Everyone with political power will be treated equally as civilians and follow protocols. Everyone’s sanction will be equal.



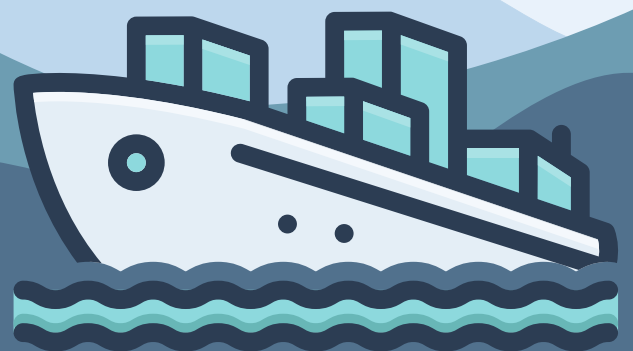
Written By: Victor Li

'I'LL USE MY POWER TO GO BACK IN TIME TO FIX STUFF IN THE PAST: MY POWER IS TO GO BACK IN TIME. I'LL USE IT IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND I PLAN TO SAVE THE PEOPLE ON THE TITANIC BY GETTING LIFEBOATS.'

Hi, my name is Victor Li, and this is how I saved the people from the sinking of the RMS *Titanic*. I was sitting on my bed, thinking, "Sinking of The *Titanic*... Sinking of the *Titanic*... What if the *Titanic* never sank? Or if somehow the people on the *Titanic* never drowned?" I was thinking if there was a way that the *Titanic*'s people never died. Then it hit me! I was able to go back in time! So, I stood up and started to use my powers. *Whoosh!* Then, the next thing I noticed was that I was on the *Titanic*, and my friend had also come. My plans were to go to the captain and warn him about the future, but why would he believe me? I also planned to tell the crew, but why would they believe me? Finally, I planned to tell the people on the ship, but why would they believe me? So those were all my plans.



Then I realized the only way to save everybody was to go farther into the past, all the way to when the *Titanic* was being built. There I would find a way to change the number of lifeboats. I used my powers to go back in time and *Whoosh!* I find myself on the construction site for the *Titanic*. I asked a person where to find the instructions for the *Titanic* and he said, 'In that building.' and he pointed to a small building. So I walked into that building and I was about to grab the instructions when I saw a person there! I was thinking of a distraction for that person but I didn't need to because someone else came and asked him to look at the building of the ship so far. As soon as they left I drew more lifeboats on the plan. And when they came back and checked the instructions they told the builders to make more lifeboats. I wanted to see if my plan worked so I went in the future and sent myself to the *Titanic*. I first saw more lifeboats! When I saw them I was proud of the idea. Then I went back to my time and looked up what happened on the *Titanic*. And it said all passengers on the ship survived because there were enough lifeboats.



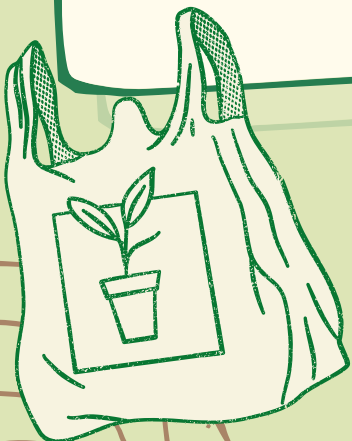
SUPERHERO

Written by: Owen H.

A superhero is someone who does something extraordinary to save others through a superpower. They need this superpower to complete their feat. I also want to become a superhero because I want a superpower that can turn plastics into new and usable items.

When I see a plastic item, a brand-new high-quality item will be produced after my eyes start to turn red for a few seconds. If there is more than one piece of plastic item, I turn them into different individual items at the same time.

My superpower can turn all plastics into high-quality items that can last for a longer time. These durable items will allow people to save a lot of money because the items that we have currently are all cheap and are of low quality.



My superpower can help us to reduce pollution while I am making and creating new objects. I am protecting our environment because I am reducing the amount of plastic in various areas, especially bodies of water and grasslands. If there is too much plastic in bodies of water, animals could eat them by accident which might lead them to sickness or even death.

My superpower also can save our precious minerals for future generations because the oil that makes plastics only has a limited reserve on the Earth. If we can reuse this plastic garbage, we can save energy and prevent more carbon dioxide from entering the Earth.

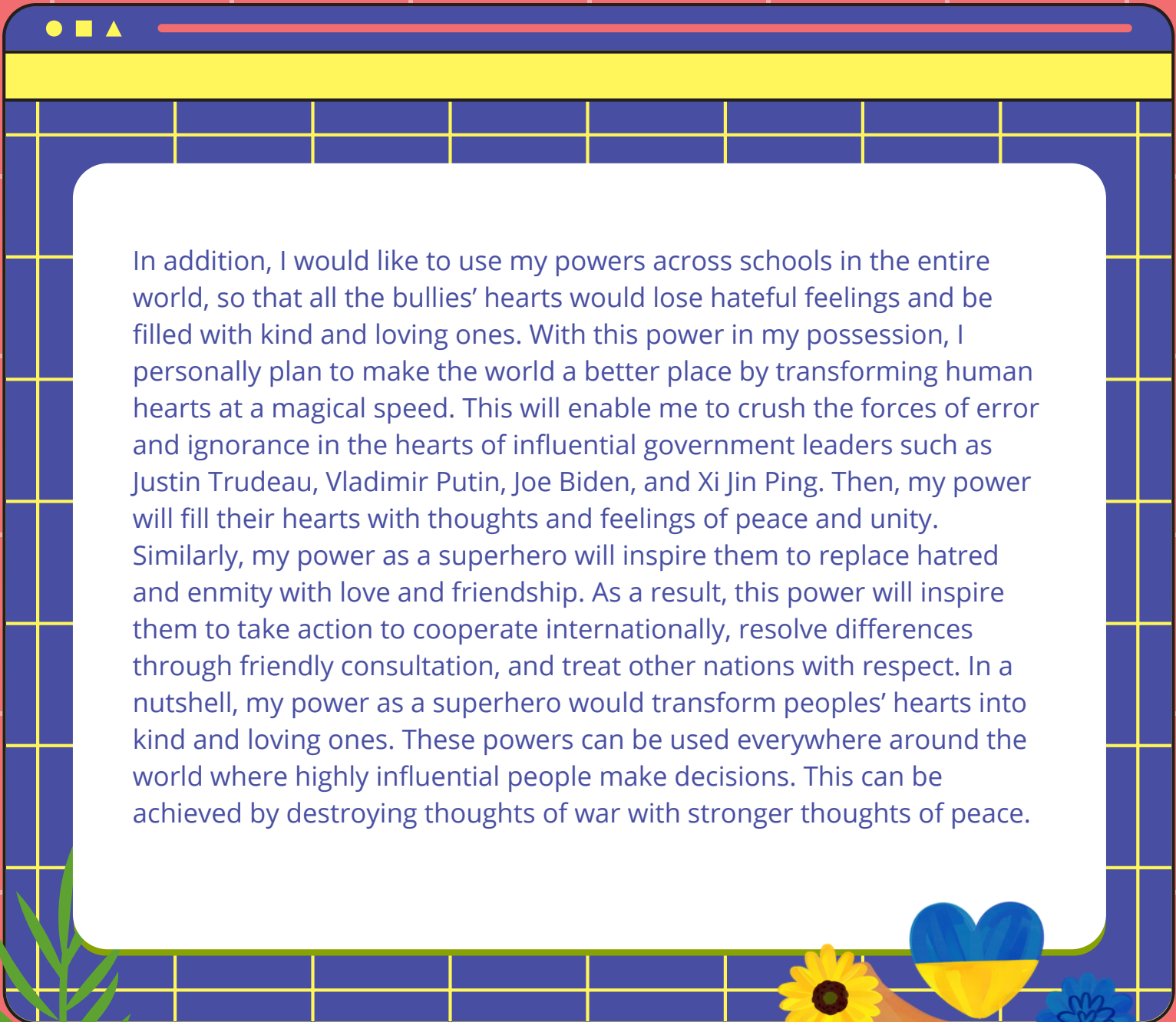
My superpower can contribute to saving natural resources, saving animals from extinction or death, and protecting our environment. Therefore, my superpower will positively impact our lives.



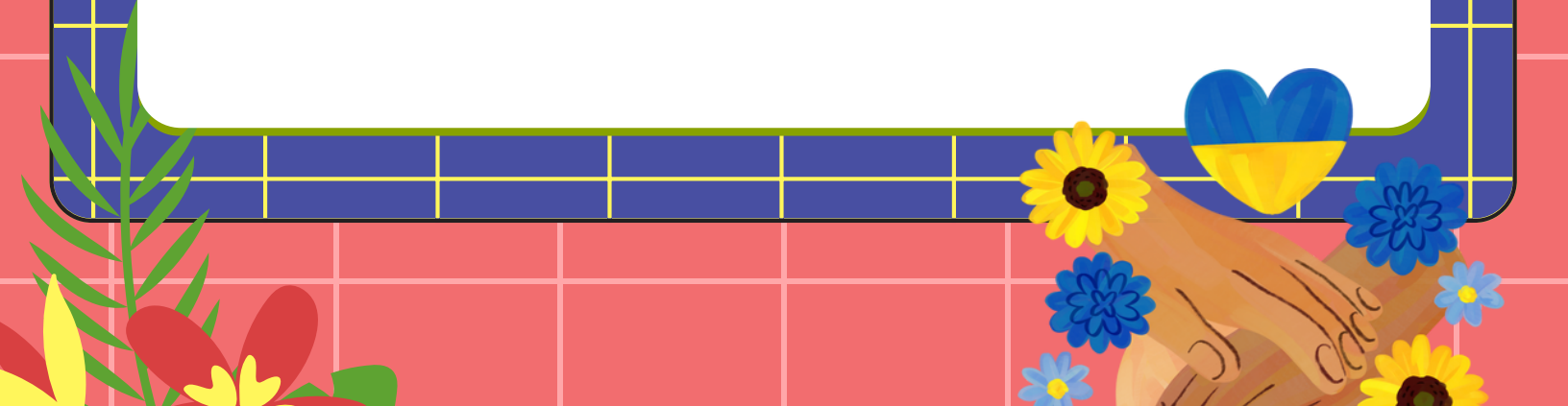
MY POWER AS A SUPERHERO

Written by: Thomas M.

Many children desire to possess the powers of a superhero that can perform magic such as controlling water or fire. I am very similar to them in that I also fancy possessing superpowers. If I could have a superhero power, it would be to transform human hearts. For example, if a person's heart is full of evil and hateful thoughts, I would use my magic power to transform their heart into a kind and loving one with no trace of hatred. If I could transform evil hearts into kind and loving ones, I would use this superhero power in Moscow, Russia. The reason is that Vladimir Putin's conscience is full of dark thoughts such as invading countries and his heart has little love for other human beings. Because of this condition of his heart, Putin decided to launch an unjust and unprovoked attack on Ukraine, causing millions of people to suffer. Therefore, I would like to use my superhero power to transform the hearts of Vladimir Putin and all his supporters and believers and fill them with love and justice. In addition, I would like to use my powers across schools in the entire world, so that all the bullies' hearts would lose hateful feelings and be filled with kind and loving ones.



In addition, I would like to use my powers across schools in the entire world, so that all the bullies' hearts would lose hateful feelings and be filled with kind and loving ones. With this power in my possession, I personally plan to make the world a better place by transforming human hearts at a magical speed. This will enable me to crush the forces of error and ignorance in the hearts of influential government leaders such as Justin Trudeau, Vladimir Putin, Joe Biden, and Xi Jin Ping. Then, my power will fill their hearts with thoughts and feelings of peace and unity. Similarly, my power as a superhero will inspire them to replace hatred and enmity with love and friendship. As a result, this power will inspire them to take action to cooperate internationally, resolve differences through friendly consultation, and treat other nations with respect. In a nutshell, my power as a superhero would transform peoples' hearts into kind and loving ones. These powers can be used everywhere around the world where highly influential people make decisions. This can be achieved by destroying thoughts of war with stronger thoughts of peace.





WRITTEN BY: EVA C

If I was a superhero, I would blast up through the sky and save the people who need help. After, I would get a super awesome super flying boat and ride all the way to super hero lab. Then I would check the world if the world needs any help.

MY POWER AS A ★ SUPERHERO ★

WRITTEN BY: AARON M.

What would your power be?



If I were a superhero, my power would be to change people's thoughts to become more unity oriented. This would enable me to get rid of thoughts of strife, war, and disunity in this world one step at a time. For instance, if I see that some people are getting into a fight and have thoughts of disunity and hatred, I would use my superpower to remove these negative thoughts and replace them with positive thoughts of peace, love, and unity.

Where Would You Use It in The World?

Firstly, I would use my superpower to change the thoughts of war, strife, and disunity among the many prominent leaders in this world into thoughts of unity and peace. It is particularly important to change the thoughts of our world leaders, as they are the ones who wield the most power, and, as history has shown us, this power can be used for great good, or to inflict great harm.

Secondly, I would use my superpower to change the thoughts of the individuals in this world who still possess negative thoughts of hate and strife into thoughts that inspire them to be promoters of love and unity. After all, it is true that in order for this world to unite, it is of the utmost importance for the citizens themselves to love each other, build friendships, as well as build bonds of unity between communities in collaboration with a good government.

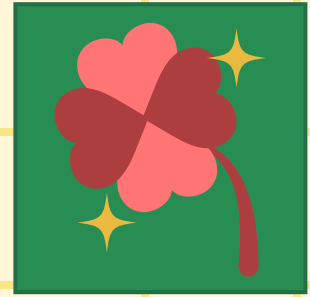
How Do You Plan on Making the World a Better Place?

It is only after this is done in this way that we can all make this world a better place.

I will do this with the goal that instead of arguing and fighting amongst themselves, the leaders of this world would instead invest their time, energy, and resources to work towards making this world a better place.



Written By: Alvin X



The sweetest bits in life often originate from the most unexpected, surprising, “out of the blue” moments. Commonly during these scenarios, there's by no means an anticipated win or profit. It's foreseeable you might have been completely clueless and in the dark, not even conscious that something magnificent was about to take place. Plus, even if you were aware, the odds could remain stacked a mile high against you. You could possess only a microscopic chance of winning. Yet, despite all of this, the event sometimes discovers a way to happen regardless, whatever it is. For instance, Bob might be going about his ordinary day, and suddenly he wins the jackpot lottery and becomes a millionaire. Or maybe Jane was using her metal detector on the beach and discovered an old chest brimming with pirate booty. It's astonishing and exciting since the probabilities and percentages are so low but miraculously you would get lucky. And in my opinion, that's part of the reason why it feels so splendid since surprises additionally magnify the intense feeling of emotions. And not being forced to undergo any work to gain anything magnifies that pure joy further. Now how would it feel to be guaranteed luck every single time you gambled? To roll the dice and get the exact predicted outcome? No matter the circumstances. Pretty excellent, right? Therefore, if I possessed the opportunity to obtain any power, I would select the gift of amazing and assured luck that always goes right.



Using this power would be extremely effortless: I could literally stroll to the convenience store and buy a couple of lottery tickets. Or buy stocks and watch them magically soar. No matter the scenario, I'm promised to always make a profit. In a week, I'm the richest person on the face of the earth. The sole downside I could imagine would be that winning all the time would sort of lose its appeal and shine. However, this could be easily fixed since luck is solely based on perspective. Someone who loves eggplant jam would cherish winning a lucky draw for a lifetime supply of it but any others would be quite disappointed since that sounds nasty. The point is: If I desire to win then I win and if I desire to lose then I lose.

This is because whatever I want to happen happens depending on my mood and luck is completely subjective. This way, I'll under no circumstances ever feel bored or trapped by my own wish. To make the world a better place I would donate plenty of my gains to charities and organizations focused on bettering our planet. The entire human race is in multiple predicaments: It simultaneously faces pandemics, global warming, pollution... And the list goes on and on. I could never fathom selfishly keeping the majority of my money to myself. People are literally starving and stuck in poverty while the world is coming closer to its end every single day. I'm not going to waste my gift scouting private islands to purchase or buy Twitter for 44 billion dollars. Money is exclusively a tool, so is it reasonable to have so many tools to the brink of not being able to use the majority? A gift should be shared with everybody: Otherwise, it's not really a gift.

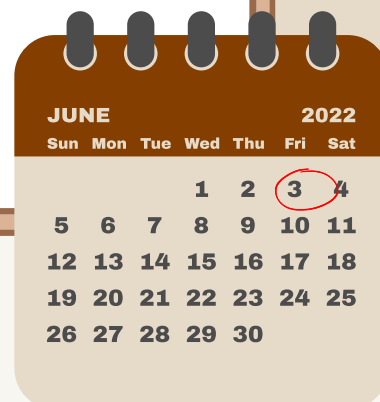
THE LEAF

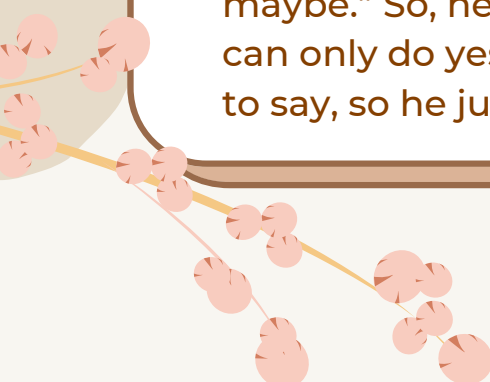
WRITTEN BY: VINCENT L



Chapter 1 - *The Party*

Once upon a time in a country called Lemin (pronounced as “lemon”), there was a human boy called Leaf Great. And he loved leaves. One morning on a bright, bright, day, inside a house, Leaf was lying on his bed. Then Leaf woke up and thought that it was the weekend. But when he went to check the calendar he saw it was JUNE THIRD!!!! Then, he quickly ran to the kitchen, made his food, and packed up for school. On the school bus, Leaf said to his friend (who was called Bouto), “I feel like our school is farther from my home than before. Does it feel like it to you ?” Then Bouto said, “Yes: Much farther to my home. Also: Do you know I thought that a bad guy used a big, big, truck to bring the school somewhere farther every day?” Then Leaf said, “Ha ha ha ha ha! You are always so funny - Ha ha ha ha ha!” Then Bouto laughed as well. When they got to school, first they learned history. And what they learned was about a leaf, and when Leaf heard that he was so happy!But: The leaf was a special leaf and it only grows on one tree and it’s a cherry tree. Then, Leaf thought, “I have a cherry tree. What if I see that leaf on my cherry tree?” Still, he just continued listening. Then, he heard it said the leaf was brown: Chocolate brown. Then, he remembered seeing a brown leaf and throwing it away because he thought it was a rotten leaf. Then, the teacher said: “Your homework is to answer these questions about that special leaf.” After, Leaf took his sheet and looked at the questions.





First: Have you ever seen a chocolate leaf before? Yes or no.

Afterwards, Leaf thought: "I did... But, I'm not sure if you can say maybe." So, he asked the teacher, and the teacher said that you can only do yes or no, not maybe. Then, Leaf didn't know what to say, so he just said yes.

After, he went on to the other question which was: Do you have a cherry tree?

Then, he wrote yes and went on to the next question. He had ten questions counting the ones that he already did.

And the next question was: Did you ever throw away a brown leaf?

Then, he checked yes. So far all of the questions were yes.

And the next question was: In fall, did you see a brown leaf that was different from the other brown ones?




Then, he finally answered no.

After all the questions it was time for recess.

Recess was different today because, at this school, every Friday has a special recess. Today, it was swimming a race since the students had already practiced.

In the race, all the students were there. Then the coach said: "Five... Four... Three... Two... One... Go!" After, he blew his whistle and then they swam. Bouto won, Leaf got second place, and Boyaka (another student) got third place. Also: "smalldady" was fourth, "beanywu" was fifth, "lemons fire" was sixth, and "senore" was seventh... And that's all of the students. After swimming, they went outside, ran around in circles, and went back into class. After class, they went back to the school bus and talked a little on the school bus. And, Bouto said to Leaf: "I invited Boyaka to my party. Do you want to come? It's tomorrow." Then, Leaf said yes. When they went back home, Leaf ate dinner and went to sleep. The next day Leaf prepared a present for Bouto and drove to his house. When he arrived he pressed the doorbell and someone opened the door... It was Bouto's sister (who was named Tory)! She said: "Oh, I see you have a present. Is it for Bouto, my brother?" Then, Leaf said: "Yes, but is he here?" Just then, Bouto's younger brother (who was called Vin) entered. Vin said to Tory, "Who is this guy?" Then Tory said, "It's Bouto's friend." Then Vin said, "Ohhhhh, Boto's friend." Then Tory said: "It's not Boto, it's Bouto. You don't remember your own brother's name?" Then, Vin said "Ohhhh my brother. My brother is Bouto." Then Tory said yes. Then, Leaf said, "Did you hear me?" Then, Tory said "Ohhh... Yes, yes, yes. Bouto is not here: He went shopping for some decorations for the party."




Then, Leaf said, "OK. I'll just wait for him to come." Then, Boyaka came with a present, and Tory said, "And you came too!" Then, Vin said, "Who is that guy?" Then Tory said, "That's another of Bouto's friends." Vin said "Ohhhh," Then Tory said, "I better call Bouto on the phone to see how he's doing so I am going to get my phone." Then, she went to get her phone. Then, Vin said, "Wait for me." Then, Leaf said to Boyaka, "What did you answer for the questions for yesterday's homework in history, huh?" Then Boyaka said, "For the question about seeing a brown leaf before, I checked no, but... What did you answer?" Leaf said, "Wait. You've never saw a brown leaf in fall, even?" Boyaka said, "No... I usually see purple, green, orange, and stuff like that but not brown... Not chocolate brown, at least, but what did you answer?" Leaf said, "I checked yes." Just then, Tory came back and said, "Bouto wants to talk with you on the phone!!" Then Leaf said to Bouto, "What?" Then Bouto said, "I saw three Lemin soldiers opening someone's door, and they said, 'Do you want to join this war? And, if you don't, we might lose. So, do you want to join?'" Then, Boyaka and Leaf said at the same time, "OK." Then, Tory said, "And, Bouto said that he's on the way back home!" Then, when Bouto went back home he said, "And then, one of the soldiers saw me! They asked me if I wanted to join the war and just then Tory called me on the phone... And, I asked you guys and when you said yes I asked the soldier to sign you guys up too."



Chapter 2 - *The War*

Then, after the party, Leaf asked Bouto, “Where do I go to the war?” Then, Bouto said, “Right here... I’ll give you the map.” Then, Leaf went back home, packed up, and followed Bouto’s map. When he reached there he saw 48 Lemin soldiers holding guns and Bouto and Boyaka were already there. Then, Leaf went into the Lemin fort and followed Bouto. Bouto led Leaf to where he’ll get his costumes and weapons. He saw two Lemin soldiers and they said, “Here are different choices of costumes and you can choose any of them.” Leaf chose the costume with ten sand and peach-coloured rectangular prism bags on its belt. The bags carried darts in them. The costume also had four of the same bags, but these carried gun clips in them. Also: A sign on the top left of the four bags had the flags of Lemin and other symbols. There was also a rifle on the back and two sand peach bags, a big square bag on the bottom of the back, and a small one on the top of the back. Those bags could carry food and pistols and things like that. So that was Leaf’s costume. When all the Lemin soldiers were prepared they saw the “Eno” soldiers coming. The war began.





Chapter 2 - *The Leaf*

They were fighting and fighting and Leaf said while throwing a grenade into the middle of twenty Eno soldiers, “When will this war end?” And then, he was shooting a soldier. Then, Bouto said, “I don’t know.” And then, eleven Eno soldiers with machine guns were shooting at a Lemin tank but the Lemin tank shot them. They were all dead, but there were still 1,300 Eno soldiers. 9 weeks had already passed (it was August 17), and the war still didn’t end and that was because there were still a lot of people in the war. But it was August, already fall, and the leaves were turning brown, yellow, purple, and orange. In the war, Leaf saw a cherry tree... There was a chocolate brown leaf! He ran to it and took it off before anyone did and got powers from it and he made the war stop. And it did.



THE END

Animal Word Search

H	I	O	L	D	P	C	C	N	P	M	A	D	D
E	E	L	H	D	R	H	R	A	C	E	S	T	I
T	N	M	L	C	H	I	O	Y	U	L	S	C	O
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HYENA
PIG
CROCODILE
CAT
RHINOCEROS
HIPPOPOTAMUS
CHIMPANZEE
ELEPHANT
GORILLA
KOALA
PARROT
CHIPMUNK
DOG

Maze Puzzle

“e/ey” is called a gender-neutral pronoun!

Want a great guide on gender pronouns?
Scan the QR code to the left!



The child is looking around. The balloon is eirs. E would like company, so e does not have to go by eirself. Can you help em reach eir balloon?

