

Solution-Hero

Overview:

Students analyze the decision-making skills of their favorite comic book superhero and then create their own.

Materials:

- Paper, pencils, crayons, and/or markers
- Comic books (for students unable to acquire any)

Procedure:

1. Introduce the topic: Today we're going to discuss comic book superheroes. Who are some of your favorite superheroes? List answers.
2. Why? Discuss and list reasons.
3. Say: *Even though most of you liked these superheroes because they saved people from harmful individuals, I would like you to think about the ways they did that. What are some of the most common ways? Again, list answers.*
4. Point out that many used violence or fighting to help others. Ask: *Why does this kind of action lack character?* Emphasize the long-term negative effects and consequences that can result from resolving conflict with violence.
5. Discuss how other people not involved in the fighting could have been affected. Ask what could happen as a result. Suggest that violent solutions have a domino effect: violence begets more violence. Discuss the steps people can take to make good decisions without violence. Have the students jot down the core ideas:
 - Treat people the way you want them to treat you.
 - When deciding how to act, consider these values first: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.
 - Choose the action that offers the greatest good to the most people.
6. Tell them to analyze the character and decision-making skills of their favorite comic book superhero. Have them list the hero's values. Then have them describe a particular action their superhero took that did not show any of the Six Pillars. Ask what the superhero could have done instead to demonstrate one or more of the Six Pillars. How could he or she have used the three keys to good decision-making?

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7. Have them create their own superhero — a “solution hero” with special Six Pillar powers that exemplify good decision-making. Invite them to draw these solution-heroes and explain their Six Pillar powers.

This lesson is from the *Good Ideas* book, available for purchase from the CHARACTER COUNTS! online store: <http://www.charactercounts.org/materials>

McREL standards

Language Arts

Standard 6. Uses reading skills and strategies to interpret a variety of literary texts.

Level II, Benchmark 8. Makes connections between characters and simple events in a literary work and people or events in his or her own life.

<http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/>