

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Geffen Education & Community Engagement developed a series of *Theater-Making at Home* projects during the COVID lockdown of 2020. One of these projects was to create, brainstorm, write, and share a SUPERHERO MONOLOGUE.



We asked: *If you could create a superhero, who would they be and what would they stand for? Your creation can be inspired by you, someone you know, or any of the current world events. It can also be completely made up from your imagination or a fun mix of your real and imagined worlds.*

The following three samples of Superhero Monologues come from Ms. Cynthia Damon's 10th grade class from Palos Verdes High School.

ACTIVITY

DEVELOP YOUR SUPERHERO

When creating characters, it is good practice to take a deep dive into the different aspects that make them unique. When playwrights or actors take on new characters, they often answer a list of questions and fill in details that help provide insight into who these characters are. Just like you, characters have backstories, likes and dislikes, and values, which inspire the choices they make and what they do and say.

With your superhero in mind, and using what you brainstormed on the previous page, fill in the page below. Getting to know your character will help you write your monologue and tell your superhero's story. Remember, these are just starter questions, feel free to think of and answer your own.

SUPERHERO NAME:

Animalia

REAL NAME:

Millie Striler

WHAT ARE THEIR SUPERPOWERS & HOW DID THEY GET THESE POWERS?

She's a reporter trying to figure out the hidden secrets of one of the largest power plants in the world. One day while investigating a rabid animal gets loose and bites her. She soon gets her powers shapeshifting, talking to animals, and power of animals that she transforms too. She soon realizes that the company test on animals killing several daily.

WHAT ISSUES MATTER MOST TO THEM?

Her main point is to stop this big power plant company and stop them from testing and killing the animals. But, she also stops other companies, farms, and dealers on the way. The power plant is building a weapon to wipe out animals to give the more energy and make more money. Her main goal is to stop this from happening.

WHAT IS YOUR SUPERHERO'S BACKSTORY?

Millie Striler has always been poor, kindhearted, and in touch with nature. She always loved animals and wanted to take care of them. Her dream was to run her own animal hospital one day. Even though she was poor she worked hard and got into a veterinarian school but she had to take up a job as a reporter to pay for it. While working on a new story on the world's largest power plant a rabid cat gets loose and bites her in the wrist. She soon gets her powers and finds out that the company is testing on animals and the animal that bit her was tested and mutated. The plan the company had was to wipe out all animals to create more product, energy, and money for the human population.

SLOGAN OR QUOTE TO LIVE BY:

"A cat's got your tongue"

WHERE DO THEY LIVE & WHAT DOES THEIR HOME LOOK LIKE?

She lives in Australia, when she was little she lived near the jungle and ocean. But, in her teenage years she moved more into the city but still volunteered in animal shelters. Once she got older and got her powers she now lives in a big house with a lot of land kind of like a farm to keep all the animals that need help or don't have a home.

TOP 3 LIKES:

1. Animals
2. Sweets/Pastries
3. Surfing

TOP 3 DISLIKES:

1. Meat
2. Math
3. Boredom

FAVORITE PERSON & WHY:

Her favorite person is her pet cat, after being bitten by a rapid cat and she got her powers she went back and took the cat and nursed it back to health, it soon became her best friend. The cat's name is Soot.

Animalia by Roxanne Ranaldi and Evie Poole

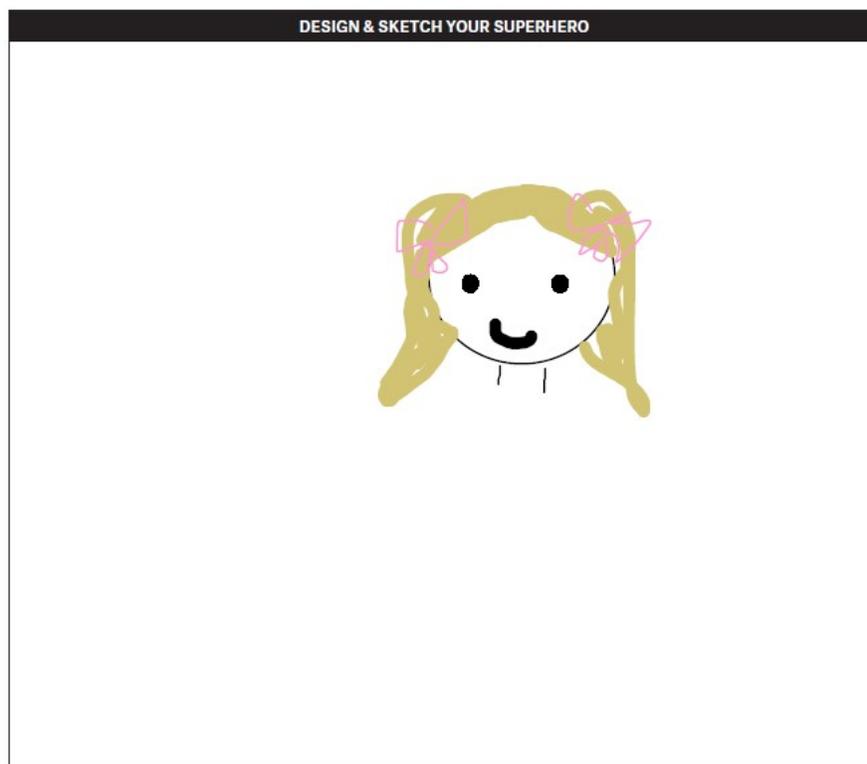
I, Animalia, have always had a deep, personal connection to animals, but I never imagined I would have the opportunity to save them like they saved me. As a reporter for The Australian Times, I can only do so much. I write articles uncovering local abuse and crimes that harm animals. But, as Animalia, endowed with a rabid, mutated, disfigured cat. I can do much more, but not alone. I need your help.

As you know, Australia is home to many exotic and endangered species; it's also home to BGC Powers, the biggest power plant in the world. They're killing our precious animals to make an energy source for new military weaponry.

Why do humans devalue the lives of animals? For money? For power? For entertainment? Animals feel pain just like humans do. They think. They form connections. They care for their young.

If people can exploit, harm, and kill animals, then who is to say they won't do the same to us? We must stop them now before they have the chance to broaden their circle of abuse.

I'm here to ask you to stand up with me and end the abuse and torture we put our animals through daily, before it [gets] out of hand, before all our animals are terminated. Are you with me?



The Essenceleaf Revelation by Dillion O’Hair

Even as a teenager, my scientific curiosity led me to the lush greenery and mysterious life of the rainforest. I found it to be a place where I could endlessly explore, looking for the elements that would relieve suffering and cure diseases. The day I found the “Essenceleaf” was the day I metamorphosed. My clumsy act of dropping it into the stream ignited its hidden powers which my body immediately absorbed. It felt like my body was radiating uncommon energy from the inside out. Reconnecting with my research crew, I soon found that I could heal anyone with just a touch. I was instantly powerful. I was instantly afraid. What responsibilities would I have with these new powers? How could I choose who to heal? Unfortunately, I couldn’t help everyone.

I didn’t have long to contemplate these questions, because a disease had already broken out and was sweeping the globe like wildfire. The entire human race was in peril. So, I joined medial experts and volunteers from around the world to combat the disease.

I know that working together is our true strength. My mission is to save lives, but I can’t do it alone.



WHAT SPECIFIC ISSUE/CHALLENGE DOES YOUR SUPERHERO SOLVE AND HOW?

There is an epidemic that has occurred, and Healing Vigilant rushes to the affected areas. He first provides support and medical professionals to the affected areas. He spreads his healing energy through the air of all of the affected areas as soon as possible to remove the disease. He then provides extremely useful information, that only he knows, to the citizens affected by the epidemic so that they can take preventative measures, be vaccinated, and use better hygiene.

WHY DID YOUR SUPERHERO CHOOSE TO GET INVOLVED WITH THIS ISSUE?

My superhero chose to get involved with this issue because it is Healing Vigilant's mission to support global well-being. Because epidemics and diseases can be very deadly, he needed to get involved and educate the people affected by the epidemic so that they could prevent further diseases. He also spread his healing energy across affected areas to heal the infected individuals.

WHAT POSITIVE MESSAGE DOES YOUR SUPERHERO WANT TO SHARE WITH PEOPLE REGARDING THIS ISSUE AND MOVING FORWARD?

Healing Vigilant's positive message regarding this issue and moving forward is, "Prioritize prevention and well-being. We are all in this together." He wants to portray that preventing further diseases is very important to well-being, and that staying in unity is important to overcome challenges like this epidemic. Support from others in the affected community, especially emotional support, can be extremely beneficial to other affected citizens.

ACTIVITY

THE MONOLOGUE

Now that you have created the first lines for your superhero's monologue, it is time to put them together. As you write, feel free to elaborate by adding, changing, or removing lines, and to structure the speech as you see fit. Don't forget to give the monologue a title and yourself the writing credit you deserve!

TITLE:

Reflection of the Mind

WRITTEN BY:

Krish Thakar

CHARACTER NAME:

Dreamweaver

In the quiet solitude of my chamber, my identity as Dr. Mercer stands before a cracked and aged mirror. I

contemplate the mask that provides the entity known as "Dreamweaver". By day I'm just your average

psychologist, but at night I am something else. Someone else. This identity provides me with an understanding

of the souls that I have touched and the minds that I have healed. Through my research I've uncovered how to

enter my clients' dreams and guide them as they venture through their uncharted imaginings. This realm

provides them the ability to alter their perceptions, change their mood, and become their best self. All they need

I see them reaching out. For someone to help guide them. They need me. I am the bridge between the

conscious and subconscious, existing where fear collides with hope. So tonight, as you close your eyes, ready

to embrace the highs and lows of your own dreamscape, let me guide you toward creating a better you. A you

with unfathomable potential. A you that will flourish within our world of wonder. When the world drifts off, all

you have to do is go right with them and I will be right there beside you.

Geffen Playhouse Education & Community Engagement would like to thank Dillion O'Hair, Evie Poole, Roxanne Ranaldi, Krish Thaker, and all of Ms. Damon's students at Palos Verdes High School.

If you're interested in working on the Superhero Monologue or any of the Geffen Playhouse's Theater-Making at Home writing projects, or to have your work spotlighted, please visit:

www.geffenplayhouse.org/education/theater-making-at-home