



# SUPERHEROES:

## my heroes



Children will be scribbling at super speeds with these games and activities from Pie Corbett...

### WHAT WILL THE CHILDREN LEARN?

- to create new ideas;
- to write an imaginative set of instructions;
- to create a simple list poem;
- to write a non-chronological report.

## 1. Play superhero games

Playing quick fire language games at the start of a lesson will develop creativity and help children think of imaginative words and ideas, e.g.

### INVENT NEW SUPERHEROES

With the children's help, make a list of well-known superheroes and their attributes, e.g.

■ **Superman** – can fly, has super-strength, has x-ray and laser vision.

Invent new superheroes.

What are their names and what can they do, e.g.

■ **Catgirl** – has night vision, can leap vast distances, her purr can destroy buildings.

■ **Hawkboy** – flies at speed of sound, hovers, x-ray vision, can talk with birds, supersonic hearing.

### FIND THEIR WEAKNESS

Take the new superheroes and plan how to defeat them. All heroes have a weakness. Achilles had his heel and superman is rendered powerless by Kryptonite, e.g.

**Catgirl** – is only scared of water, which makes her powerless till she is dry.

**Hawkboy** – is fearful of cages. He cannot fly if wing feathers are clipped.

### WHICH WOULD YOU BE?

Everyone has to select a superhero (well-known or invented) and explain why they would be that hero. They have to use the word 'because' in their explanation, e.g.

■ *I would be Catgirl because I could play out at night and be safe.*

■ *I would be Hawkboy because I could visit different places very rapidly.*

Take the new superheroes and plan how to defeat them



## 2. How to make a Superhero

A recipe for making a superhero would be a creative idea for practicing writing instructions. The children will need to think about their superhero, what ingredients might be needed and how to construct their chosen wonder being. Use this model as a basis for their own writing.

### HOW TO MAKE HAWKBOY

Have you ever wanted to escape at a moment's notice? Do you want to soar high above the clouds? See through brick walls? If so, follow these instructions and you could become 'Hawkboy'.



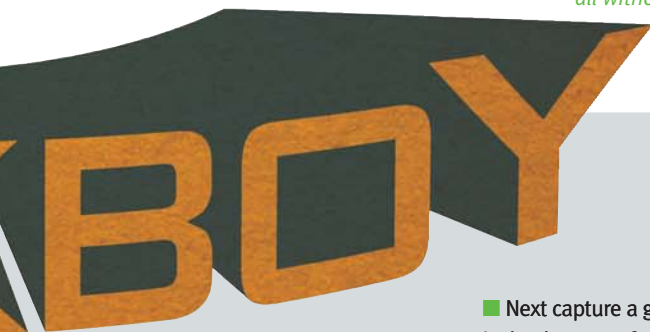
# LITERACY



## 3. Ode to supermum

For this poem the children have to take someone they know and turn them into a superhero. They then make a list of all the amazing things that this person might be able to accomplish if they had superpowers. Use my poem as a model for the children's own writing.

*My Mother is a superheroine  
because she can –  
clean a house at the snap of her fingers,  
fly to the moon and back in the blink of an eye,  
extinguish a fire with her icy breath,  
see into the mind of a robber,  
foretell any disaster,  
avoid a collision with the power of thought,  
turn back the snow and warm icy paths,  
rescue a drowning man without a second thought,  
create joy where gloom has taken grip  
and even halt a war before it has begun  
all without moving from the sofa.*



- Next capture a giant squid and attach its beak to your face.
- After that take the grip from a vice and use this for your claws.
- Then enter a hospital and borrow their x-ray vision.
- Finally, trap the speed of a jet engine as it breaks the sound barrier and drink this carefully.
- Final note: once you have become Hawkboy, be careful to stay away from cages and anyone with scissors or hedge clippers.

### WHAT YOU NEED:

The feathers of the Phoenix, the beak of a giant squid, the grip of a vice, the vision from an x-ray machine, and the speed of a jet.

### WHAT YOU DO:

■ First take the feathers of the Phoenix and stick them to your body.

## Write a non-chronological report

Children are often asked to write factual reports about animals. Use a similar approach to describing a superhero:

Paragraph 1 –	Who is it?	Definition
Paragraph 2 –	What does he/she look like?	Appearance
Paragraph 3 –	What powers?	Key information
Paragraph 4 –	Any dangers?	Lifestyle
Paragraph 5 –	Other interesting facts?	Extra information
Paragraph 6 –	Most amazing thing?	End

Use this as a simple framework for the children to gather their ideas. In pairs they can role-play a basic interview in which one of them plays an expert on superheroes and is explaining what this particular one is like. Use my model below as a basis for their own writing.

### HAWKBOY

*Hawkboy is a new superhero who is closely related to other heroes that have the gift of flight.*

*Hawkboy looks like many flying heroes at first glance. Most of the time he looks just like any other schoolboy. However, when he turns into his super form, Hawkboy appears to be instantly covered in brown and golden feathers, rather like a giant bird. He has a sharp beak that is very powerful. His feet are more like an eagle's talons and possess a fearsome grip.*

*Hawkboy has a number of amazing gifts. First he is able to fly at a speed faster than sound. He can fly above the clouds and travel vast distances at great speed. This means that he is able to reach anyone in danger very rapidly. Furthermore, he can hover whilst looking across a vast area, scanning for problems. Also, his hearing is supersonic which means that he can pick up cries for help and distress signals with ease. Finally, he has the ability to talk with birds. This means that he can pick up information from other countries by talking with migrant species.*

*There are not many things that Hawkboy has to fear. However, if his wings become clipped, he finds it difficult to fly in a straight line. He then has to wait till his feathers have re-grown. The only other thing that Hawkboy has to beware of is being caged. Like most animals, he hates zoos and bird being caged. It must be remembered that Hawkboy is a free spirit and as such is used to flying in the skies. To be trapped would be unbearable.*

*A little know fact about Hawkboy is that he has a sister known as Dovegirl. Dovegirl is generally found helping those in distress as she has the amazing ability to heal. However, she is also a fearsome enemy and will fight to the death with razor sharp talons. Hawkboy is often seen in her company.*

*The most amazing thing about Hawkboy is that most of the time he is an ordinary schoolboy. None of his friends know about his life as a superhero. In fact, you could be sitting right next to him or his sister at this very moment!*

Use the above model as a basis for the children's own writing. Get them to work out what each paragraph is about. Use this as the writing frame. Then read

through and underline key words and phrases that they could use in their own writing. Show them how to plan by using the frame as a planner – jot down information about another superhero. Then demonstrate through shared writing how to turn the plan into a written text. Aim this just above the level of most children's writing.

