



LESSON PLAN

Level: Grades 3 to 6

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Villains, Heroes and Heroines

Overview

This lesson introduces students to some of the myth-building techniques of television by comparing super heroes and super villains from television to heroes and villains in the real world and by conveying how violence and action are used to give power to characters. Students will also explore the use of stereotypes in the world of TV heroes and villains. The lesson begins with a discussion about villains. Students are asked to brainstorm a list of villains in the real world and discuss the characteristics and acts that make them villainous. Students then discuss and describe the kinds of "super heroes" and "super villains" they see on TV. To reinforce the differences between fantasy and reality, students play the game, *Heroes, Heroines: Living in the Real World*. In this game, two players assume the roles of TV heroes and heroes, acting in the real world as they typically would on television and two other players take on the role of real life heroes and heroes.

Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate:

- understanding of the differences between real world (s)heroes and TV world (s)heroes
- awareness of how stars and super (s)heroes are created on television
- understanding of how violence and action are used to give power to characters
- awareness of the stereotypes that are used in the world of TV (s)heroes

Preparation and Materials

- Easel and pad of paper, newsprint, tape, markers, make-up, pencils, highlighter
- Male and female superstar clothes, scarves, hats from real life jobs
- Four large cardboard boxes
- Dice
- Photocopies of the *Heroes & Heroines: Living In The Real World* game and *Lingo List*



Procedure

Introduction

TV villains are the "bad guys." They can be male or female, and use power to hurt others. They are selfish and evil and behave like tyrants. Villains start fights and love war and violence. They are the enemies that (s)heroes must fight against. Do you think villains in cartoons and movies have any similarities in their looks? Who are they? Do they speak with accents? Where do they come from?

Activity - Naming real life villains and villainesses

What you need: newsprint, markers

- List the names of real life villains found in your community, nation and around the globe.
- Circle their names and list the qualities and actions that made them villains.
- Do you share some of these qualities?
- What about your family members?

Discussion

Super (s)heroes and super villains

Super (s)heroes and super villains are make-believe TV or film characters with imaginary powers. Sometimes they fly or have extraordinary strength. They are superhuman, beyond human limits.

Super (s)heroes

Using their super powers, they fight imaginary and real life problems like crime, greed and drugs. Super heroes and sheroes entertain us with excitement and adventure.

Super villains

Using their super powers, these men and women fight to preserve or promote evil. Everywhere they go they cause pain and destruction. Super villains entertain us in the same way as super (s)heroes.

Name as many TV super characters as you can think of - both good and evil. Then think about these questions:

- What do they look like?
- Are they good-looking?
- How do they dress?
- How do they act?
- How old are they?
- Are they male or female?
- How strong do they appear?
- What do they eat?
- Do they use the bathroom?



- List their positive characteristics.
- List their negative characteristics.

Go around the room. If you could be a super character, what one imaginary power would you like to have? How would you use it?

Who they save

Who is it that (s)heroes fight to save in your favourite adventure programs? Who is it that the villain tries to harm? The person who is being harmed or who needs to be protected is called the victim. In adventure shows, the heroine and victim are often the same. The heroine has been the helpless woman who is rescued by the hero. Too often, the female character does not act like a hero. She is on the sidelines watching the action, but is not part of it. Think of the females who have actually been shown in heroic roles. Then think of female characters who have been saved by the hero or who watch the hero from the sidelines. What kind of message does this send to girls and women? What kind of message does this send to boys and men? Who else is saved by heroes? What kind of message does this send?

Activity - Heroes, Heroines: Living in the real world

What you need: four players per group, one die, scissors. Copies of the game *Heroes, Heroines: Living in the Real World*.

Download copies of *Heroes & Heroines: Living In The Real World*

In the game, *Heroes, Heroines: Living in the Real World*, two players take on the roles of TV heroes and sheroes, acting in the real world as they typically would on television. Two other players take on the role of real life sheroes and heroes.

- Break up into groups of four and play *Heroes, Heroines: Living in the Real World*.
- Players design and cut out markers to use as they play.
- Throw the die, and the lowest number goes first.
- Roll the die and move according to the number you get.
- Players must get the exact number to enter the finish block.
- As you play the game, discuss what happens.
- Name things that happen on TV that would have a very different result if they occurred in the real world with real people.



Lingo List

Here's a list of some of the terms and expressions that are used in this unit.

Camera angle: the position of the camera in relation to the subject

Celebrity: a famous person

Conflict resolution: skills learned to work out a disagreement

Courageous: a way of being that enables one to face difficulties and challenges

Endorse: to show support to a product or project by attaching one's name or signature

Foreign: someone from another country or nation

Hero: a male who is courageous, noble

Heroine: should be a female hero, but in TV, film and literature is often simply the principal female character, sometimes a victim

Myth: a traditional story concerning superhuman beings; an invented story

Perpetrators: persons who commit or carry out a crime

Public eye: in the community or national view

Recognition: formal approval or support

Review: to evaluate or judge something; a movie review

Role playing: to act out a role or part; to pretend

(S)hero: a female and/or male hero

Super (s)hero: a (s)hero having imaginary powers

Victim: a person who suffers a violent or harmful act

Villains/villainess: real life male and female people, or characters in a movie, play or cartoon, who act in a cruel and evil way

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<p>START TV Hero in the Real World</p>	<p>Stolen \$\$\$ You are called to find it. MOVE AHEAD 2.</p>	<p>JAIL</p>	<p>GRAVEYARD</p>	<p>HOSPITAL</p>	<p>KIDNAPPED</p>	<p>START Real Life Hero</p>	<p>START TV (S)hero in the Real World</p>
<p>START Real Life (S)hero</p>	<p>Scene of the crime</p>	<p>Crisis in your family. You put off school for a year to help out. GO BACK 2</p>		<p>Family gets closer through a crisis. MOVE AHEAD 3.</p>		<p>You are doing great in high school. Get scholarship. MOVE AHEAD 2.</p>	<p>You are being followed. Walk faster. MOVE AHEAD 2.</p>
<p>You're doing great in high school. Get 2 scholarships to college. MOVE AHEAD 2.</p>	<p>You arrive at the scene of the heist. You are shot. GO TO HOSPITAL. LOSE 1 TURN.</p>	<p>Your neighbors are harassed and their house is damaged. You set up a neigh- bourhood watch.</p>		<p>You are being chased. You use a gun. You are arrested. Waiting for trial. GO TO JAIL. LOSE 1 TURN.</p>		<p>Your high heels broke. You are abducted. GO TO KIDNAPPED. LOSE 1 TURN.</p>	
<p>Find clue that leads to criminals. Pursue in car. MOVE AHEAD 2.</p>	<p>MOVE AHEAD 2.</p>	<p>You need hospital care for illness. GO TO HOSPITAL. LOSE 1 TURN.</p>		<p>You face off with criminals. You get shot. GO TO HOSPITAL. LOSE 1 TURN.</p>		<p>No ransom \$\$\$. No hero saves you. You are shot by criminal. GO TO GRAVEYARD. STAY HERE. YOU LOST.</p>	
<p>While working, you discover a number of unfair company rules. You fight them and win. Things change! Workers celebrate! MOVE AHEAD 3.</p>	<p>You are chased by police and jailed for speeding & reckless driving. GO TO JAIL. LOSE 2 TURNS.</p>	<p>You decide to run for office to make changes in your community. You are elected. MOVE AHEAD 2.</p>		<p>FINISH</p>	<p>FINISH</p>		
<p>GO TO JAIL LOSE 1 TURN</p>	<p>You are on the wrong trail. GO BACK TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.</p>	<p>You kill someone and lose the case in court. GO TO JAIL. STAY THERE.</p>	<p>You are shot by criminals. GO TO GRAVEYARD. STAY THERE. YOU LOST.</p>	<p>FINISH</p>	<p>FINISH</p>		
<p>A store discriminates against you and others from your community. You demonstrate against their violating civil rights law. You are arrested</p>	<p>Your family works together to clean up your neighborhood MOVE AHEAD 1.</p>	<p>You decide to become a lawyer and work for your community. MOVE AHEAD 2.</p>	<p>You learn self defense and use it to stop an attack. GO FORWARD 1</p>				