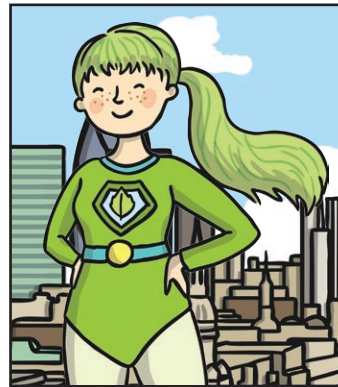


Superhero Times

4 BREAKING NEWS: This morning
10 the people of Hotham City are
15 waking to the shocking news
20 that the baddy, Captain Zeeborg
25 has finally been defeated. After
32 he has bullied the city for years,
39 this news will come as a huge
42 relief to many.



51 A witness confirmed that after an all-night standoff
58 between Captain Zeeborg and a small, unknown
67 superhero with green hair, he has finally been banished
70 from the city.

78 Two other superheroes, Muscle Man and Zoom Boy,
88 were found tied up in the captain's hideout. They were
90 both unharmed.

97 Who could the green-haired hero be?

Quick Questions



1. Why will the people of Hotham City be relieved?



2. Can you find a word in the text that means the same as 'den' or 'lair'?



3. What do you think happened to Muscle Man and Zoom Boy?



4. How is the superhero who defeated Captain Zeeborg described?

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Answers



1. Why will the people of Hotham City be relieved?
Because Captain Zeeborg had been defeated after bullying the city for years.



2. Can you find a word in the text that means the same as 'den' or 'lair'?
hideout



3. What do you think happened to Muscle Man and Zoom Boy?
Accept any sensible inference relating to the text, e.g. I think they were caught by Captain Zeeborg and he tied them up.



4. How is the superhero who defeated Captain Zeeborg described?
small, unknown with green hair

Superheroes and Comic Books

10 Comics are made up of lots of pictures. The pictures
18 are drawn inside frames (also known as panels),
28 and tell a story. Story text or speech bubbles also
36 help the reader to understand what is happening.

43 Superhero comics first became popular in the
49 1930s. The first superheroes were Superman,
55 Batman, Captain America and Wonder Woman.
62 Much later superheroes like Spider-Man, the
71 Fantastic Four, the Hulk, X-Men and Iron Man
79 were created. Some of these superheroes still have
85 adventures in comic books today. Amazingly,
95 many of them now even have their own films or
97 television series.



Quick Questions



1. What helps the reader to understand what is happening in the pictures?



2. Why has the author started the final sentence of the text with 'amazingly'?



3. Why do you think superheroes became a popular subject for comic books?



4. Can you order when these things happened by putting numbers 1-4?

_____ Some superheroes got their own films or TV series.

_____ Superman appeared in a comic.

_____ Superhero comics become popular.

_____ Spider-Man appeared in a comic.

Superheroes and Comic Books

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85 adventures in comic books today. Amazingly,
95 many of them now even have their own films or
97 television series.



Answers



1. What helps the reader to understand what is happening in the pictures?
story text or speech bubbles



2. Why has the author started the final sentence of the text with 'amazingly'?
To show surprise and amazement at what he is going to say next.



3. Why do you think superheroes became a popular subject for comic books?
Accept any inferential answer, e.g. Because superhero adventures make very exciting stories. Their pictures are exciting to look at.



4. Can you order when these things happened by putting numbers 1-4?

4 Some superheroes got their own films or TV series.

2 Superman appeared in a comic.

1 Superhero comics become popular.

3 Spider-Man appeared in a comic.



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The Fearless Four

- 7 Her powers are known throughout the land,
- 13 She can create a snowy swirl,
- 19 She freezes the sunniest villain's heart,
- 25 Her name is Blue Ice Girl!

- 34 His breath is as hot as the scorching sun,
- 40 His hair is one big flame,
- 48 He saves the day with his sizzling ways,
- 53 Fire Boy is his name!

- 61 She appears like a bolt from the night,
- 68 And some say that she is frightening,
- 76 But she'll rescue you with an electric flash,
- 81 She's known as Lady Lightning!

- 89 You might not know that he is there,
- 95 But he always has a plan,
- 100 Being invisible is his game,
- 104 He is Transparent Man!



Quick Questions



1. Which superhero has breath 'as hot as the scorching sun'?



2. Think of another word or phrase that the poet could have used in this line: 'His breath is as hot as...'



3. Why might you not know that Transparent Man is there?



4. What kind of emergency might you call one of the Ferocious Four to help you with?

The Fearless Four

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Answers



1. Which superhero has breath 'as hot as the scorching sun'?

Fire Boy



2. Think of another word or phrase that the poet could have used in this line: 'His breath is as hot as...'

Any sensible suggestion, e.g. frying bacon, burning lava.



3. Why might you not know that Transparent Man is there?

Accept any inference that relates to his transparency, e.g. Because he is invisible so you wouldn't be able to see him.



4. What kind of emergency might you call one of the Ferocious Four to help you with?

Accept any sensible prediction linked to the text, e.g. I would call Blue Ice Girl if my house was on fire because she would put it out with her freezing powers.

The Most Heroic Hero

9 One day, all the superheroes were arguing about who
21 was the most heroic. "I am the best hero because I can
34 fly as fast as a plane," boasted Zoom Boy. "No, I am the
44 best because I can lift ten double decker busses," scoffed
53 Muscle Man. Every superhero wanted to say why they
56 were the best.

66 Every superhero that is, except for Green Girl. The others
76 all laughed at Green Girl behind her back. Just what
81 **was** her super power anyway?

88 "I'm sure that the best superhero could
93 easily defeat the dangerous Captain
98 Zeeborg," said Green Girl quietly.
103 She suggested that whoever defeated
109 Zeeborg would be proven the most
116 heroic. Trembling, but too proud to say
121 no, the superheroes all agreed.



Quick Questions



1. Why does Zoom Boy think he is the best superhero?



2. Why is the word 'was' written in bold?



3. How do you think the superheroes feel about Captain Zeeborg?



4. What do you think Green Girl's super power will turn out to be?

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121 no, the superheroes all agreed.



Answers



1. Why does Zoom Boy think he is the best superhero?

Accept either: because he is very fast, OR because he can fly as fast as a plane.



2. Why is the word 'was' written in bold?

To give added emphasis to the word and to show that they are being mean about Green Girl.



3. How do you think the superheroes feel about Captain Zeeborg?

Accept any inference relating to the text, e.g. I think they feel scared of Zeeborg because they are trembling and they want to say no to facing him but they are all too proud.



4. What do you think Green Girl's super power will turn out to be?

Accept any sensible prediction, e.g. I think Green Girl's super power will be that she tie people up with plant vines.

