

Cape

Author: Kate Hannigan

Related Books:

[*Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation*](#) by Stuart Gibbs

[*The Shadow Cipher*](#) by Laura Ruby

[*Mia Mayhem is a Superhero*](#) by Kara West

[*The Computer Wore Heels*](#) by [Leanne Erickson](#) (downloadable interactive ebook)

[*The Story of Coding*](#) by James Floyd Kelly

Primer: A Superhero Graphic Novel by Jennifer Muro

[*Max Einstein: the Genius Experiment*](#) by James Patterson

[*The Detective's Assistant*](#) by Kate Hannigan

Websites:

Author website: <https://www.katehannigan.com/titles>

Teaching Guide:

https://3ea801c0-5672-463a-8191-58ab23ebba4d.filesusr.com/ugd/82b55e_c37aa20d05eb4300b81029a9a6e1ac59.pdf

Publisher activities website:

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Cape/Kate-Hannigan/The-League-of-Secret-Heroes/9781534439122>

Book Trailer: <https://youtu.be/T8ZQ5RfyxcU>

Book Talk: (from Simon & Schuster's Reading Guide)

Josie, Mae, and Akiko, three seemingly ordinary girls who love to solve puzzles, join forces to fight powerful enemies during World War II. When their skill at code-cracking brings them together, the girls realize that they have superpowers—from flying to shape-shifting to calling up storms. Because the old superheroes have disappeared, the girls, dubbed the Infinity Trinity, take on villains in perilous fights across the country. They deal with loss, fear, racial bias, and sexism. At the same time, they discover that they're stronger when they draw on their new friendship and work as a team as they battle sinister enemies with superpowers of their own.

Discussion Questions:

- *Cape* is told partly as a graphic novel and partly as a print novel. How did the action change between the illustrated version and the narrated version? Did you like one format better than the other?
- Did you realize Josie's cousin Kay McNulty was a person in real life? Does that change how you feel about the story?

- Superheroes are very important to Josie. Why does she say she “needed them?” How do you feel about superheroes? Have you ever felt like Josie about needing anything?
- How is the meaning of the word “computer” different today than its meaning in the 1940s?
- Why do you think the name of the series is “The League of *Secret* Heroes,” and not “The League of *Super* Heroes?”
- What kind of superpowers would you have if you developed superpowers the way Mae, Akiko, and Josie did? Why?
- Why do you think puzzles are so important to Josie and Emmett?
- Names and nicknames are very important in *Cape*. List some of the names and nicknames of people and things in the book. Why are they called what they are called? How is that important?

Activities:

- Read about the ENIAC 6 and the history of coding. Try out coding for yourself, and explore why math is important to coding. Visit code.org or try [Scratch](https://scratch.mit.edu).
- Emmett leaves the Infinity Trinity a note in “invisible ink.” Try it out yourself! Use [milk](#) like Emmett did, or try it with [lemon juice](#).
- Check out some of these [ciphers](#) and [code-breaking](#) activities just like Josie uses!
- Create your own [superhero](#).