

Captain Nation Assignment

This lesson will take place over the course of three days. Please be sure to read through this entire document first and then reach out to me with any questions.

This lesson was originally developed as part of a global online US State Department comics program with Jacquie Gardy, Dan Ryder, Jennifer Williams, and Tim Smyth

End result – you will create a national superhero for a country/nation of your choosing, **BUT NOT THE UNITED STATES**. To create this **original** hero, you can hand-draw, photoshop, or use <http://www.heromachine.com/heromachine-3-lab/>, <https://charactercreator.org/>, or some of these other web sources - <https://www.pixstacks.com/character-creator-tools> You are welcome to use other resources if you know of a better tool. Your hero will be created to represent this country and to help overcome a major obstacle. Your work, though creative, must be based in fact/reality and not offensive in any way – including politically. We will be sharing our work with students, so please keep this in mind and be respectful of these other cultures. I will also share with you work from other countries.

Step 1 – Research – due date:

You will need to choose a nation/country in the world (NOT the US), and learn about a major obstacle that they are currently experiencing or even a major obstacle in their past. You will be creating a hero to represent this place and who will help to overcome this obstacle. In several paragraphs, TYPE up a summary of your research with TWO credible sources (you just have to copy and paste the article links – at this point, I am trusting that you know what a credible source looks like). You will submit this detailed summary to schoology – under the assignment titled **National Problem**.

Step 2 Research – although nothing is officially due in Schoology, this is a class long research session and I will be checking in with you during the day to answer any questions. Consider this to be Day 2 of the lesson. You should also begin making your hero today so you don't fall behind.

Read this article on the original Captain America - <https://www.marvel.com/characters/captain-america-steve-rogers/in-comics>.

While reading this, consider the following: (you do not have to submit the answers to these questions, but they will help you to create your own hero).

1. When, how, and why was he created?
2. What was happening in the world?
3. What is his origin story?
4. What makes him a hero?
5. What characteristics does he share with real-life heroes?
6. Can you think of a character in your country that has similar traits?
7. Look up images of Captain America online. What makes him a symbol of America? (Look at his uniform, accessories, etc.)

Step 3 – watch this Ted Talk with Stan Lee - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSGf6is3U2w>. Think – what makes a hero? What symbols, outfits, and powers are included? Why? What do you want to include in your hero?

Step 4 – watch this goofy video on making characters - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Nb_ZDvoWEg – it may give you some ideas.

Step 5 – OPTIONAL – watch this video on creating characters - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wm9ti-gzLM> – it is 20 minutes long and very detailed – I loved it, but it is not necessary to watch it as it is long.

Step 6 – begin to focus on your hero creation. (Again – no need to submit answers to these questions, but they will help you to focus)

*What makes him/her a hero?

*What is his/her superhero name?

*What is the origin story? How and why was he/she created?

*What issue(s) will this hero need to solve to help your country? (again – historically accurate)

*What will the uniform look like? What colors and symbols might be included? How will they represent the country/nation?

*What accessories might be included with this hero? How will they represent the country/nation?

*How will your hero reflect your nation's most important values?

Step 7 – Look through these websites to get ideas on the power of symbols -

[Symbolism in DC superheroes](#)

[Heroes from around the world](#)

[Symbolic powers](#)

Step 8 Create your Hero! Day 3 - this is due on:

You will submit your hero to this padlet - (Padlet link)

This padlet is open to all of the 10th grade classes and I AM TRUSTING YOU to be mature and appropriate in your comments to one another. If you see something that really impressed you, feel free to comment.

Step 9 also due on: – You will use this Flipgrid link (insert link) to talk about your hero. If you don't feel comfortable with using video, turn off your camera or cover it up, but we'd love to see you! Let us know who you are and then explain your hero. Write down the answers to these questions so that you can explain in the video. **This script must be typed and uploaded to Schoology under the assignment Script.**: (all questions must be answered to receive full credit) Feel free to show us your creation and you talk about it on the Flipgrid video and point out what you did.

1. Say your name
2. What is your hero's name – why did you choose it?
3. What country/nation did you choose to represent? Why?
4. What is your hero's origin story? Why/how was he/she created?

5. What is your hero's obstacle? What national obstacle will they need to overcome? (again – this needs to be factual)
 6. What are your hero's superpowers? How can they help solve the issue?
 7. What symbols did you include with your hero? How do they represent the nation/country?
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Here are some **OPTIONAL** videos and resources if you'd like to know more –

- Video, YouTube: [What makes a hero? - Matthew Winkler](#)
- Video, YouTube: [How to Build a Fictional World- Kate Messner](#)
- Video, YouTube: Dan Harmon's Explanation Series: [Every Story is the Same](#)
- Video, YouTube: [G. Willow Wilson, Ms. Marvel, TEDxRainier](#)
- Video, YouTube: [The Importance of Female Superheroes | Christopher Bell | TEDxColoradoSprings](#)
- Article, Good Girl Comics -[Silver Scorpion- Golden Age Female Superhero](#)

Student:

- Video, YouTube: [Why Do We Idolize Superheroes, and Should We? | Lawrence Raia | TEDxYouth@SRDS](#)
- Video, YouTube: [What makes a hero? - Matthew Winkler](#)
- TV show, YouTube: ["Hello! I'm Burka Avenger" \(English\)](#)
- TV show, YouTube: [Traffic Rules - Burka Avenger Full Episode \(w/ English subtitles\)](#)
- TV show, YouTube: [Burka Avenger Episode 01 - Girls' School is Shut \(w/ English Subtitles\)](#)

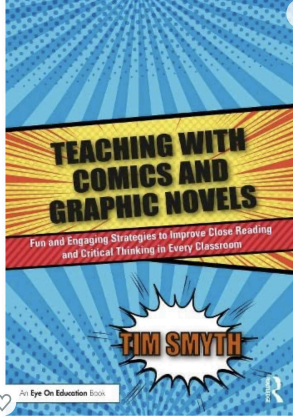
TV show, YouTube: [Burka Avenger Season 2 Teaser](#)

MANY MORE LESSON IDEAS LIKE THIS ONE IN MY NEW BOOK - available from Routledge here -

<https://www.routledge.com/Teaching-with-Comics-and-Graphic-Novels-Fun-and-Engaging-Strategies-to/Smyth/p/book/9780367520373> - see below for reviews of my book from Laurie Halse Anderson and Andrew Aydin.

Tim Smyth

Teaching with Comics and Graphic Novels: Fun and Engaging Strategies to Improve Close Reading and Critical Thinking in Every Classroom



An Eye On Education Book

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"Tim Smyth's *Teaching with Comics and Graphic Novels* is the preeminent text for any educator or librarian working to bring sequential narratives into the classroom. Tim makes it real and makes it plain how comics can be used to reach students in ways no other medium can. *Teaching with Comics and Graphic Novels* is an essential text for every classroom and library."

—Andrew Aydin, co-author of the graphic novels *March* and *Run*.

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Reviews

"Comics and graphic novels are finally being appreciated for the rich literary experience they offer readers. They allow students to see themselves in literature, and to engage with diverse voices, experiences, and perspectives. The powerful lessons in this book empower educators to use the power of comics and graphic novels to reach every reader. Highly recommended!"

—Laurie Halse Anderson, author of the graphic novels *Speak* and *Wonder Woman: Tempest Tossed*.