People have been telling stories about heroes with special abilities for a long time. We have always been fascinated with superheroes. Read about mythological heroes from stories around the world and discover your own heroic story along the way!

Achilles is a character in the Greek story of the Trojan war, called the Iliad. When he was a baby, his mom took him to a special river that made him invincible. This meant that nobody could hurt him. In addition, he was also the best warrior.

Achilles greatest strength was also his greatest weakness. Since his mother held him by his ankle when she dunked him in the river, that was his one weak spot.

If you were a superhero, what would your weakness be?

Draw what your weakness would look like below!
Karna’s father was the sun god, and when he was born, his mother was afraid of raising him, so she put him in a basket and sent him down the river. He was found by a family who adopted him. But there was something different about baby Karna: he was born with golden armor and golden earrings! They were attached to his body and would protect him.

Karna was known for being very generous – he always tried to help people who needed it. He was also very loyal. Unfortunately, Karna chose to be loyal to someone who did not deserve it. He became friends with a man named Duryodhana. Duryodhana did not always do what was right. Once, he kidnapped a woman who did not want to marry him! When other men were chasing Duryodhana to save her, Karna decided to help Duryodhana.

Can someone who is good do bad things? Give an example below.

Can someone who is bad do good things? Give an example below.

Do you think he made the right choice?
There once was a terrible hippo that kept eating people's crops. The people began to worry they would not have anything to eat! The hippo had ovens and fire pots tied to it, it was a very strange and powerful hippo.

Nana Miriam is a hero from the Songhai people of West Africa.

What do you think fire pots look like? Draw them on this hippo!

No one could stop the hippo. They tried throwing spears at it, but the spears burst into flames when they hit the hippo.

A man named Fara Maka went home from trying to defeat the hippo and told his daughter Nana Miriam about what happened. They were very close, and he taught her everything he knew about magic. She was such a good student and became even more powerful than her father! Nana Miriam decided to confront the hippo. The hippo laughed at her, but Nana Miriam was able to defeat it using her magic. Her people were saved, and everyone was grateful for all of Nana Miriam’s studying!

What is something you could study that might help others? Answer below!
When his mother found out, she was very sad. But, Wa-Sha-Xnend had known this might happen, and told her that if he died, she should tie his flute to his wrist and throw him in the river. She did as he said, and his guardian spirit brought him back to life! Wa-Sha-Xnend returned to the land playing his flute. His mother heard him play and was so happy! Wa-Sha-Xnend thrived and those who did him wrong suffered. The people learned to never harm those who have done you no wrong, because your own spirit will weaken, and you will suffer the most in the end.

Wa-Sha-Xnend was a Lenape musician and a hunter. He had a special wooden flute that he could use to get the attention of his guardian spirit, who would help him because he was strong in character.
Give your hero a name above!

Where is your hero from? Show below!

Write your superhero origin story below!

Design your superhero costume!

You've read about ancient heroes from around the world, now design your own superhero alter ego!