

WHAT DOES IT
TAKE TO BE A
SUPERHERO?

THE BIG BOOK OF SUPERHEROES

WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO:

- * Defend yourself from preschooler supervillains
- * Find a good battle cry
- * Make your own jetpack
- * Battle costume wedgies
- * Interview and hire sidekicks
- * Customize your Secret Lair
- * Learn hand-to-hand and foot-to-butt combat

This hilarious book even tells you how to become a supergenius! (We'd explain it here, but you wouldn't understand--yet!)

In these pages, you will *snicker* at superhero humor, *snort* at the Ten Lamest Superpowers, or just *sneeze* if you're allergic to its superawesomeness.

**SIDEKICK NOT
INCLUDED!**

Front cover illustration by Greg Paprocki
Cover design by Andrew Brozyna

\$19.99 U.S.
Children's Activity
Ages 8 and up

ISBN 978-1-4236-3397-6
5 1999



9 781423 633976

BART
KING



THE BIG BOOK OF
SUPERHEROES



GIBBS
SMITH

THE BIG BOOK OF SUPERHEROES

BART KING

Author of *The Big Book of Boy Stuff*



IS IT HARD TO BECOME A SUPERHERO?

Yes! For starters, you need the perfect superhero name, a secret identity, a cool costume, and a burning desire to fight evil.

But where are you going to get all that? Right here, inside *The Big Book of Superheroes!* It will teach you everything you need to know—including how to get mind-blowing superpowers. (They're good for your self-esteem!)



CONTENTS

Welcome to the World of Superheroes	9	Supervillains and Other Ethically Challenged People!	191
Superpowers!	16	The Supervillain Halls of Shame and Fame!	215
Acting Like a Superhero!	35	Super Sidekicks!	219
Becoming a Superhero!	57	Animal Superheroes	229
Telling Your Parents	73	Secret Lairs!	237
Superhero Training!	81	Superhero Teams	247
Fighting Like a Superhero!	89	The End Is Near!	265
Zingers and Battle Cries: Speaking Superhero!	109	Super-Pop Quiz!	275
Rugrats: Your Most Dangerous Foe!	121	Appendix: Early Superhero History!	277
The Lamest—and Most Under- rated—Superpowers	131	Selected Bibliography	281
Your Super Name	143	Answer Key	285
Dress Like a Superhero	155	Acknowledgments	288
What's This "Right vs. Wrong" Stuff?	177		

SUPERPOWERS!

Hey, did you know you already *have* a superpower? No? Then it sounds like we need to work on your self-esteem.

So imagine you were reading this sentence six hundred years ago. *That* would've been a superpower. No, not because you traveled through time. It's because six hundred years ago, almost nobody could read!

And anytime you can do something most people can't, *that's* your superpower. For example, I can brush my teeth with either hand. Not bad, huh? And I bet you have unusual skills too.



So are you feeling better about yourself? Good! Now let's see about getting you *another* superpower. After all, it'll make fighting crime a lot easier. And having a superpower doesn't hurt—unless you have the power to *feel pain* better than anyone else. Then having a superpower *would* hurt. A lot!

POP QUIZ

THE SUPERPOWER KING!

This character has more superpowers than any other superhero. He is:

1. Superman
2. J'onn J'onzz, the Martian Manhunter
3. Spider-Man

Answer: *J'onn J'onzz* can read minds, become invisible, shape-shift, and create illusions. He also has X-ray vision, telekinesis, superstrength, superhearing, invulnerability, and he can fly. And I'm not even going to mention his vortex breath. Finally, J'onzz has a pet dog named Jupiter. (Maybe someday this will make sense to me.)

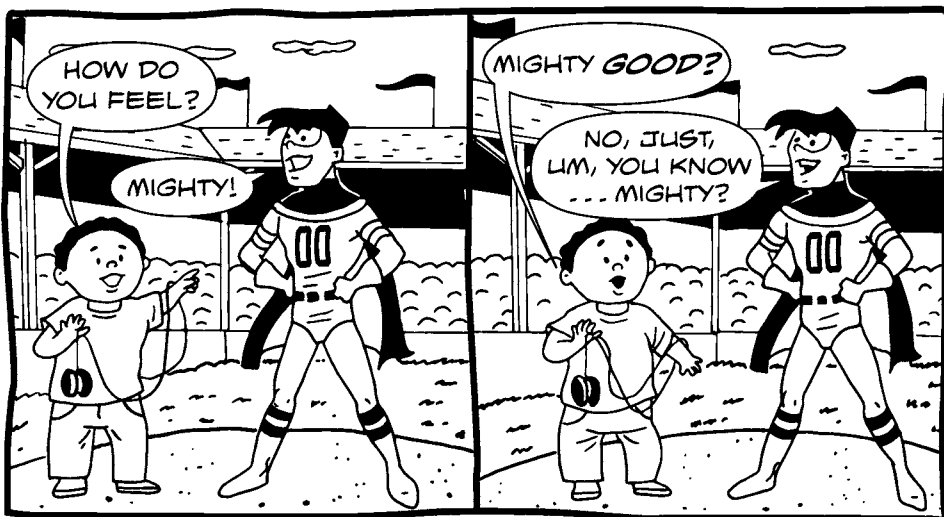
NOT VERY AMAZING FACT! You may be wondering how to pronounce a crazy Martian name like J'onn J'onzz. Well, it sounds like this: *John Jones*. (Yeah. Real crazy.)

Now keep in mind that even “good” superpowers can have drawbacks. Like Spider-Man once said: “My powers! What a joke! I sometimes think they’ve proven to be nothing but a curse!”

What was Spider-Man talking about? To find out, take a look at the pros and cons of—

THE 15 MOST POPULAR SUPERPOWERS!

1. SUPERSTRENGTH



Advantage: A tight lid on the pickle jar will never stop you again!

Disadvantages: People will constantly ask you to help them move furniture. (And just try playing Jenga without losing.)



As a child, **BART KING** discovered he could punch people into outer space. (Sadly, he lost a lot of friends that way.) Today, Bart is one of the world’s leading superhero experts. He’s also written these other smart and funny books:

THE BIG BOOK OF BOY STUFF

“Genuinely funny.”
—*Publishers Weekly*
“Highly creative, informative, and fun.”
—*School Library Journal*

THE BIG BOOK OF GIRL STUFF

“Highly recommended.”
—*Children’s Literature*

THE BIG BOOK OF GROSS STUFF

“Laugh-out-loud funny.”
—*School Library Journal*
“Rating: A” —*PBS*

THE BIG BOOK OF SPY STUFF

“Contains a lot of interesting facts and snappy stories mixed in with the silliness.”
—*Oregonian*

THE POCKET GUIDE TO MISCHIEF

“A page-turner, plain and simple . . . a great way to get kids reading.”
—*Education.com*

BART’S KING-SIZED BOOK OF FUN

CUTE! A GUIDE TO ALL THINGS ADORABLE

THE POCKET GUIDE TO BOY STUFF

THE POCKET GUIDE TO BRILLIANCE

THE POCKET GUIDE TO GAMES

THE POCKET GUIDE TO GIRL STUFF

THE POCKET GUIDE TO MAGIC

You can find out everything there is to know about Bart by visiting www.bartking.net.