

Song Bird Superhero by Karen Tyrrell

Teacher Notes: Song Bird Superhero by Karen Tyrrell

A read-aloud, junior novel suitable for children 7+, teachers, librarians, parents, school counsellors, reluctant readers and superhero fans.

Age Level: 7 – 10+ years Word Count: 21K

Reviewed and supported by **Kirkus Reviews** ‘Imaginative tale that flies high.’

Buzz Words, teachers & school counsellors, children’s authors, reviewers and parents.

Aligned with Kids Matter & primary **STEM** Science curriculum

Discussion Ideas

Knowledge and Literal Understanding

- Superhero stories can inspire us to dream and believe in ourselves.
- Superhero powers can be explained by STEM science, science fiction & engineering.
- We can empower ourselves to live strong with humour, resilience, perseverance, brain power and working as a team.
- We can use our imaginations to create superhero stories.
- Superhero stories have a superhero and a villain. Good vs evil.

Inferential and Critical Thinking

- Who is a REAL superhero in our community? What does he/ she do?
- Why did Rosella Ava Bird want to fly?
- What obstacles and challenges did Rosie experience in fulfilling her dream?
- What super powers did Rosie develop?
- How did Rosie’s mentors inspire her?
- How can Song Bird’s super powers be explained by STEM science, engineering, technology and science fiction?

Literacy Skills

Word Building

- *Word Endings* – adding ‘ed’- *erupted, locked, returned, destroyed, refused, wicked, moved, unloaded, bragged, laughed, wanted, shivered, invented, worked, climbed.*
- *Ending rule* – change y to i – *bullied, terrified, tried, scurried, hurried, emptied, died, carried, worried.*
- *Adding ING:* *going, learning, flying, being, amazing, glaring, laughing, starting, getting, pumping.*
- *Vocabulary* **Superhero:** *fly, wings, zoom, boots, save, rescue, empower, powers, villain, help, belt, logo, lifted, good, evil,*
- *Emotion Words:* *worry, laugh, terrify grim, shiver, smile, cry, embarrass, bawl, terror*
- *High Frequency Words* – *song, bird, flew, sang, super, kids, school, bully, friend, teacher, family, brother, sister, Mum, Dad,*
- *Onomatopoeia* – (see Drama) *KABOOM, YUK, SPLAT, CRASH, WAHOO, BANG, KAPOW, WOW, Zoom, buzzed, phew, hummed, cackle, hiss, yowl, snarl, cheep, wham, screech, clunk, fizzle*

Grammar

- *Naming Words* – nouns – find the naming words in the story.
- *Action Words* – verbs – (see also Word Endings and Drama)

Comprehension

- Song Bird Quiz Questions - Activity sheet
- Superhero Quiz Questions- Activity sheet

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Literature

- Read fiction and non-fiction texts about superheroes including comics and graphic novels.

Writing

- Have you ever had a flying dream? When you closed your eyes and dream, can you really fly? Where did you go? What adventures did you have? Write a story from your imagination.
- Have you ever wished you had SUPER Powers? What would YOU do?
- Acrostic Poem – SUPER – SONG - BIRD
- Creative Writing Activity Sheets -- Create a SUPER hero - Create a SUPER villain

Cross Curricular

STEM Science

The Australian Government is investing money in schools to increase student engagement in **STEM** subjects.

**Science
Technology
Engineering
Mathematics**

SPACE ... Hands on STEM Science activities.

- Build a simple rocket. How did it launch?
- Build a simple paper aeroplane. How does it stay off the ground? How can you make it go faster? ... Higher?...Go further?

<https://au.pinterest.com/vivifystem/space-stem-activities/>

SUPER POWERS ... Hands on STEM Science activities.

- How can SUPER powers be explained by STEM science?
- How does Song Bird fly? How does she lift up off the ground? How does she move?
- How is singing produced by your vocal chords? How is singing explained by science?
- How do you sing louder? higher? Hold a note for longer?
- How could singing shatter windows?
- How did Leonardo da Vinci build his flying machines? How do they work?

Links: STEM Science & Superpowers

10 Inventions that gave us Superpowers:

<http://scienceonthego.griffith.edu.au/superpowers/>

Science of Super Powers

<http://www.stemfinity.com/The-Science-Of-Super-Powers-Camp>

Science of Superpowers VIDEO <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMhew8yRjvA>

Superpowers on Wiki

http://powerlisting.wikia.com/wiki/Superpower_Wiki

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History - Song Bird's Mentors

- Who is Leonardo Da Vinci and what is he famous for? Where does he come from? What did he invent? What else did he do?
- Who is Amelia Earhart and what is she famous for? Where does she come from? What did she do? How did she do it?
- Who is Super Girl? When did she first appear in comics and on TV?
- Who were the first Superheroes? What is the history of DC and Marvel comics?

Social Skills

- Discuss how to make and keep a friend?
- How can you work with a team ... to succeed?
- How do families look after each other?

Maths

- SUPER maths race/ challenges with speed OR amount of sums completed
- How many sums can you complete in 10 minutes?
- Timer: how long does it take you to do 10 20 50 100 sumsand get them right?
- Geometry: How do you draw Superhero symbols and logos? ie star,

Mathematical Superpowers ...

Times tables, problem solving, calculations, maths problems, resonating, fluency.

<http://www.oakham-primary.rutland.sch.uk/mathematics/>

Craft

- Create ***Song Bird Superhero*** posters (*SEE Literature*) Use *textas, crayons, paint, pencil, collage, art paper, cardboard,*
- Create Superhero stick puppets
- Create Superhero masks
- Create superhero logos
- Create Superhero onomatopoeia words and slogans

Art

- Illustrate a scene from the text or from the story as outlined in *Writing*.
- ***Song Bird Superhero*** colour-in sheets using bright colours. Activity sheets

Drama

Body language:

- Show how to stand and walk likes a superhero. Hero pose: head up, smile, shoulders back, hands on hips.
- Walking a straight line showing self-confidence: walking tall, shoulders back, chin up.
- Nerd pose: shoulder & body slumped, dragging feet, head down, and sad face.
- Villain slink around, looking devious & evil, hiding, scaring, stalking

Present a ***Song Bird Superhero*** PLAY or pantomime.

Show range of GOOD emotions using facial expressions and hand gestures ...

Good, determined helpful, scared, sad, confident, assertive, friendly, guilty, proud, nervous, caring, sorry, kind

EVIL emotions: unfriendly, mean, aggressive, frightening, scary, bully, black, slink, hide.