

# Harley — the — SUPERHERO



**SOKRATES**  
SZKOŁA JĘZYKÓW OBCYCH

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# ILLUSTRATED STORYBOOK COMPETITION FOR YOUNG WRITERS

Z prawdziwą przyjemnością oddajemy w ręce czytelników kolejną konkursową książeczkę, zawierającą nagrodzone opowiadania i komiksy stworzone w ramach dziewiątej edycji konkursu literacko-plastycznego w języku angielskim "Illustrated Storybook Competition for Young Writers", nad którym honorowy patronat objął Burmistrz Dzielnicy Ursynów oraz wydawnictwo National Geographic Learning.

Harley, tytułowy bohater konkursowej serii, występuje tym razem w roli superbohatera, a autorzy nagrodzonych prac pokazują, jak dzięki odwadze, sile i determinacji można zmieniać świat na lepsze. Stworzone przez nich historie pełne są niezwykłych przygód, inspirujących postaci oraz wartości, które uczą nas, jak ważne są pomoc innym, odpowiedzialność i wytrwałość – a także przekonują, że aby zostać superbohaterem, nie trzeba wcale magicznych supermocy!

Cieszymy się, że wśród młodych mieszkańców Ursynowa znajdujemy wciąż wielu mistrzów pióra i utalentowanych rysowników, którzy podjęli konkursowe wyzwanie. Dzięki ich kreatywności i umiejętnościom powstały prace, które z pewnością wzbudzą uznanie czytelników.

Oprócz konkursowych prac, stworzonych przez uczestniczące w konkursie dzieci, w książeczce zamieściliśmy także tekst "Ten Superhero Rules", który powstał z inspiracji utalentowanej anglistki, Eli Borowiec, którą mamy zaszczyt mieć w naszym zespole nauczycielskim. Czytelnicy znajdą tu również test, który pomoże im przekonać się, jak wiele mają w sobie cech superbohaterów, oraz krzyżówkę, dzięki której sprawdzą znajomość słówek zawartych we wspomnianych materiałach. Jako szkoła językowa z poczuciem misji chcemy inspirować naszych uczniów i sympatyków oraz czytelników książeczki do nauki języka oraz zmian na lepsze, bo przecież każdy z nas ma potencjał, by zostać superbohaterem!

Dziękujemy wszystkim dzieciom, które wzięły udział w konkursie i stworzyły wiele fantastycznych prac. Niestety, nie wszystkie mogliśmy opublikować. Mamy jednak nadzieję, że pierwsze sukcesy plastyczne i literackie zachęcą młodych adeptów pióra wyróżnionych w konkursie do podejmowania kolejnych wyzwań i rozwijania drzemiących w nich talentów!

Serdeczne podziękowania kierujemy również do nauczycieli języka angielskiego z uczestniczących w projekcie szkół. Dziękujemy za poświęcony czas, otwartość na nasze pomysły i zachęcanie dzieci do udziału w konkursie. Szczególne podziękowania składamy Pani Dorocie Petrallis oraz Pani Iwonie Marchewce, dzięki których zaangażowaniu powstała niniejsza publikacja.

Życzymy przyjemnej lektury i mamy nadzieję, że komiksy i opowieści zebrane w książeczce "Harley the Superhero" będą dla czytelników inspiracją oraz pomogą im rozwijać znajomość języka angielskiego.

*Magdalena Rowska*

Dyrektor T.E. Sokrates



# Are You a Superhero?

We all like superheroes. We love their superpowers and fantastic adventures! Do you know that you can also be a superhero? All you have to do is to follow the Ten Superhero Rules! If you do, you're on your way to becoming a superhero in real life!

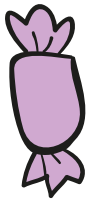
## Eat right

Superheroes eat healthy to be quick and strong, and full of energy! Aim for five servings of fruits and veggies each day. Skip the junk food and candy. Candy tastes good, but you can have some once in a while, not every day!



## Do not skip breakfast

A good breakfast is the superheroes' secret weapon! It gives you energy for the whole day and helps your brain work better. Superheroes never skip breakfast before going to school.



## Less sugar, please

Superheroes aren't fans of sugar. It's not good for your health or teeth. So, cut down on sugary drinks and sweets. But cheer up! You can still have chocolate, especially dark chocolate, which is actually good for you.

## Drink lots of water

If you want to be strong and healthy you need to stay hydrated. And water is the best. Superheroes drink at least 8 glasses of water a day. So, be like the superheroes and drink lots of water! You can make drinking water more fun by adding some mint or lemon. And remember to use a reusable water bottle.



## Get enough sleep

Superheroes need lots of sleep to stay powerful. They get at least eight hours of sleep every night to rest and recharge. Be active during the day and always try to go to bed at the same time. Air your bedroom and turn off all the screens an hour before bed. The blue light that they emit may cause sleep problems. That's why watching TV in the bedroom or scrolling the internet in bed is not a good idea. It is actually much better to read a book!



## Stay active

A superhero must be in good shape. Try to move and be active for at least one hour every day. Do not be a couch potato! Instead of going to school in a car, why not ride a bike, skateboard, or walk? Remember to bring your PE kit and enjoy a sport just for fun a few hours a week. Sports are great for learning new skills and feeling good. They also help you to stay organized and achieve your goals.



## Protect our planet

Superheroes care a lot about our Earth. They follow the 3Rs: recycle, reduce, and reuse. They donate things they do not need and save water and energy. They also choose walking, cycling, or public transport to get to school to help the planet even more! Your daily choices can make a real difference and help the planet!

## Respect others and spend time with your friends

Superheroes are super kind. They respect other people, no matter who they are. Do you know that being kind is a real superpower? Use the magic words like "Please," "Thank you," "You're welcome", „Sorry" and „Excuse me". They can make a real difference! Also, remember that saving the day with your friends is more fun!

## Be brave enough to ask for help when you need it

Superheroes are brave and they are not afraid to ask for help when they need it. If something is hard or you are feeling stuck, it is okay to ask a friend or an adult to help you out. It shows you are strong and smart! Whether it is homework, advice on a problem, or just needing someone to talk to, asking for help is a superhero move!



## Use your skills and talents for good

Superheroes can do incredible things, and they always use their powers to help other people and do good. Whether it is helping a friend, volunteering in your community, or simply being kind, every good action makes a difference. Remember, being a superhero is not just about having superpowers; it is about using your skills and talents to make the world a better place for everyone.

By following these rules, you're on your way to becoming a superhero in real life!  
Now, take the TEST and find out if YOU ARE A SUPERHERO!

**1. How many pieces of fruits and vegetables do you eat every day?**

- a. 5 or more
- b. Between 3 and 4
- c. Two or less

**2. What do you usually find in your school box?**

- a. A sandwich, a banana or a carrot
- b. A chocolate bar, a banana and a packet of crisps
- c. A sandwich and a chocolate bar

**3. How many glasses of water do you drink every day?**

- a. 6 – 8
- b. 3 – 4
- c. 2 or less

**4. What did you have for breakfast today?**

- a. A sandwich, some cereals with milk or yoghurt
- b. Sausages and eggs
- c. I did not have any breakfast today

**5. Do you eat a lot of sugar every day?**

- a. No, I try to eat less sugar – I only eat sweets about once a week
- b. I eat sweets a few times a week
- c. Yes, I love sweet drinks and candy and I eat them every day

**6. How many hours do you sleep each night?**

- a. 8 hours or more - I have a bedtime routine
- b. About 6-7 hours - it changes
- c. Less than 6 hours - I often go to bed late.

**7. How active are you every day?**

- a. I'm active for at least an hour every day
- b. I'm active a few times a week
- c. I don't move much, I like staying indoors

**8. How do you go to school or get around?**

- a. I walk, ride a bike, or take a bus
- b. I mostly go by car, but sometimes I walk or ride a bike
- c. I always get a ride to school

**9. How do you treat others?**

- a. I'm always trying to be polite, using words like "please" and "thank you"
- b. I try to be polite, but sometimes I forget
- c. I'm nice to my friends, but I don't always remember to be polite

**10. What do you do with things you don't need anymore?**

- a. I give them away or find another use for them
- b. Sometimes I throw them away, sometimes I give them away
- c. I usually throw them away

**11. What are the three Rs of recycling?**

- a. Reduce, reuse, recycle
- b. Reuse, refuse, recycle
- c. Reduce, restore, recycle

**12. Do you ask for help when you have a problem?**

- a. Yes, I ask for help when I need it
- b. Sometimes
- c. Not often, I don't like asking for help

**13. How do you use your skills to help others?**

- a. I always look for ways to help people with what I'm good at
- b. I sometimes help others if I know how to do it
- c. I mostly focus on myself

**14. What do you do if you see someone being treated unfairly?**

- a. I try to help them or speak up
- b. I feel bad but don't always know what to do
- c. I usually don't get involved

**15. How do you feel when you do something good for others or the planet?**

- a. Really happy and proud of myself
- b. Good, but I know I could do it more often
- c. I don't really think about it much

**SCORING:**

**Most As:**

Congratulations, you're truly living like a superhero! Your actions and decisions make a big impact. Good job, indeed.

**A mix of As and Bs:** You have the heart of a superhero! With a little more effort, you can make an even bigger difference.

**Mostly Cs:** Every superhero's journey starts with a single step. Look for opportunities to make positive changes and help others. You can do it!



# My Superpowers

Every superhero needs some superpowers. Look at the list below, and in the two columns, tick the qualities that you have, as well as the ones you need to be a superhero! Can you also add your own ideas?



## WHAT I HAVE

- Kindness
- Imagination
- Creativity
- Intelligence
- Good looks
- Sense of humour
- I am a friendly person
- I can learn new things
- I can speak English
- I never give up
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT I NEED

- Mind control
- Superhuman strength
- Superhuman speed
- Invisibility
- Time travel
- Teleportation
- Immortality
- Elasticity
- Flying
- Super senses
- Ability to transform
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



## Down

1. You should turn them off before going to sleep
2. It is white and sweet and very unhealthy
3. A person who helps others and works without getting paid
4. Full of power
7. Clever and intelligent
12. A special skill or talent that a superhero has
14. Buses, trams and trains are all examples of public ...
15. A synonym for 'sweets'
17. Something you choose is your ...
18. A sour and juicy yellow fruit
20. The kind of chocolate that is actually good for your health

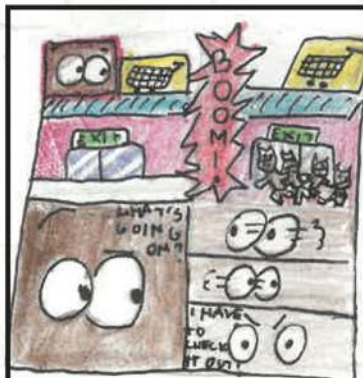
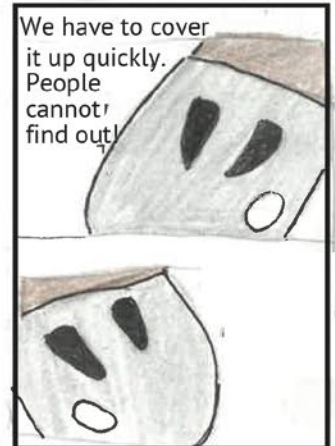
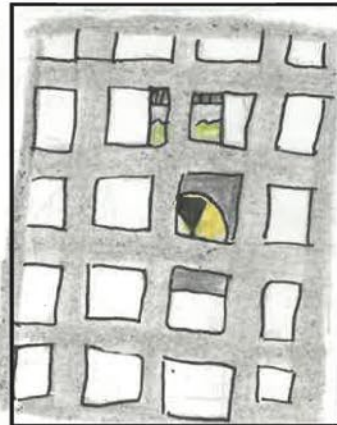
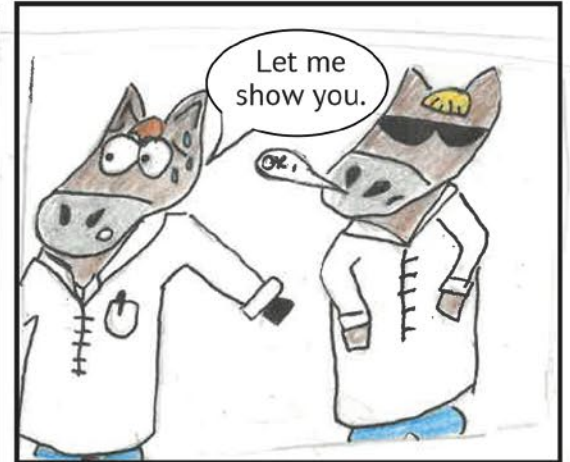
## Across

5. Not afraid
6. To reduce or to cut ... on something
8. The organ inside your head that controls your body's activities and enables you to think and to feel things
9. Something that you can use to protect yourself, to fight or to get what you want in a difficult situation
10. If you are strong and fit, you are in good ...
11. The meal you eat in the morning
13. It is made from milk and contains healthy bacteria
16. Things that can be used many times are ...
17. Riding a bike
19. Done or happening every day
21. A person who is very inactive and does not like to move is a couch ...
22. The recommended number of glasses of water you should drink every day
23. An adjective describing fast and unhealthy food

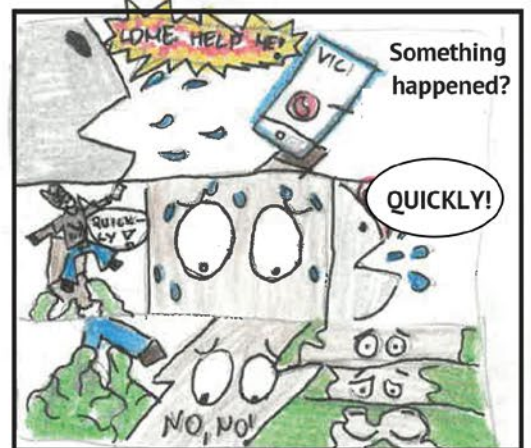
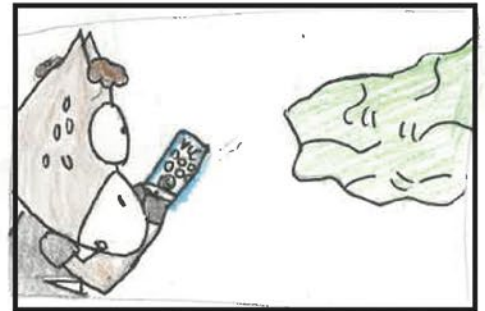
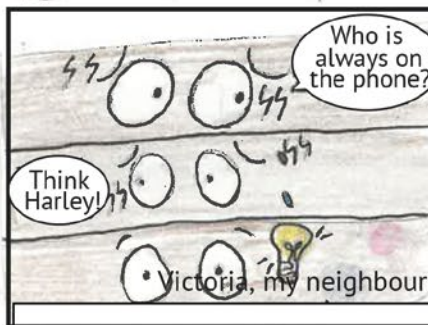


# Harley and the Virus

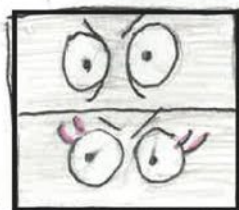
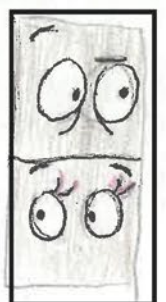
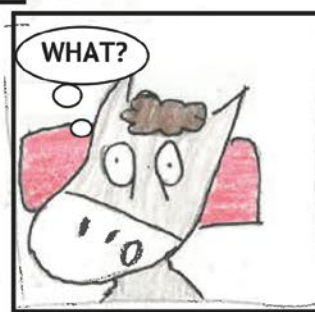
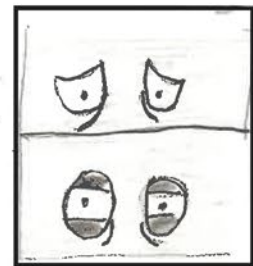
Jagoda Kozłowska



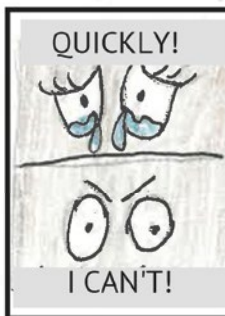
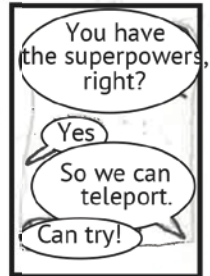
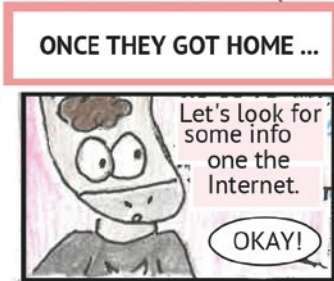
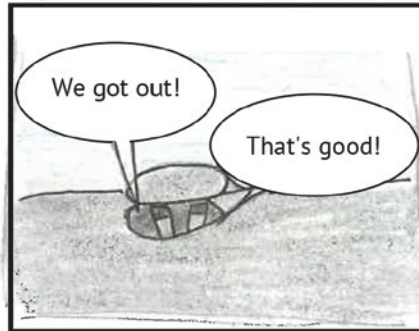
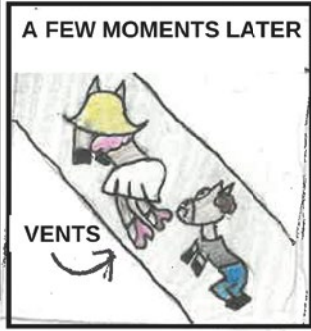
















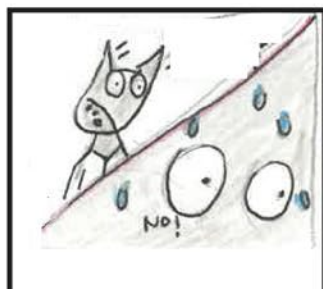
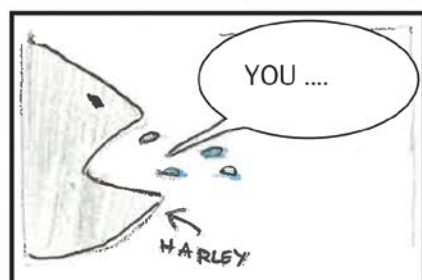
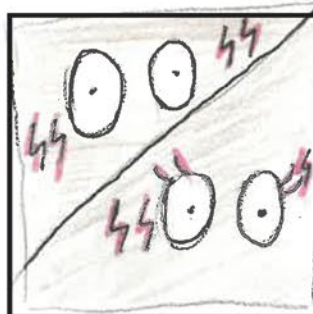
**A FEW HOURS LATER...**



**BUILDING**

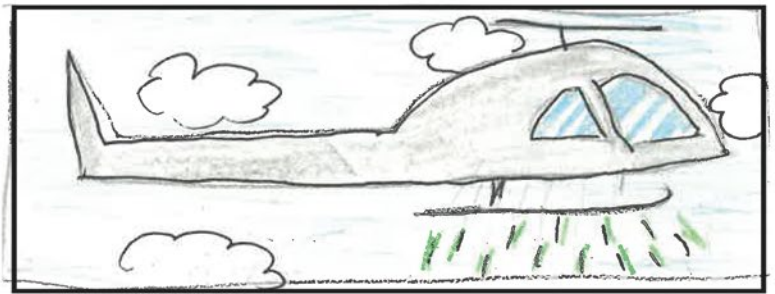
**REPAIRING**

**CREATING**

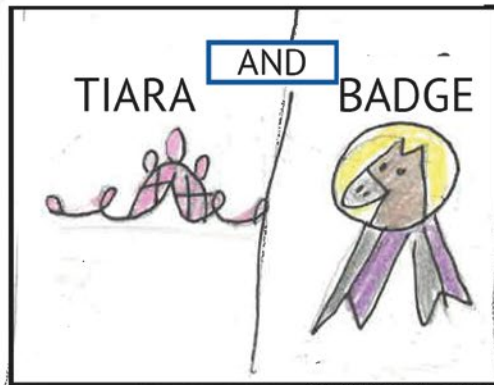
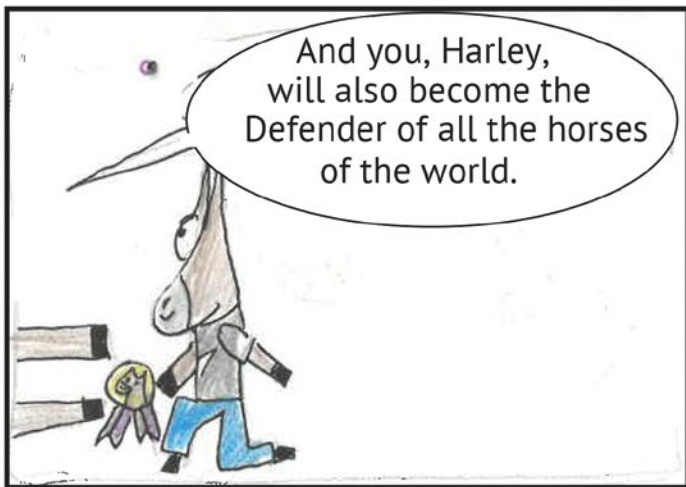
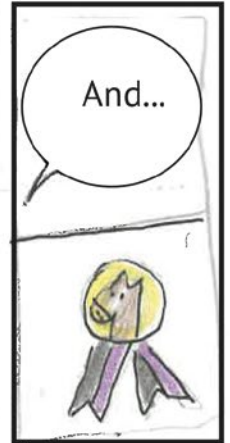


Harley uses his superpowers to defeat the bad scientist!





# A FEW DAYS LATER



# Super Harley

Natasza Łukomska

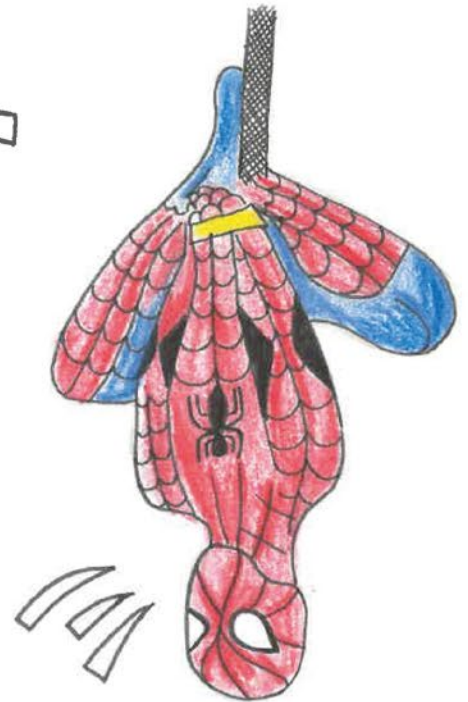
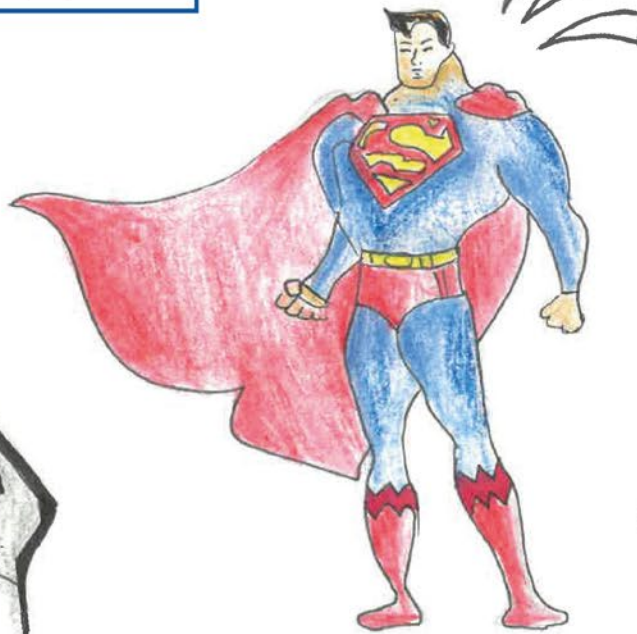
One day, Harley was sitting in a café, drinking hot chocolate. He read on his cell phone that the Marvels were coming to his town.



Harley was very excited and decided to go to the Town Hall to meet them.



He ran past a crowd of people.



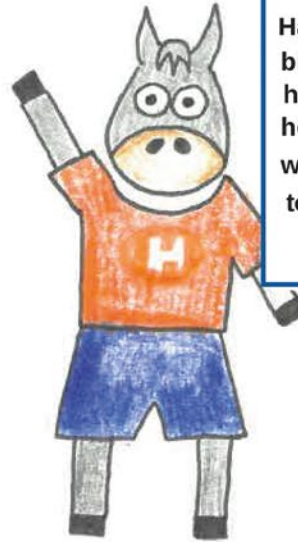
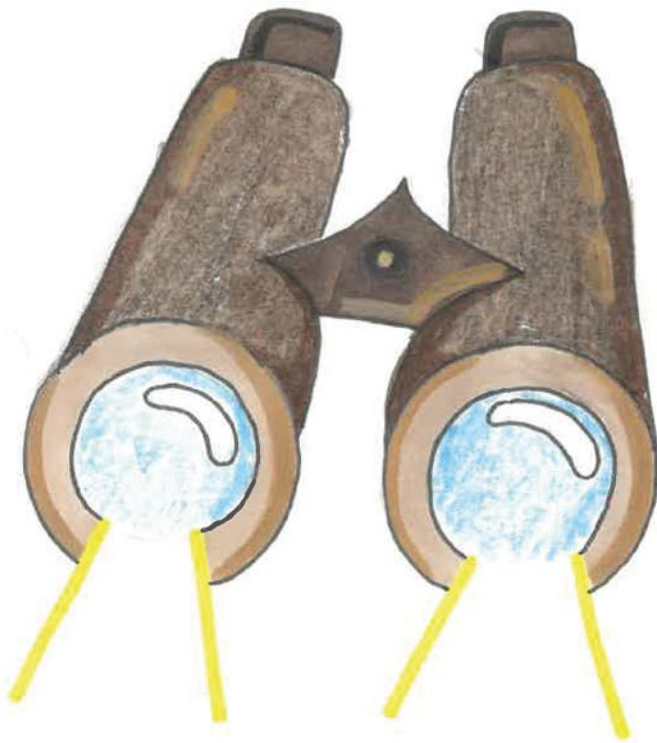
Wow

I have to get closer to see them better... or I could use my binoculars!

Wow, I can't believe the Marvels are here. Now I can see my heroes live! Now we are safe and secure!

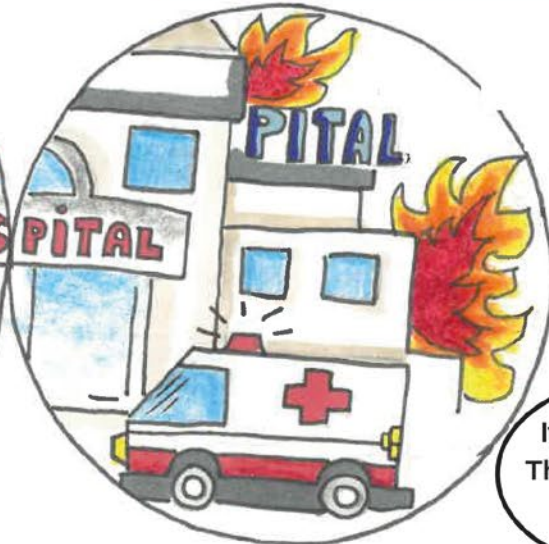
Wow





Harley looked through the binoculars. He didn't see his heroes, but he noticed the hospital was on fire, with animals desperately trying to escape the flames.

Calm down! Calm down!  
The Marvels are in town!  
They will help us in a moment.  
I'll run to get them - said Harley.



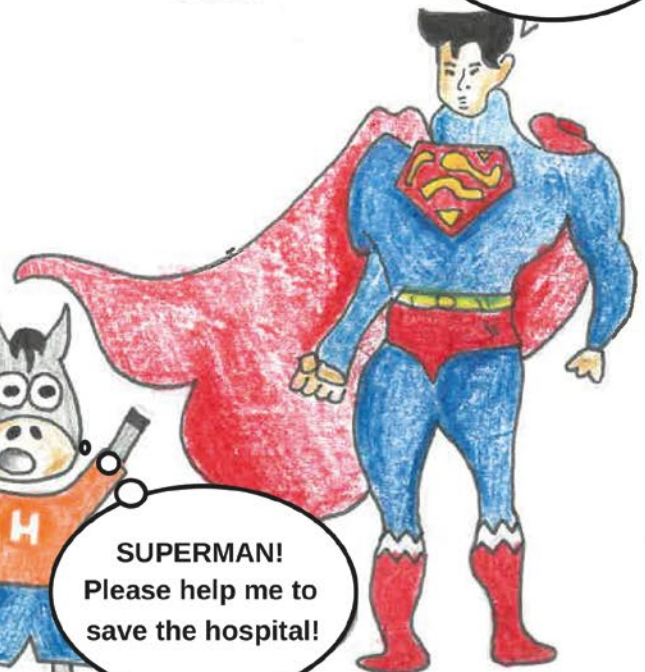
It's not my job.  
The world is not in danger.



HELP!!!!  
HELP!!! S.O.S.  
SUPERMAN, BATMAN,  
SPIDERMAN!!!



SUPERMAN!  
Please help me to  
save the hospital!





# TRANSFORMATION!!!

Oh no! Someone has to help these poor animals! It's time to transform into Super Harley!

Let's do it!

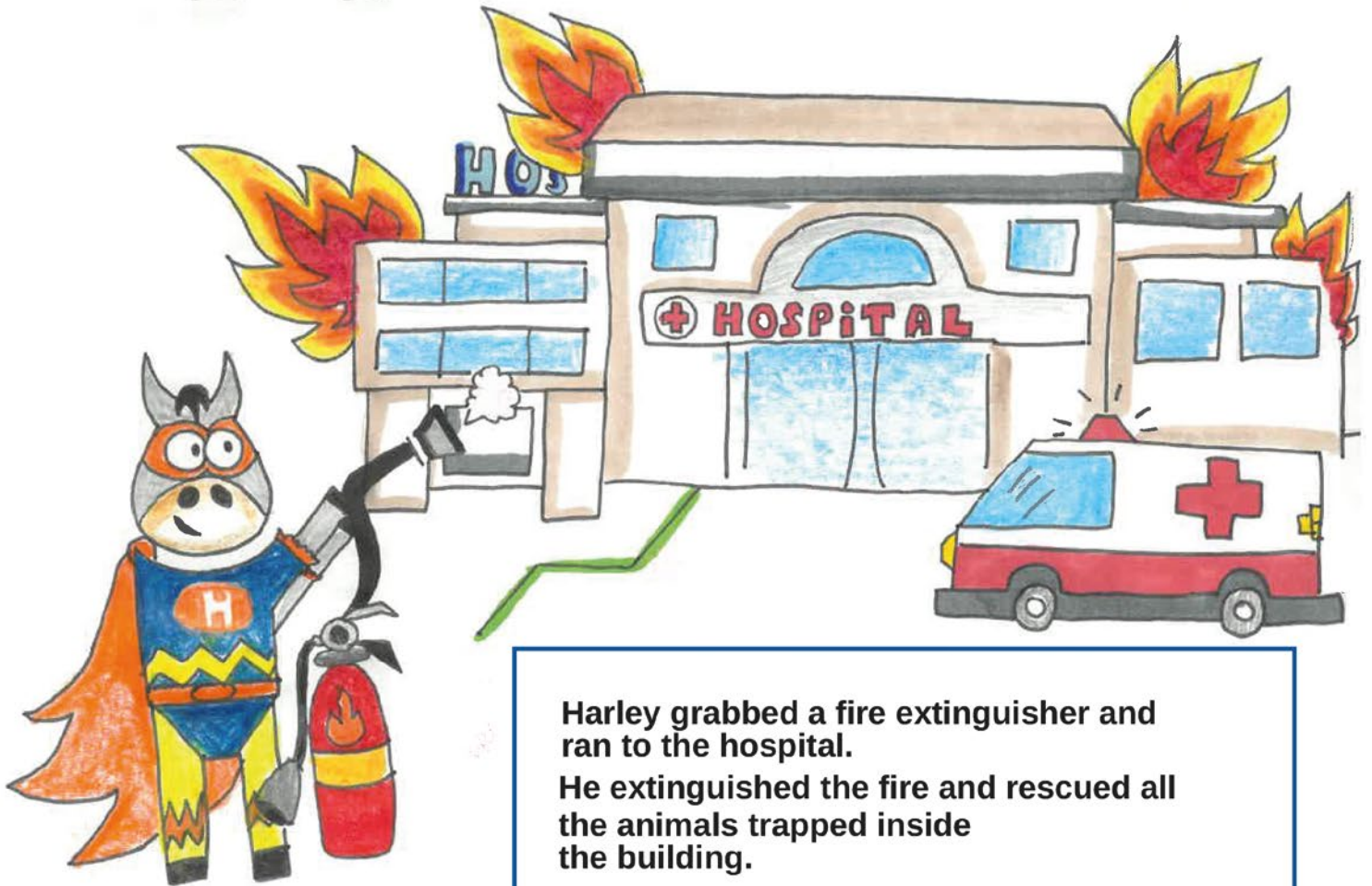


POOF

POOF



Now I can save the hospital!



Harley grabbed a fire extinguisher and ran to the hospital. He extinguished the fire and rescued all the animals trapped inside the building.

The next day, all the animals thanked Harley for saving them and congratulated him on being a real Superhero!

# THE END

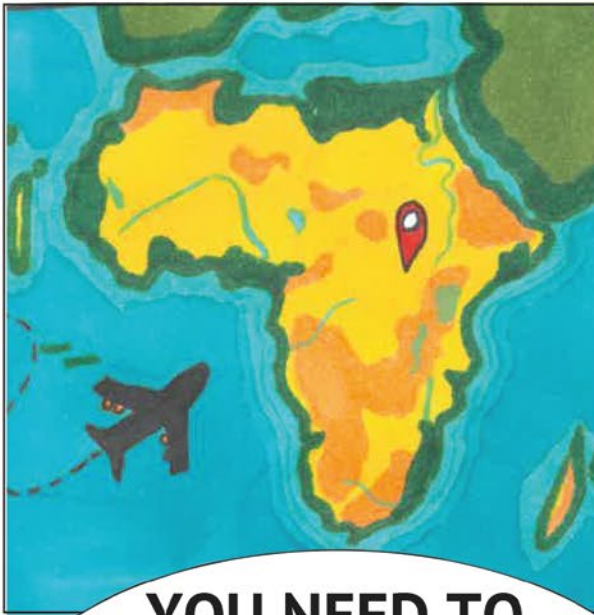


# Find Your Music

Marcelina Koczwara

ONE YEAR AGO,  
HARLEY WENT TO AFRICA  
ON VACATION.

THERE, HE LEARNED  
HOW TO FIGHT.



YOU NEED TO  
LISTEN TO MUSIC.  
CAPOEIRA IS A DANCE  
AND A FIGHT.



He came  
back home.

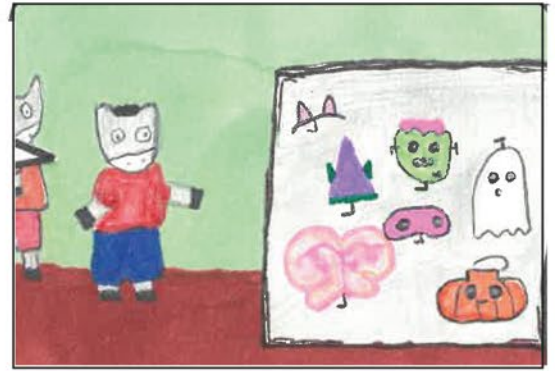
He really liked  
Capoeira.

He trained  
every day.

A COUPLE OF MONTHS LATER  
WHEN HE WAS DOING THE SHOPPING WITH  
HIS FRIEND KARLEY ...

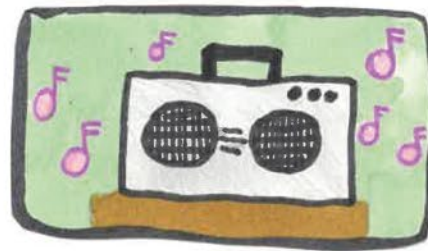


LOOK!  
HALLOWEEN  
COSTUMES!



HOW DO I LOOK?

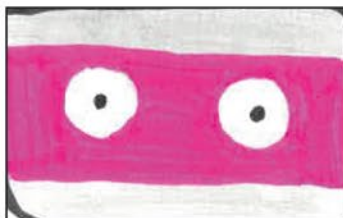
I THINK IT'S A  
COSTUME FOR GIRLS



THE  
MUSIC  
STARTED  
PLAYING



GIVE ME  
ALL YOUR  
MONEY!!!

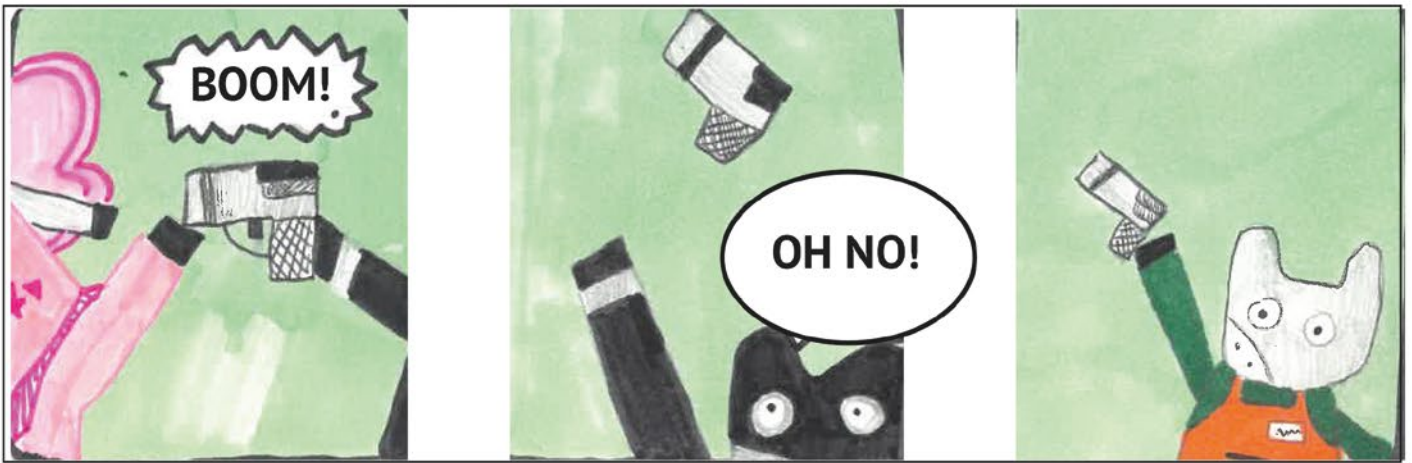


HE  
SPRUNG  
TO  
ACTION

GIVE IT  
BACK!







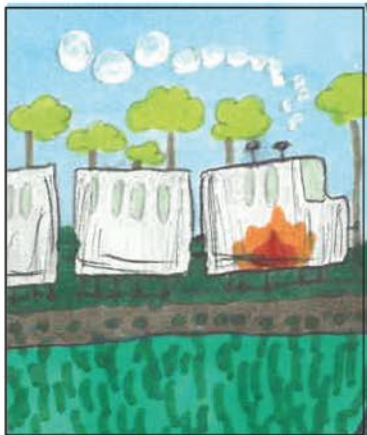
**LATER ...**

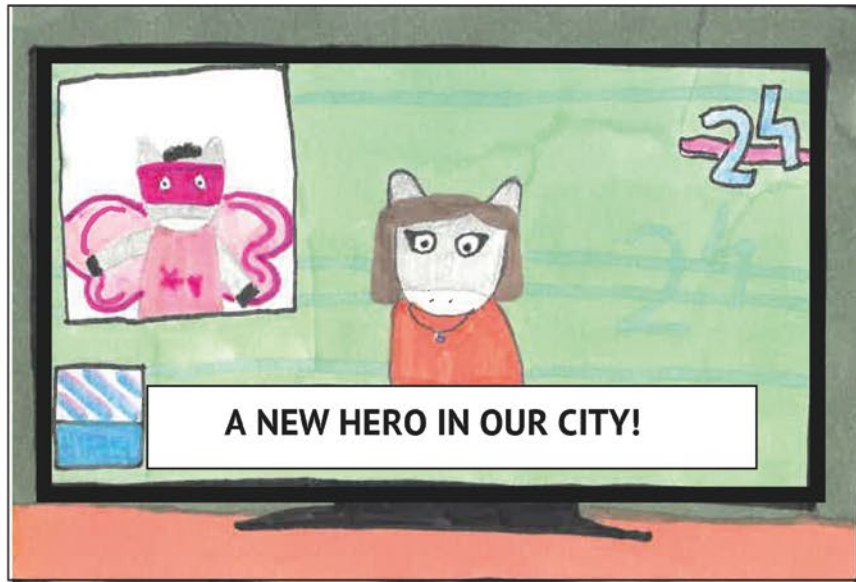
I'M A FAIRYMAN



YOU DID A GREAT JOB. BUT... WHO ARE YOU?

**THEN, THERE WERE A FEW SIMILAR SITUATIONS...**





**HOW COOL!  
THIS IS ABOUT  
ME!**

HE LOOKED  
THROUGH  
THE PEEPHOLE  
AND SAW  
A MYSTERIOUS  
GUY ...



**WHO ARE YOU?  
WAIT A MINUTE ...  
YOU TAUGHT ME  
CAPOEIRA IN AFRICA  
LAST YEAR.  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING HERE?**

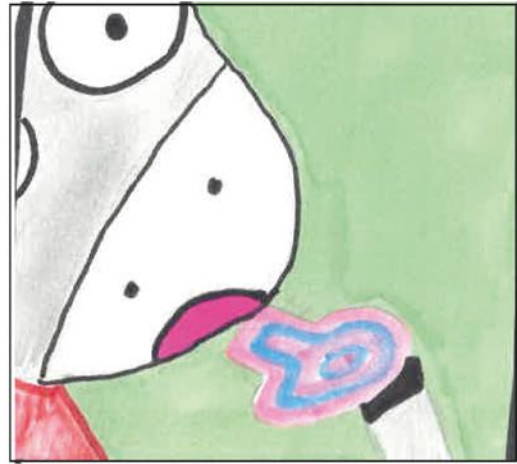




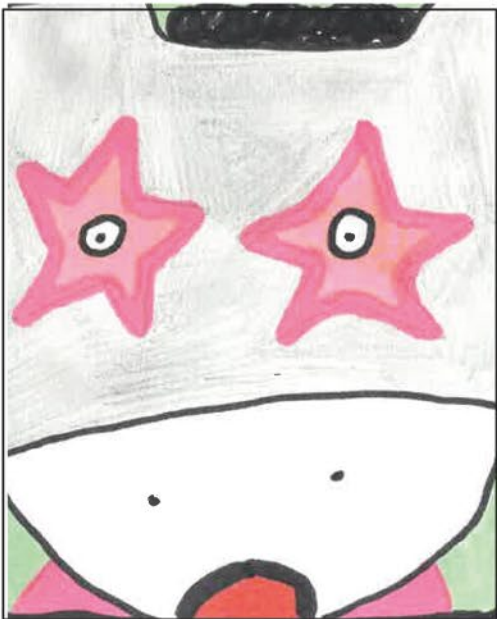


**THIS IS A BOTTLE OF  
SUPERPOWER POTION.  
THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU,  
I WASN'T SURE, BUT NOW  
I KNOW THE WORLD  
NEEDS A SUPERHERO LIKE YOU!**

**POOF**



**IT SMELLS  
GOOD!**



**WOW! I CAN FLY!  
THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

**BTW, WHY ARE MY COSTUMES ALWAYS PINK?**



# Harley Catches the Thief

Alicja Rosiak

In the park ...

Help!!!



Have you heard this?

I'll go and see what's happened

Yes. The sound is probably coming from there.



Was it you who called for help?

Yes.



What's happened?

A thief has stolen my purse ...



What did he look like?

He had a blue cap.





Do you remember anything else?

Unfortunately not ...



What did the bag look like?

It was pink with yellow dots.



Where has the thief run?

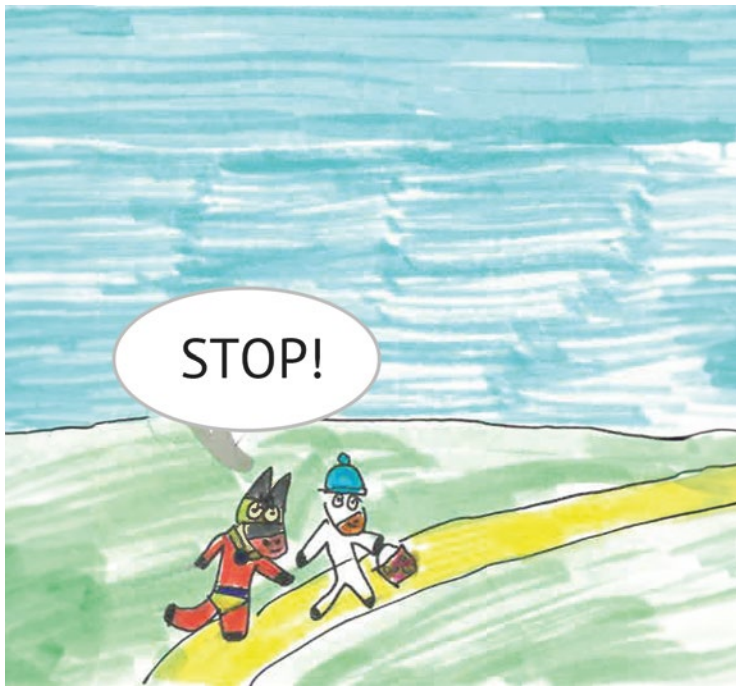
He ran towards the fountain.



Calm down, I'll catch him!









# Harley's Superpower

Dominika Gimpel

Harley walked down the school hallway, his tail swishing lazily. He was a beautiful horse with a dark brown mane and gentle blue eyes. Always smiling, he radiated peace and kindness. Unlike others, Harley had a special gift—he could see a person's future 10 years ahead.



That day, his attention was drawn to Kuba, a tall brunette with a mean look. Kuba bullied weaker kids, pushing them around and calling them names. Harley knew that if Kuba didn't change his ways, his future would be bleak. In a flash, he saw a vision: Kuba in prison, surrounded by dangerous inmates who treated him the way he treated others in school.

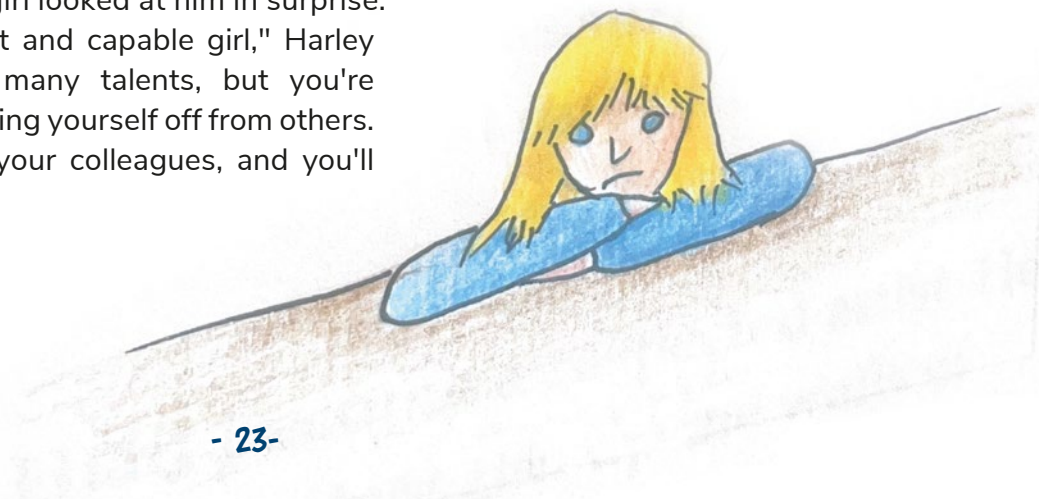
Harley walked up to Kuba and gently touched him with his nose. The boy froze, and his eyes softened. Harley told him what his future would look like if he didn't change. Kuba felt fear and regret.

"Change your ways, Kuba," Harley said in a gentle voice. "The path you're on is not leading you anywhere good."

Kuba didn't say anything, but there was determination in his eyes. He knew Harley was right. From that day on, he started to change. He stopped bullying other kids and channeled his energy into martial arts training.

The next person Harley decided to help was Gosia, a quiet girl with blonde hair and bright blue eyes. Gosia was a loner, preferring solitude to the company of others. She spent all her days reading books. Harley knew that in the future, Gosia would be successful in her career, but she would be lonely and unhappy.

In Harley's vision, Gosia worked as a clerk in an office. She was tired and frustrated with her unsatisfying job. She had no friends and felt lost. Harley walked up to Gosia and gently patted her on the shoulder. The girl looked at him in surprise. "Gosia, you're a smart and capable girl," Harley said. "You have so many talents, but you're wasting them by shutting yourself off from others. Open yourself up to your colleagues, and you'll find happiness."



Gosia took Harley's words to heart. She started participating in school clubs and getting to know new people. Over time, she made many friends and felt happy.

Then, Harley decided to help Marika, a kind and quiet girl with red hair. Marika loved to paint, but she didn't believe in herself. Harley knew that Marika had the potential to become a great artist. Harley walked up to Marika and gently touched her paintbrush. The girl looked at him with a smile.

Marika also took Harley's words to heart. She started entering art competitions and showing her paintings at exhibitions. Over time, she became a famous and respected young artist.

Ten years later, Harley found Kuba, Gosia, and Marika. He was curious to see how their lives had turned out.

Kuba had become a strong and confident man. He taught others martial arts, passing on his energy and discipline to them. There was joy and fulfillment in Kuba's eyes. Gosia had grown into a confident and joyful woman. She was surrounded by friends, and her work at the art school brought her great satisfaction. There was warmth and happiness in Gosia's eyes. Marika had become a respected artist. Her paintings could be seen in art galleries around the world, and she took great joy in creating art. There was also passion and fulfillment in Marika's eyes.

Harley smiled with pride. He knew that his superpower had helped these three kids change their lives and find happiness. He was a hero to them!

Harley continued to help others. He used his gift to show people their future and motivate them to change. He knew that everyone could live a happy life if only they had the courage to pursue their dreams.

The story of Harley began to spread. People came to him for advice and guidance, and he never refused anyone. He was always ready to help those in need. And so, Harley became a symbol of hope and change – a true superhero who showed people that everyone has the chance for a better tomorrow as long as they believe in themselves and make the right choices.





# Harley and the Missing Animals

Laura Łukasik

Hi! I'm Harley, and I just transferred schools. Secretly, I'm a superhero, but don't tell anyone. Here's my story.

"Harley! Wake up, or you're going to be late on your first day of school!" my mom said.

"Please, just 5 more minutes!"

"Okay, but no more than that."

I got up and did my morning routine. While I was eating breakfast, my mom suddenly spoke: "Remember, you can't tell anyone about your secret. It's very important. If someone finds out, we will have to leave the country again, and we don't want that."

"I know, Mom..."

"Just reminding you. Have a good first day at school!"

"Thanks."

I was very nervous. I hoped I'd make a lot of friends, I thought to myself.

"Thanks. So we'll be in the same class. Cool! Do you have any friends here?" I asked.

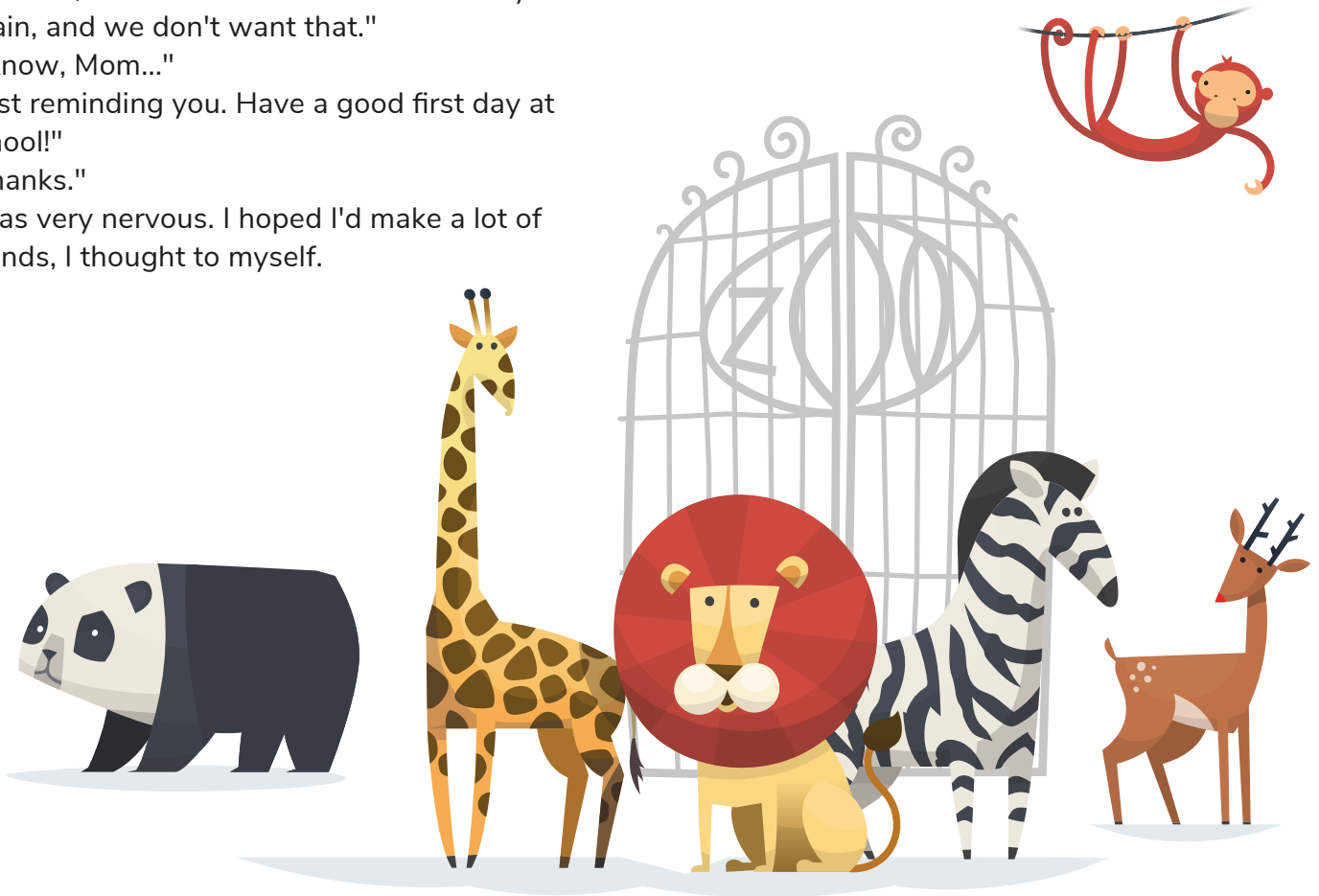
"No... Do you want to be my friend?"

"Of course."

"Oh, I forgot to introduce myself. I'm Chris."

We walked to class together and became best friends. I wanted to tell him my secret, but it was too dangerous for now.

After about 25 minutes of the lesson, Chris walked to the teacher and whispered something, then ran to me and said he didn't feel well. After that, he left the classroom.



I finally arrived at school. It was very big, and I already saw groups of friends. I was trying to find my class. I was lost, so I asked a nice-looking guy.

"Hey! I'm Harley. Do you know where classroom 206 is?"

"Oh, hey. Yeah, I know, and I was actually about to go there."

Suddenly, my mom called: "Harley! Come home quick! There's a villain in the city! He's at the zoo!"

"Okay, I'll be there as fast as I can."

"Harley, what's wrong?" Chris said nervously.

"I-I need to go."

I ran home to change my clothes and left immediately. On my way, I saw a hippo

running on the street. Three minutes later, I was at the zoo. The police and firefighters were already there. I immediately spotted the villain. It was Wolfchan and his wolf gang! Many animals were already free; I had to work quickly. There wasn't much time left. The police were trying everything, but it was useless. After a long fight, I caught all the animals. Unfortunately, Wolfchan ran away. I walked back home, but then a thought hit me: What if he was actually trying to free these animals for their own good? It was a long day, and I was already tired, so I went to sleep.

### **Tuesday...**

I went to school as always. I wanted to tell Chris everything about yesterday, but he wasn't there. I tried to call him. He answered and said he was still sick but would be at school tomorrow. Classes went by quickly, and I got back home safely. I did my math homework and played some games on my computer. Then my mom called me for supper. "How was school today?" asked my mom with a smile on her face while making me pancakes. "Not bad, but not good either. Chris wasn't at school today."

"Who's Chris?"

"My best friend!"

We continued talking about school. I finished eating and went to the bathroom to take a shower, then went to bed.

### **Wednesday...**

The first lesson was P.E. I was going to the changing rooms when Chris ran to me and said, "Hey! I'm back."

"Hi. You scared me. Are you feeling better now?"

"Yes. Thanks for asking. But let's go; we need to change, or we will be late."

"You're right. Let's go."

We changed and rushed to the gym hall. Our coach was checking attendance.

"Sam?"

"Here!"

"Harley?"

"Present."

"Lia?" "She's not here," said my classmate.

"Chris?"

"Here."

"Let's start by running 500 meters," shouted the coach.

We started running. I was already tired after 100 meters, but Chris was taking the lead. After some time, I caught up with him. Suddenly, Chris fell. I immediately crouched down to check if he was okay, but his right ankle was all swollen with a weird cut on it. There was a black substance on his wound, and his eyes started to turn yellowish. He noticed the shock on my face and covered his eyes. The coach ran to us and took Chris to the nurse. I was worried about him all through P.E. The lesson ended, and Chris didn't come back. I thought his parents had come and taken him home. When I had time during the break, I called him to check on him. He said that his ankle was sprained, and he would rest in bed. I was sad that I wouldn't see my best friend at school. I heard the bell and went to class. It was so boring without Chris. It was a very long day at school, but it wasn't the end of today's adventures. I saw on the news that Wolfchan had done something again.

I put my costume on and rushed to the city. He had apparently stolen dogs and cats from people. Then I noticed it: his ankle. It was swollen and looked the same as Chris's. Then it hit me. My best friend is my enemy. I can't fight him.

"Maybe he isn't bad? He can't be, right?" I started asking myself questions. "Maybe the owners of the pets were treating them badly?" I left him for the police and went back home. I couldn't sleep. I needed to talk with him about it tomorrow. But if I asked him, he would know that I'm a superhero. I finally fell asleep, hoping that tomorrow would be a better day.

Thursday, school... When I saw Chris, I immediately ran to him and asked, "Hey. How are you? Is your ankle better?"

"Hi, good. Yeah, but I can't run or do anything



other than walk."

"That's good. I need to tell you something..."

"Okay?"

"I think I know your secret."

"What secret?" he tried to act confused, but he knew what I was talking about.

"That you're a villain."

"Oh no... But how? It's impossible... Wait, are you the superhero?"

"Me?! What? No..."

"Don't lie to me!"

"Okay, okay. You are right. But you can't tell anyone. If someone finds out, I'll have to leave the country."

"Your secret is safe with me. You can't tell anyone about me either. Deal?"

"Deal. But can I ask you one more question?"

I asked.

"Of course."

"Why did you do all the bad things? The zoo? And the pets?"

"So you think that way? I tried to help the animals at the zoo. They aren't free there, and they should be, so I thought I could help. And with the pets, I did some research and found out that the owners weren't treating their pets well, so I 'stole' them."

"That makes sense now. But still, these are crimes..."

I was about to go to sleep, but I couldn't stop thinking about Chris. Sometimes villains are actually superheroes. He did help the animals, didn't he?



# Harley and the Figurine

Rozalia Mazurek

I was coming home from rehearsal. It was a really tough one because my teacher said I was too shy on stage and that I should speak my lines clearer and louder. Ms. Emu was even questioning if I acted well enough to have so many lines. My class was performing the next day, and it was really stressing me out because it was a play that the whole school would attend. Frankly speaking, I don't like being the centre of attention.

This whole situation made me really anxious, so when I walked into my house, I went to my room as quickly as I could. I needed some peaceful alone time. Thankfully, my little sister Riley was still at her figure skating class, and my parents were out of sight, probably busy with their work.

When I got to my room, I closed the door and decided to go through the play's script. I tried as hard as I could to remember everything. It just wasn't sticking. Much to my surprise, there was a knock on my door. It was my Dad who came to check on me.

"Harley, do you need any help? I can run the lines with you." He was trying his best to support me when I was feeling down. It's just that this time I wanted to succeed on my own, so I said, "No, I ... I'm doing better than I was earlier," I sobbed out trying to reply.

"I think there's something that could help you," he turned around and walked away. I could hear his footsteps in the corridor. He went to his room and was looking through the drawers. After a few minutes, he came back holding his hand in his pocket. He quickly took it out and showed me what he was looking for. It was a tiny Superman figurine. It was the size of my thumb.

"Look at this, Harley," my Dad took a deep breath. "This is something that helped me when I was your age." I looked up while imagining my Dad as a little boy. "I was a really awkward kid. My mum, your grandma, gave it to me. She said that it would help me get confident and find friends. It did." My Dad bent down while passing the Superman to me. "Here, take it. It's yours now. If you keep it close to you, you will become him."

I thanked my Dad and looked closer at the figurine. It seemed old and worn out. I wondered what the toy's story was. I quickly put it into my backpack so that the next day I wouldn't forget it.

The following day, I was walking to school in a fantastic mood. Better than ever before. I was whistling and looking around when I noticed a short first grader kneeling on the pavement and crying. I decided to help.

"Hi, I'm Harley the Horse. What's your name?"

"H-hello, my name is Trixie. I'm a red fox," Trixie paused. "A-actually, I could use your help. I'm having trouble finding my key. It should be somewhere here, but I can't find it anywhere." I looked around trying to help the little girl. I didn't have eyes like a hawk and was





never good at finding stuff, but now that I had my figurine... "There!" I saw something shiny a few meters away from us. That was it, the golden key my new friend was searching for. Wow! I was impressed with my new abilities.

On my way to the classroom, I met a few kids that I knew but had never spoken to. But now I was braver. I mouthed "hi" as they wouldn't hear me anyway because of the noise in the corridor. They nodded and smiled at me. Another success.

During my first lesson, I had a biology test. Normally, I would be stressed and worried afterwards, but today I aced it. I was on a roll!

The next half of my day involved preparations for the play. The audience was supposed to arrive around five o'clock. We rehearsed for the remaining time; it was going very well. Ms. Emu, the play's director, even praised me a few times.

Closer to the performance, I started getting nervous and was afraid I'd freeze up on the stage. But I didn't. I did everything excellently. It couldn't have gone better! I got huge applause and lots of compliments about my performance. The director came up to me and told me I stepped up my game and that I was the star of the show. It was an outstanding day, and to think it was all thanks to the Superhero figurine.

In an amazing mood, I rode home with my parents who were listening to me talking about my experience. They were very proud. When I walked into my room, I suddenly was flabbergasted with what I saw. The Superman figurine was on my bedside table. All this time, I thought I had all these skills because of it! I didn't understand anything.

I ran up to my Dad to tell him what had just happened. He looked at me, smiled, and said, "Harley, I'm surprised you haven't noticed it earlier, but..." He looked into my eyes while taking the figurine out of the palm of my hand. "...this toy isn't magical. You are. You are the Superhero."







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