

Superhero Class
Activities Spring 2026

Assignment Gallery 3: Why Your Favorite Superhero?

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AKA... NUMBER FOUR



FROM THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY AKA... THE SEANCE

* COMMUNICATES WITH THE DEAD BUT IS ALSO AFRAID OF THE DEAD

* DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY

* QUEER (IN THE SHOW)

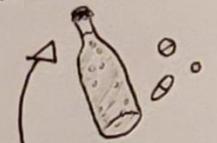
* A LITTLE BIT STRANGE

* STRUGGLES WITH COMMON ISSUES LIKE ADDICTION

* AN IMPERFECT HERO

* LEVITATION

* TELEKINESIS



USES TO COPE / AVOID HAVING TO SEE & TALK TO THE DEAD



* NOT YOUR "AVERAGE" SUPERHERO

MR INVINCIBLE!

STORY PREMISE

- COMIC ABOUT COMICS!
- MR INVINCIBLE = NARRATIVE DEVICE TO EXPLORE THE WAY COMICS MESS WITH SPACE & TIME
- BUT HE'S ALSO A FULL-FLEDGED CHARACTER!

comic about comics with a character who's power is to know they're in a comic.

COOL FACTOR!

- SUPERPOWER IS TO MOVE THROUGH COMICS
- EACH SECTION HAS NEW & UNIQUE ELABORATION ON THIS (OR OTHER FORM-RELATED) SUPERPOWER!
- CLEVER ELEMENT: HOW THE AUTHOR CHOREOGRAPHED THE ACTION AND HOW THE CHARACTERS UTILIZE THEIR ABILITIES & PUZZLE OUT SOLUTIONS!
- YOU CAN FOLLOW THEIR LOGIC!!!
- VERY FUN READ!

LIKEABLE CHARACTER

- HERO THAT IS A GOOD PERSON!
- PART OF COMMUNITY (CATS FROM TREES, VIBRANT SECONDARY CAST COMPOSED OF CIVILIANS AS WELL AS POWERED INDIVIDUALS)
- IT IS SHOWN HOW HAVING THIS POWER HAS SHAPED THE CHARACTER & HOW THEY APPROACH THE WORLD
- RE: SECTIONS W/ NEPHEW & SECTIONS AT THE END WITH THE ALIEN & WITH THE MAD SCIENTIST ("THE ABYSS IS ALWAYS AROUND US" + "I AM INVINCIBLE")
- ↳ ELEVATES MR INVINCIBLE FROM A NARRATIVE DEVICE TO A WELL-ROUNDED CHARACTER YOU CAN ACTUALLY ROOT FOR!

UNLIKE MOST CHARACTER-FIRST STORIES THAT EXPLORE THE RAMIFICATIONS OF A CHARACTER KNOWING THEY ARE IN A COMIC AND GOING OFF THE DEEP END A LA NOTHING IS REAL AND NOBODY MATTERS MR INVINCIBLE'S STATUS AS A NARRATIVE DEVICE INSULATE HIM FROM THE USUAL ISSUES THAT HAUNT SUCH STORIES!

MORE "RULE OF COOL":

- PARADOXES & TIME LOOPS!
- ↳ BASICALLY EVERY PAGE OF THE COMIC HAS THIS!
- IT'S BAFFLING IF YOU READ TIME ONLY SEQUENTIALLY!



LOGO: has "i" for invincible, but looks a little like a comics grid!

- COOL FACTOR
- COHERENT!
- GOOD SETTINGS
- SOLID PREMISE

SETTING:

COMIC ABOUT COMICS; USES SUPERHERD SETTING (GENRE THAT IS ALMOST SYNONYMOUS WITH COMICS IN POPULAR CONSCIOUSNESS) BUT POKES FUN AT THE AMERICAN-CENTRIC NATURE OF THESE STORIES, AND IS SET IN A SMALL FRENCH CITY. REFRESHINGLY AND DELIBERATELY NON-AMERICAN.

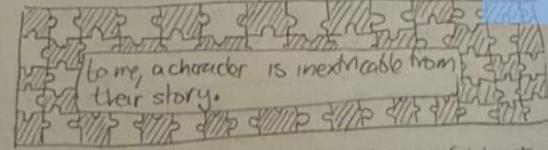
FAVORITE HERO!



issue: I don't have "favorite characters"

What I have are "favorite stories"

I like how stories weave various themes, ideas, arcs and characters together into a cohesive pro...



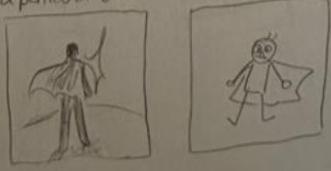
so a "favorite character" tends to be whichever one serves as a vehicle for the ideas/concepts (and most interesting in a given work.

issue: superheroes (at least in traditional publishing) do not belong to a single standalone story.

with one author/artist, they can serve as a fascinating exploration of a particular theme

but with another, be reduced to an annoying/reductive caricature of themselves

ie, highlight's systemic issue otherwise underexplored in setting, or introduces worldbuilding (geopolitics, etc.)



so my favorite heroes are seldom part of the "primary literature" of superhero comics



and instead tend to be from standalone derivative and/or deconstructive works that condense the "superhero setting/premise" and use it as the set piece for a more internally consistent narrative, with the freedom to explore ideas/themes more in-depth.

obviously, there are a lot of other aspects I like and appreciate in stories & characters.





1 CREATIVE INSANITY
They are turtle-men, trained the art of ninjitsu by a rat in the sewers. They sometimes fight brain-alien who want to take over the world... What??

2 COMMITTED OFANBASE
2024 was the 40th anniversary of TMNT, and they just debuted a new show!

3 ALL THE MEDIUMS!
Comics? Movies? Shows? Video games? Board games? Action figures? LEGO?? PICK YOUR POISON!

SIX REASONS THE WHY
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
ARE RAD AS... SHELL!!

4 UN-CONVENTIONAL BUT LOVING FAMILY DYNAMICS
One father and four sons show their care in ways not shown much in the '80s. It shows young audiences that their families can still be loving even if they are different from popular movies + norms.

5 MULTI-GENRE
If you are interested in any genre at all, there is guaranteed to be a TMNT story line that exists with it. Somewhere.

6 CROSSOVERS GALORE!
Do you like Batman? Godzilla? The Power Rangers? Multiple different TMNT universes?? Then I have just the crossover for you!

AND SO MUCH MORE!!

AMI MIZUNO/



SAILOR MERCURY

SKETCHNOTE BY LUCY KCB!

Both Sailor Mercury and her civilian alter-ego Ami Mizuno are my favorites!

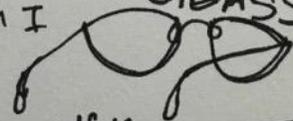


Her SHORT HAIR also reminded me of myself when I read the series!

AMI

is like me!

NERDY, ONLY CHILD, INTROVERTED, BOOKISH, & a SWIMMER! TOMBOY, she also wears GLASSES!



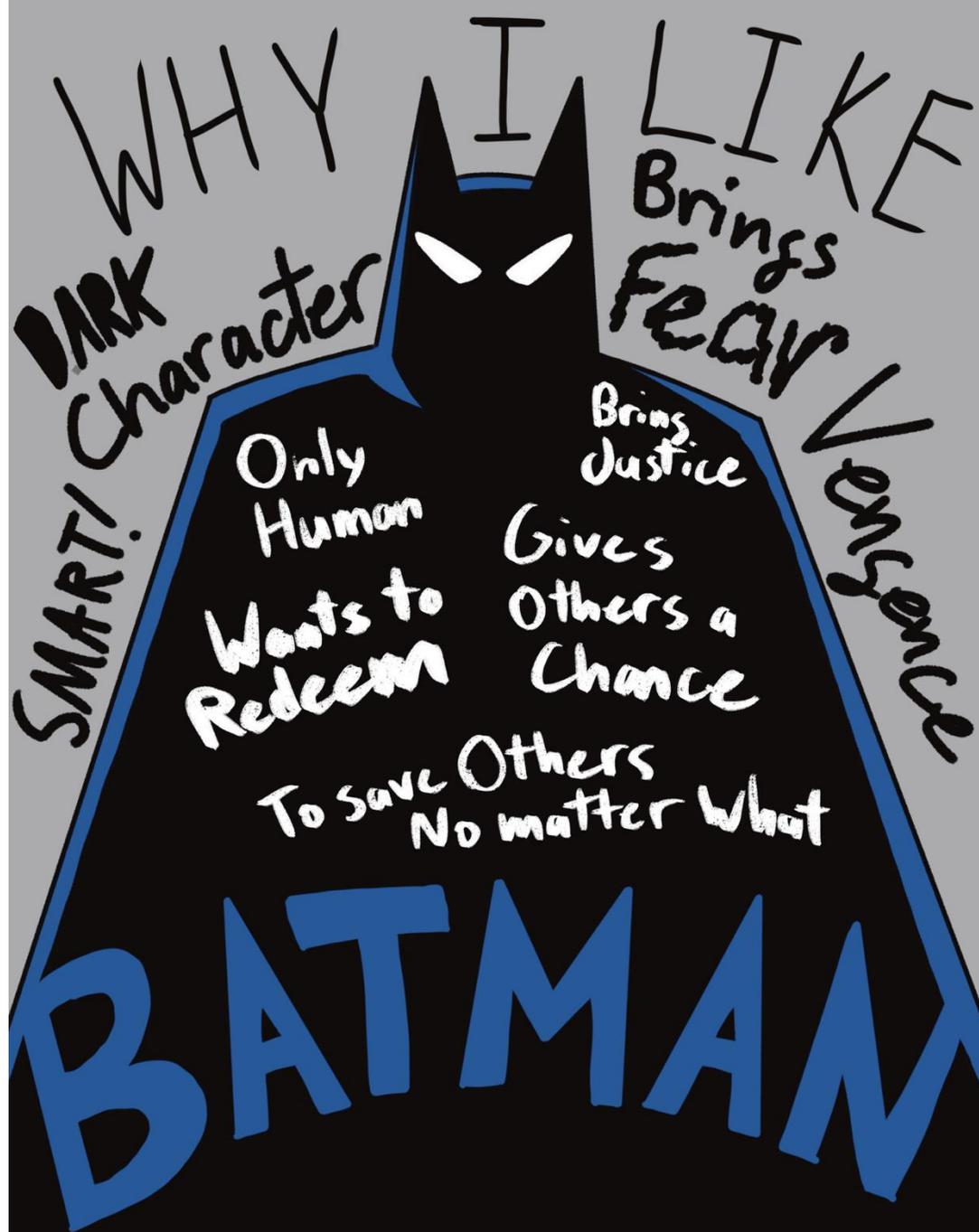
Her superhero self is she is a combo of my childhood favorite colors & tropes!

MERCURY

BLUE, WATER ELEMENT, TECHY, & LOGICAL!



she has GOGGLES that struck my fancy as well!



1. I did not grow up reading superhero comics, or being interested in the movies or cartoons.

except Wolverine who is my DAD (his favorite guy)



2. I know who Batman was obviously, but I didn't have a great impression of him - a billionaire who thinks beating up criminals will actually decrease crime? He sounds like a jerk!

4. At first, I only read Batman comics for the villains...

3. My entry into the world of Superheroes was the TV Show Gotham... which was so bad that after 2 seasons I gave up and turned to the source material!

me, 2019, Richard's #1 fan. I love the character so I guess I'll better start with his 1st appearance. That's how these comics work, right?

2. I ALSO LIKE - that most of his villains are a bit more "grounded" - he looks cool - I'm out of space but I could go on...

The Rogues were much more relatable to me than the heroes (and still are)... they were the "mistake" the underdog, and that made me like them more than the "self righteous" heroes...

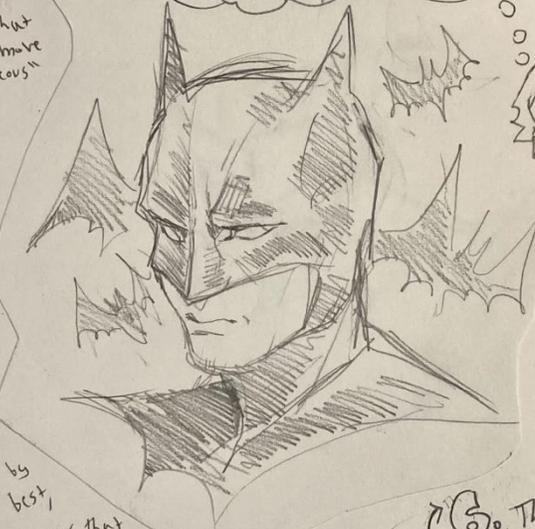
5. BUT the more I read, the more I realize: I really like Bruce!!

Of course, superhero characterizations are all over the place by nature, but at his best, Batman is:

KIND! • He recognizes that many of his rogues are struggling, and reaches out with empathy when he can • He's a protector and father figure to the Robins and many other characters

AND ALSO HE'S: KIND OF CRAZY! • He dedicates his life to crime fighting but uses his money for public service as well • He really tries to help the downtrodden as much as he can • Many works explore Batman as an "anxious" character, and it makes sense... he's dealing with childhood trauma • He's essentially Bruce Wayne's worst nightmare • But his craziness makes him relatable... and frustrating! (but that's "perfect" fun! A perfect character is BORN...)

WHY IS BATMAN MY FAVORITE SUPERHERO?



Even though I still can't draw his stupid cowl!



2. ALSO IMPORTANT:

Batman is cool because he's a detective! When the Batman comics actually have a good mystery or a noir vibe, they really shine. It's a fun angle! Not every superhero has this quality. So it makes him stand out.

6. The more I read superhero comics, the more they seem like mirrors: they show what the readers and writers want to see... if the writer is a bootlicker, Batman seems like a short-sighted "super cop". But if they have any heart at all... then Batman is a flawed but compelling character, who is helping as much as he can in his weird, both ways.

CMX WHY MY SUPERHERO(S)?

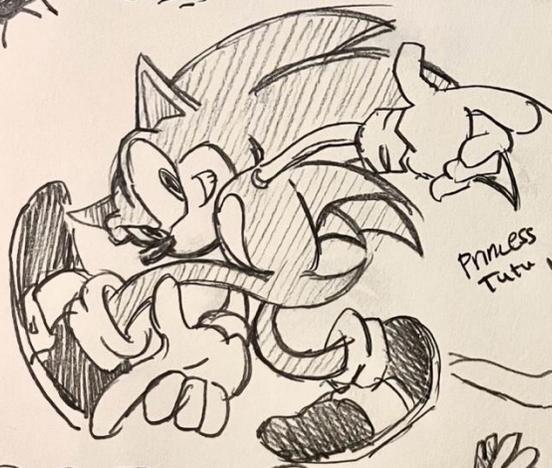
SPIDER-MAN

- "with great power comes great responsibility"
- very relatable, became my favorite when I was young
- made spiders (insects I don't love...) cooler
- juvenile - flawed - arrogant



young
"average"
high schooler
teen
young adult

Stan Lee & Steve Ditko



Princess Tatu

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

- kind of an anti-hero
- moves to the beat of his own drum
- although very independent, still does not hesitate to help others or completely deter teamwork

MAGICAL GIRLS

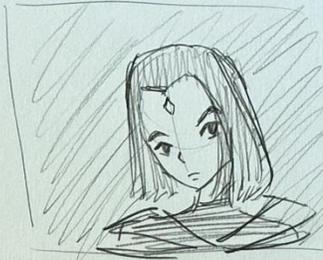
- stories usually revolve around empathy & rehabilitation



CCS

STRENGTH in kindness, weakness, and girlhood

why are they your favorite? what resonates with you?



I was first drawn to Raven as a character because her personality, being stand-offish, awkward, unable to understand her peers and being "mature for her age" were all things I could relate to. In my elementary school eyes Raven stood out from her boisterous, playful friends, like now I did at school.



Of course, I was also a fan of her design.

She also liked "nerdy" things like reading, at school and in media I never saw a "cool" character that liked to read.



Very
mysterious

Is just a human! → Aerobically did gymnastics as a kid

Has an intense dynamic w/ Batman & the Robins

WHY I LIKE:

NIGHTWING

1st superhero comic I got into!

The Tom Taylor/Bruno Redondo run was really cool!

He's an oldest sibling! (like me!) → responsibility

+ got to meet Redondo once. + sig!

EVOLUTION from

Funny, positive, a good role model!

Robin (R)

LEADER!

Has a strong support network w/ other heroes & friends



I HAVE TO SAY MY FAVORITE "SUPER" HEROES ARE GOKU & SONIC.



LOVED 'EM SINCE I WAS LIKE 4.



GOKU

(Based on SON WUKONG, the Monkey King) is a pure-hearted individual who embraces the world with Curiosity & ENTHUSIASM.

With all his training - he becomes a symbol for hardwork & perseverance.

SONIC



is a cool, aloof laid-back individual. Free as the wind goes where he wants always on the go, like a nomad. Sarcastic - not Sarcastic.

A loner with few friends. Lives by his own code. It just so happens he's a really cool guy.

I like that neither of them are driven by morals or ideals.

They do what's right not because of "justice" but because they do as their heart tells them

BATMAN : FAVORITE SUPERHEROES



Batman is a superhero under DC,
We consider him a superhero,
his in-universe peers in Gotham City?
They consider him a vigilante to look out
for.

1. One of the reasons I am
drawn to Batman as a
hero is his morally-grey
nature.

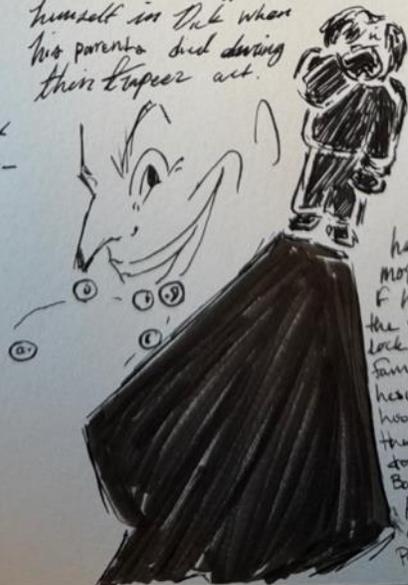
Many see
Batman as a dark and
brooding character, which
for the most part... yet,
but he is also much more
complex.

Even in his adult life he
blames himself for his parents'
death, and so he ~~has~~ sees
himself in the when
his parents died during
their escape act.



And you can't talk
about Batman without
mentioning the no-kill rule.

The biggest Batman
discourse is the question:
Should Batman kill?
Especially after the death of
Jason Todd.



But I think Batman
has a strong sense of
morality, where he knows
if he kills, he'll be like
the very villains he wants to
lock away. He builds his
family with his robots despite
hesitating to put them out as
his sidekicks. And I think
that the only reason we
don't have a homicidal
Batman is because of
Alfred, the guardian that
cared for him after his
parents' death.



BLACK PANTHER

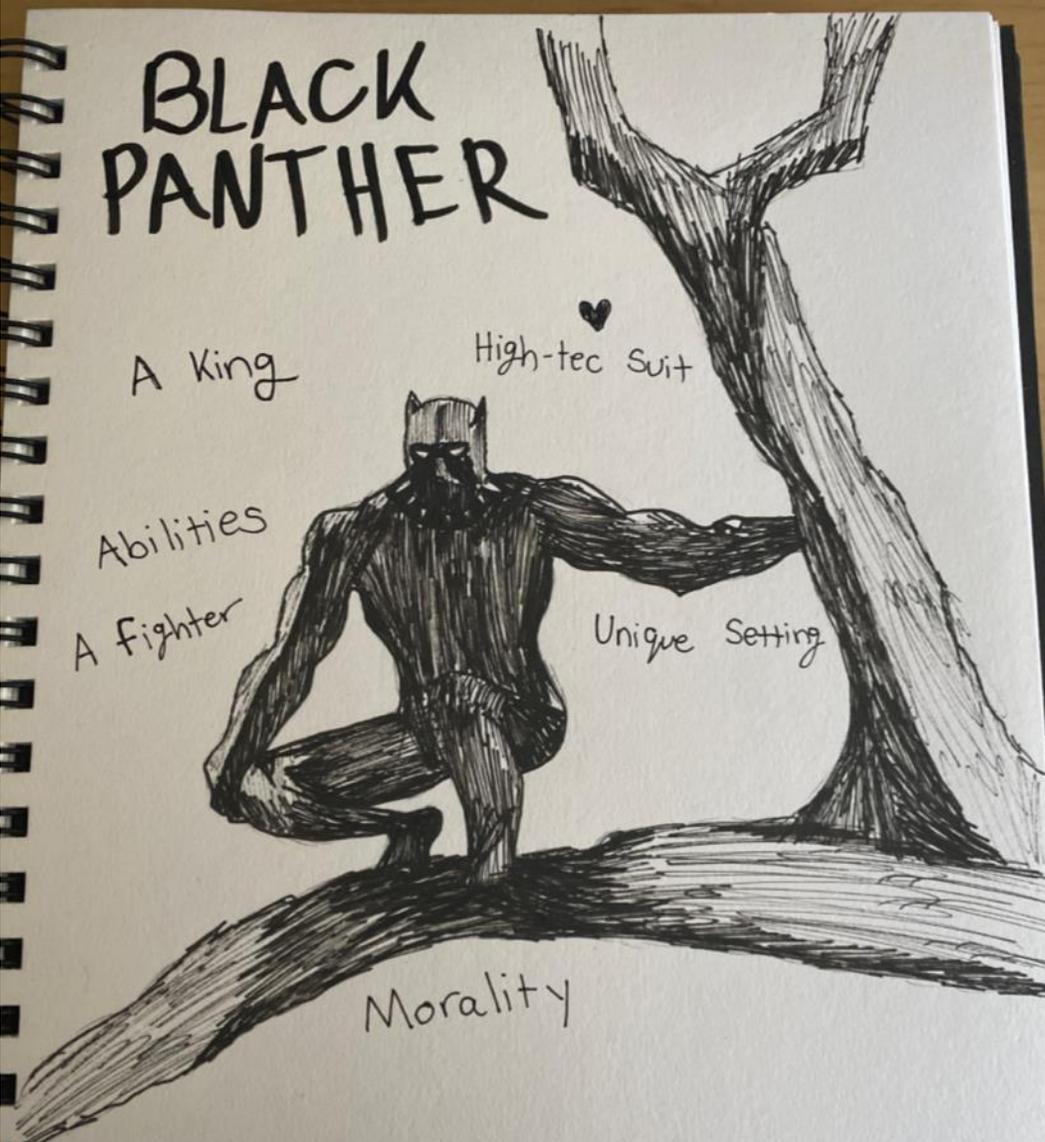
A King

High-tec Suit

Abilities

A Fighter

Unique Setting



Morality

WAKANDA FOREVER!



Miriam



S Superman

"Truth, Justice,
and for a better
Tomorrow"

Superman became my
favorite hero for two
reasons. My dad and
the show Smallville.

HOPE

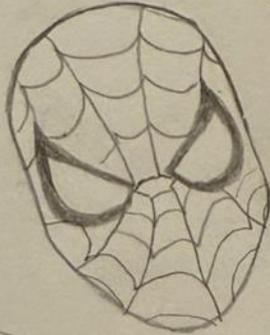


"Every story
has a beginning"

When I see any Superman
first flight scene it leaves
me so emotional. It's like
pure joy.

My dad always compared himself to Superman.
I see a lot of him in my dad and vice versa.
Both always tell me to do good and what is right.
To stick up for others, when they can't.

Spider-Man



I LOVE HIS STYLE
AND ALL OF THE COOL
VARIATIONS OF HIM.

I'VE ALSO
ALWAYS LOVED HIS
"SPIDEY SENSES"
— SO COOL!



HIS JOURNEY IN
ACCEPTING HIS IDENTITY
HITS SOMETHING
WITHIN ME — HE'S
SO HUMAN, SO FULL
OF EMPATHY
AND GRIT!

HE MAKES ME FEEL
LIKE I CAN ALWAYS DO
MORE TO HELP THOSE
AROUND ME.

Independence
Choices
Transition
Leader

Trauma

FROM WONDER

Boy to NIGHT WING

Hunger for Independence

- Nightwing's first appearance is a major statement in work for Batman. He is not a sidekick. There's a clear show for individualism.

Loss of Childhood
 ↳ Robin is pushed into a dangerous world as a result of trauma and loss. The reaction of trauma is further hardening him further overtime.

Sidekick → Leader

Robin is a sidekick but the most well rounded leaders in DC. This transition assures that he is not just defined by his trauma, but also his choices.



Name: MIDORIYA IZUKU

Notes:

- I first found My Hero in highschool before the manga was super mainstream in the US. Deku for me represented positive masculinity and heroism.
- Izuku is emotional, and anxious similar to the way I felt all my life but despite that he chooses to fight despite all odds.
- The power Deku has builds during the show. The little power he has in the start shows

his determination

