

Worksheet A

Reading 1

Read the summary of the main article.

1. What is different about these new superheroes?

New comic Superhero - summary

The leading American comic book publisher, Marvel Comics, is starting a new comic book, which it hopes will become as popular as its classics, "Spiderman", "Superman" and "The Incredible Hulk". But in this comic book the heroes will be ordinary New York police, firefighters and paramedics.

Reading / Listening 2

2. Read or listen to the main article. Answer these questions.
 - a. What nicknames do the police and firefighters have?
 - b. In the first issue, what two things do the firefighters do?
 - c. Are these superheroes completely ordinary?
 - d. Do the publishers think the comics will be a success?
 - e. Where did the idea for these superheroes come from?
 - f. What is the possible criticism of the publishers?
 - g. What do you think, is it a good idea?

Text

Jane Standley, BBC

It's a case of **move over** Spiderman and The Incredible Hulk - here come New York's **finest**. That's how its police officers are known; its firefighters are called the bravest. Their first adventures, along with the **exploits** of a female paramedic, are being sent out to the three-million **subscribers** to other, more traditional Marvel comics and will now also be in the shops.

The first issue - "The Call of Duty: The Brotherhood" - focuses on firefighters, who respond to all kinds of emergencies, small and large, around the city. But they're always **hot on the heels of** evil-doers too who want **to wrong** New Yorkers. And, because the comic strips take place in superhero land, there are hints of the **super-human**.

Marvel comics think they have hit on a best seller and a new cultural trend. New York's emergency personnel, especially its firefighters, have become **revered** for the way in which they responded to the attacks on the city on September the eleventh. Four-hundred-and-three of them were killed. The publishers say they are not **cashing in**, just treating the emergency services with the respect they deserve. But this being America, there will of course be toys and videos as **spin-offs** of the new superhero series.

Worksheet B

Vocabulary

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.
Use the text to help you.

move over new products which are based on an existing idea

finest people who pay to receive a publication regularly

exploits bravest or best people

subscribers beyond the powers of ordinary people

hot on the heels of brave actions

to wrong greatly respected

super-human chasing

revered making money from the situation

cashing in no longer big news

spin-offs to treat badly

Worksheet C

Follow up – Writing

Create a new super hero

Write a description of a new superhero. Use these questions to help you plan your writing.

How old would they be?

Would they be male or female?

What special powers could they have?

How did they come to get these special powers?

Do they have a special costume?

In their ordinary life, what would their job be?

Would they have a family?

Who would their main enemy be?

Worksheet D

Reading – 1a

Put the following sections in the correct order to build the text. There are three paragraphs.

1 ____ 2 ____ 3 ____ 4 ____ 5 ____ 6 ____ 7 ____ 8 ____

A

just treating the emergency services with the respect they deserve. But this being America, there will of course be toys and videos as spin-offs of the new superhero series.

B

attacks on the city on September the eleventh. Four-hundred-and three of them were killed. The publishers say they are not cashing in,

C

It's a case of move over Spiderman and The Incredible Hulk - here come New York's finest. That's how its police officers are known; its firefighters are called the bravest. Their first adventures, along with

D

around the city. But they're always hot on the heels of evil-doers too who want to wrong New Yorkers. And, because the comic strips take

E

The first issue - "The Call of Duty: The Brotherhood" - focuses on firefighters, who respond to all kinds of emergencies, small and large,

F

the exploits of a female paramedic, are being sent out to the three-million subscribers to other, more traditional Marvel comics and will now also be in the shops.

G

place in superhero land, there are hints of the super-human.

H

Marvel comics think they have hit on a best seller and a new cultural trend. New York's emergency personnel, especially its firefighters, have become revered for the way in which they responded to the