

2020 Road Trip into The Magical Attic

by Mark Marderosian



Episode 5 of 9
A different adventure every week!
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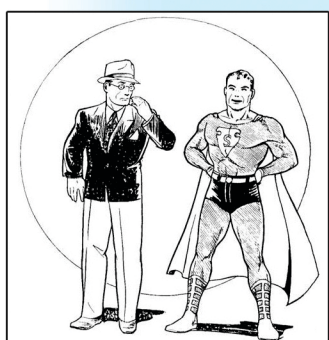
In the Magical Attic, Sunray Bear asked his friend, Eclipse Doggy, "Want to visit the Superhero Room with me?" "Sure!" said Eclipse. "That sounds great! Um...What will we do there?" Sunray replied, "We can visit the very beginning of superheroes in comic books!"

The two friends stepped into the Superhero Room. It was a bright and beautiful day. "Wow!" said Sunray. "We're in CLEVELAND, OHIO in 1933!"



Two shy teenage friends living in Cleveland, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, both loved creating their own stories. Jerry wrote the stories and Joe illustrated them. They self-published their own "fanzines." One story was "The Reign of the Superman." In this story, Superman was the bad guy! The two friends kept practicing and developing the concept. By 1933, they had written and drawn Superman as the hero.

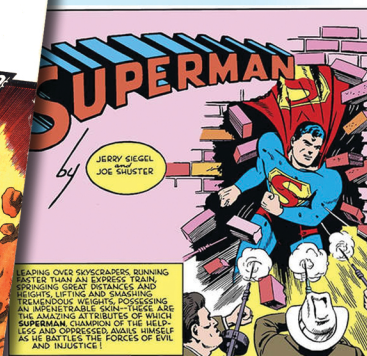
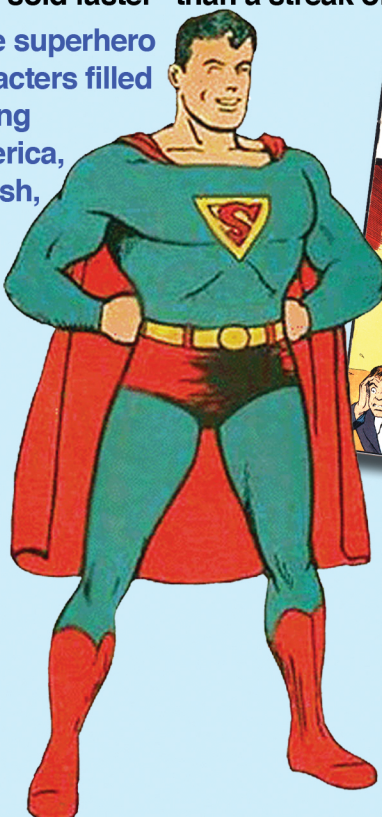
Success was not immediate. Joe and Jerry spent the next *five years* sending samples of their project to the major newspaper comic strip syndicates. The "Superman" strip was consistently rejected, but the two youngsters didn't give up. While working in the fledgling comic book industry during this time, they eventually sold "Superman" to the company National Allied Publications, known today as DC Comics.



Circa 1934: A Clark Kent and Superman drawing for sales package sent to syndicates.

Although there were 'superheroes' in literature and folk tales prior to Superman's creation, (Robin Hood, The Scarlet Pimpernel, Zorro, The Phantom), the concept of a powerful being with a dual identity within this new medium of comic books grabbed the attention of the depression-era public. Published on April 18, 1938, the first issue of Action Comics #1 sold faster "than a streak of lightning." New issues would sell close to one MILLION copies each.

Superman's success launched the superhero genre. Soon, many inventive characters filled the pages of comic books, including superheroes such as Captain America, Batman, the Human Torch, the Flash, Wonder Woman, and the Submariner.



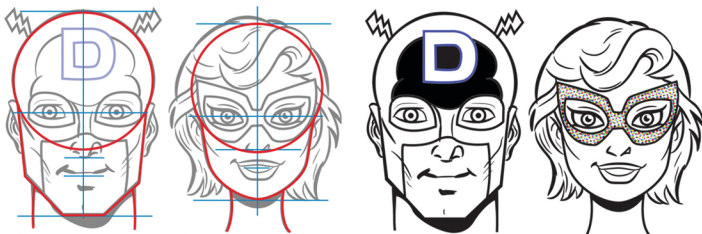
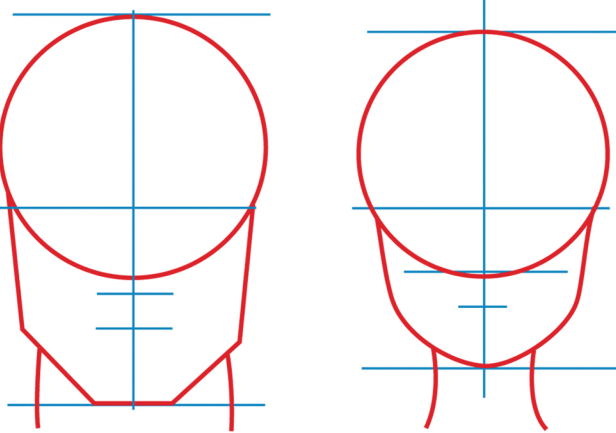
Clark was the mild-mannered reporter at The Daily Planet and his colleague, Lois Lane, was definitely the crusading reporter. She battled corruption and injustice with determination and courage.

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LET'S CREATE OUR OWN SUPERHEROES!

Get a pencil and use the foundation lines below to create your OWN costumed characters!

- Use the foundation lines to make sure the facial features like the eyes are all "lined" up.
- You can create your own costumes, masks, and more, like those shown below.
- Make up your own superheroes...or super villains if you wish!
- Put a new piece of paper over the grid to create more characters. Change their expressions too!
- You can create stories and adventures about your characters too.



After, erase your foundation lines →



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Joe and Jerry humbly started with an idea. The heroic ideas they embraced still continue. Dreams within typewritten scripts and simple ink on paper seize the imagination. Maybe YOU will create the superheroes of tomorrow... today!



Superman, Lois Lane and their respective characters © DC Comics. Images used for historical and educational purposes.

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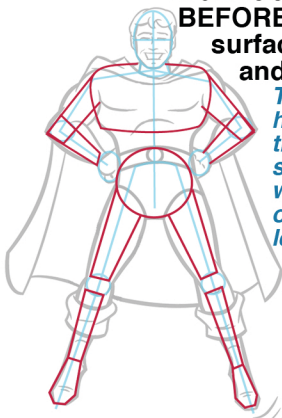
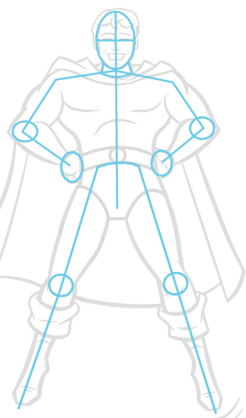
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LET'S DRAW A SUPERHERO!

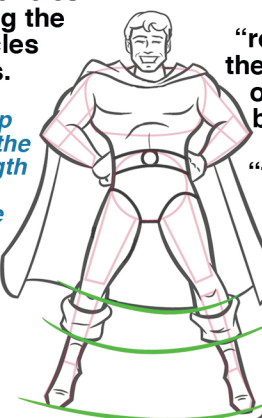
Get some paper, pencils or crayons and let's practice Drawing with Mark!

Start with a stick figure to determine the pose and make sure the figure's proportions are correct.

Don't worry about lines being perfectly straight. Have fun "sketching"

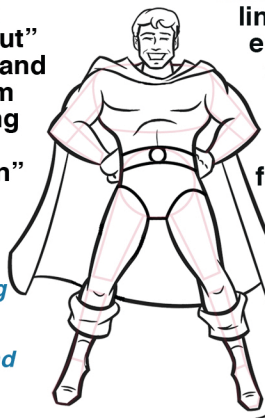


Draw tubes and circles BEFORE drawing the surface muscles and shapes. This also helps keep the arms the same length with each other. The legs too!



Start adding face detail and "rounding out" the muscles and overall form by following your "foundation" lines.

Use sweeping lines to create a flow and pleasing design.



These foundation lines are then erased, but now your drawing has a solid foundation and correct proportion!

Create the costume YOU want, plus an original symbol on the chest or belt!

