

There's no such thing as...

People all around our village, our county, our country and our world have different views and ideas about the **big questions** of life. These activities are designed to help you question some of the things which people may or may not believe in.

There are a combination of files to **read**, videos to **watch**, activities to **try** and (most importantly) questions to **think** and **talk** about.

It is great to think deeply about the world around us, to explore what we think and to be able to understand other people better. Lots of these questions don't have right and wrong answers - they are a chance to think and reflect!

Note for parents: This discussion topic will open children up to philosophical thinking. If they talk at all about any of the questions in this plan then this should be considered a success! The older children in your household may then want to explore more of the questions found here, although the youngest children are often the best philosophers of all. Remember to ask that golden question: Why? when they give you an answer. It can be incredibly annoying to do this kind of exploration so keep it light! Know that you are encouraging deeper thinking and asking them for justifications for the ideas they may take for granted.

There's no such thing as superheroes.

Or are there? At the moment, lots of people in our society are described as being heroes, and even superheroes. The famous song says, 'We can be heroes'. Is it true? What makes someone a superhero? Are we talking just about fiction or real life? Does the idea of a real superhero even exist?

Some people might say that superheroes only exist in stories.

Is this true? What makes a superhero a superhero? And where do we get the ideas from that feed into stories like Spiderman or Superman? Or even David, Achilles or Hercules?

This topic has suggestions for activities, things to read, questions to think about and videos to watch to help you to think about whether superheroes really exist.

Just like most of philosophy, there aren't right and wrong answers—it's all about taking time to think about the question—and you'll probably end up with more questions of your own at the end!

Have fun exploring!



Most superheroes in comics and on film are shown to be strong and athletic. They are also often violent and don't stay within the law. Should they be celebrated and looked up to as heroes? Are they good role models for how we should live? Why are they considered to be heroes? What is their appeal?

What is the difference between a hero and a superhero?

Who do you look up to as a hero? Could *anyone* be a hero? What qualities make people heroic? Does someone have to be heroic all the time to be a hero, or just do one special or amazing thing? Can someone be a hero for just doing their job? Why not write about or even write *to* your hero?

What about miracles?

Think about miracles and miraculous events in history, mythology and in religious stories. Where do these accounts come from? Can they be trusted? Why would someone want to make them up? Can they be believed? What is the reason that religious people believe in miracles? What are the reasons people talk about, believe or 'witness' miracles? Can we ever be sure that they happen? Can we ever say that someone has performed something so amazing that they can be considered a 'Superhero'?

Think about the miracles found in the Bible – are there any that could be explained by modern science or, in order to believe them, do you need to take a 'leap of faith'?

There's no such thing as... superheroes!

Are there any situations when stories about superheroes are based, at least in part, on real life? Do we know of stories that feature normal people doing amazing things?

Find out about the Bible stories about David or Joshua or tales of great warriors like Beowulf or Achilles, are these stories fact or fiction? Could any part of them be true? What if Achilles was a real warrior but he just happened to be unhurt in battle, purely by chance – would people start to tell tales that explain his luck and exaggerate? Was Goliath really a giant?

Superheroes may be works of fiction, but they are still great fun! Here's a link to 20 fun superhero-themed crafts and activities: <https://www.darcyandbrian.com/20-superhero-activities-kids/>

Which superhero are you? Try this fun quiz to find out: <https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2015/sep/18/which-superhero-are-you-quiz>

Can you read like a superhuman? Test your speed reading skills and find out how this may be affecting the media: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wb_gEP-utfk

Taking it further - for a *much* deeper look at these ideas, watch this video about the philosopher David Hume's views on miracles:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeG1HDOgzCQ>—Hume on miracles (more basic but still hard going!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SViCYjyoPtQ>—Hume's views in more depth (for older children/parents) - first 5 minutes only

