



GRADUATE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

OPEN TEST

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: ENGLISH

2019

SURNAMES AND NAME: _____

SIGNATURE:

STAN LEE interviews

Stan Lee interview: "The world always needs heroes"

Marble Comics maestro Stan Lee on his experiences, morality and success



We live in the age of superheroes. Some of the world's most recognisable names, faces and outfits belong to the likes of Spider-Man, Iron Man, the Hulk and the X-Men. These pop culture icons come from the imagination of one man, Stan Lee.

Stanley Martin Lieber was born in New York in 1922 to Romanian-Jewish immigrants. At 16 he joined Timely Comics (which evolved into Marvel) and by the age of 18 he was editor. During the Second World War he was a member of the Training Film Division based in Queens, a group of nine men who created posters, films and other propaganda material. His distinguished colleagues included film director Frank Capra and Theodor Geisel, more famous under his pen name Dr. Seuss.

After the war Stan Lee created characters like the Fantastic Four and X-Men, and revolutionised comic books. Since the first X-Men and Spider-Man films, Marvel franchises have taken more than \$11bn at the box office. The fact Stan Lee appears in a cameo role in most of the films means he is as famous as his characters.

Just before he died in 2018 in Los Angeles, California, Stan Lee showed no signs of slowing down. Steven MacKenzie's interviewed him at his home in L.A:

When you started working on comic books in the 1930s, could you imagine they would become the biggest thing in popular culture?

I never ever saw that coming! I really think it's because the movie versions of these characters have been so successful. People who have enjoyed the movies have then said, hey, I want to know more about these characters – and they started buying the comic books.

Why is luck the ultimate superpower?

Nothing could ever go wrong. People with good luck don't get injured, you will always solve the crime, and so forth. If there were a way to ensure one had good luck, that would be the most



wonderful power of all.

Adapted from: <https://labur.eus/stanleeinterview>



Reading Comprehension (6 points)

1. Choose the correct answer (2 points)

a) Stanley Martin Lieber joined Timely Comics in

- A. 1938.
- B. 1948.
- C. New York.
- D. Doesn't say.

b) Stan Lee

- A. always knew he was going to be successful.
- B. thought film versions always make comic books popular.
- C. considered films based on comic strips are always popular.
- D. never thought his comic books were going to become so popular.

c) Just before he died,

- A. Lee was still active.
- B. Lee was tired of living.
- C. Lee's success had no recognition.
- D. Lee's mind went into 'low-power' mode.

d) You can find this text in a

- A. film brochure.
- B. comic strip booklet.
- C. cinema programme.
- D. magazine or newspaper.

2. Answer the following questions using information from the text and your own words, in full sentences. (2 points)

a) What did Stan Lee's cameo roles in most of the above mentioned films show?

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b) According to Lee, what is the most important superpower? Why?

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3. - Vocabulary. Find words in the text meaning the following: (1 point)

- costume
- derived
- renowned
- adaptation
- assure

Read the text and choose the correct answer. (2 points)

SUPERHEROES



A superhero is a fictional character (0) ...with..... special powers. Since the first Superman story was written in the USA in 1938, superheroes have (1) in various comic books around the world. But more recently they have become better known as film characters. (2) superhero powers vary widely, superhuman strength and the ability to fly are common. Some superheroes do not have special powers but have (3) other important abilities. In order to protect friends and family, a superhero's identity is normally kept secret, which often means superheroes have a complicated double life.

(4) have been successful superheroes in countries other than the USA. Examples include Cybersix from Argentina and the heroes of AK Comics from Egypt. Japan is the only country that has created as many superhero characters as the USA. However, most Japanese superheroes are short-lived. (5) American entertainment companies reinvent superheroes, Japanese companies frequently introduce new characters.

Underline or circle the correct answer:

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|----------|----------|------------|
| (1) | happened | appeared | stayed | published |
| (2) | Anyway | Always | Although | Still |
| (3) | developed | passed | adapted | elaborated |
| (4) | Here | Yet | Though | There |
| (5) | While | When | What | Why |

Write an essay of about superpowers: (3 points)

WHAT'S YOUR SUPERPOWER?



Answer one of the two questions and write an opinion essay of 80-100 words:

- a) What do you think life would really be like if humans had certain superpowers?
- b) If you could be given one super power, what would it be? Why?

Remember: *the picture and questions above are just to help you generate ideas. Think and put your ideas in order before starting to write.*

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