DO COMIC BOOK SUPERHEROES DO AN ACCURATE JOB OF DISPLAYING DISABILITIES THAT REAL WORLD INDIVIDUALS FACE?

BY CAMERON DAY '20

I have always loved comic books, and am a solid advocate for their significance beyond pop culture. I wanted to show that even the super-heroic and untouchable of comic book elite were representatives of the disabled community in their own way. So, I set about finding heroes who had various mental disabilities that could be easily identified and had been subject to study. From there, I developed my poster and inquiry question so as to easily show my findings and ideas.

If I had the time and research, I would want to be able to do more research: interview psychologists personally and even comic book writers to have their opinions on the mental states of their characters. This would all be part of a greater paper on how superheroes display real-world disabilities.

Schizophrenia is an extremely dangerous disability to deal with. Commonly displayed through the growth of multiple personalities inside a single person (often the birth of the separate consciousness is related to a traumatic experience suffered by the primary voice) that sometimes manifest within the host’s mind and take control. 3.5 million people in the United States between the ages of 16 and 25 suffer from schizophrenia, making their common lives extremely hard to live as they must constantly keep these separate personalities from manifesting or damaging their cognitive processes. Treated properly, schizophrenia can disappear altogether. But left to fester, it can have dire after effects.

LITERARY SOURCES


