



## **Questions for Classroom Discussion**

### **Designing a Comic Book Superstar**

- **Why do audiences connect with a specific comic book superhero (or villain)?**
  - ⇒ Consider how the abilities and superpowers of certain characters might be exciting to readers, as well as their look (costume, colors, muscles, etc.) and personality
  - ⇒ Consider how a secret identity and powerful backstory might make the character more interesting and relatable to readers
  - ⇒ Consider how the readers might relate to the struggles and emotions of the character, which are often intensified during battles with a nemesis
- **What would be considered a “successful” comic book character in the eyes of a major publishing company (such as Marvel or DC)?**
  - ⇒ Consider the financial rewards, which can go far beyond comic books (such as movies, TV shows, toys, shirts, and other merchandise)
  - ⇒ Consider the potential of popular characters to deliver a strong message or even be a positive influence to young readers
  - ⇒ Consider how some characters (Superman, Batman, Spiderman, Hulk, etc.) become so popular that they are part of our culture
- **What factors should be considered when choosing and designing a new comic book character?**
  - ⇒ Consider the “first impression” of the character — costume, colors, muscles, setting, etc.
  - ⇒ Consider the backstory of the character and how that will shape his or her personality and actions
  - ⇒ Consider other characters (including the main enemy or nemesis) that the character will interact with, and what that will bring out in the character
  - ⇒ Consider the philosophy and value system of the character, and what he/she/it fights against