

An Anti-Hero Saves the Day

An activity of "Anti-heroes Who Steal the Show"

In the story "Anti-heroes who steal the show" (page 18-19, *What's Up* July 2021), writer Annabel Liang reflects that cheering for anti-heroes does not mean that we approve of their actions. Prof Taylor explains that we may be attracted to their qualities like "exoticism, charisma or dynamism, sense of humour, diabolical intelligence or other 'non-moral' traits".

PART A

- 1) Fill in the following table with two adjectives for each letter — one describing a **hero** and the other describing a **villain**. You may use a dictionary for this activity. Three examples are given.

A	B	C courageous cowardly	D	E
F	G gracious greedy	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	Y	Z zealous zany

(The letter "X" is left out as there are so few adjectives starting with it.)

- 2) Think of an anti-hero from a book or movie who has some undesirable qualities but whom you find likeable.

I like _____ (name).

- 3) Circle all the words above that describe your likeable antihero.

4) Why do you like this character despite the undesirable qualities?

PART B

1) Write a short story entitled “An Anti-Hero Saves the Day”. You may use the anti-hero you mentioned earlier, or someone totally new. Part A equips you with many adjectives that you can use in your story.

Here are some tips to help you:

- Think of the situation that the anti-hero gets involved in.
- Include descriptions of your character.
- Don’t make them perfect; you can make them relatable/vulnerable by sharing their weaknesses.
- Allow their weaknesses to get them into trouble.
- But eventually, even if by accident, let them save the day.

2) Share your story with a friend. Listen to your friend’s story as well. Discuss how this activity helps you to understand human beings better.