The Amazingly Awesome Third Grade!

By Class 3-223
P.S. 197
John B. Russwurm

Behind the Book
We bring authors and illustrators into the classroom to make reading and writing an awesome experience!

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The Amazingly Awesome

Third Grade!

By Class 3-223 of P.S. 197 John B. Russwurm

Behind the Book / New York
We inspire New York City public school students to love reading by bringing accomplished authors and their books into classrooms and creating rich, innovative literacy programs. Our programs take place in underserved Pre-K - 12 public schools, are part of the class curriculum and meet the Common Core Learning Standards.

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Special Thanks:
Thank you to everyone at Behind the Book for helping us channel our inner superheroes!

In the interest of honoring student voice, Behind the Book presents students’ work as received from the teacher.

This book was made possible by a generous grant from The Korein Foundation.
Have you ever met a third-grade superhero? Or a 9-year-old community leader? You can find them and more in Class 3-223. The students used The Amazingly Awesome Amani by Jamiyl and Tracy-Ann Samuels to examine the importance of being good citizens in their local communities.

During his first visit, co-author Jamiyl spoke with students about the importance of standing up for themselves, their friends, and others. He encouraged them to consider how they could influence change in their community with their unique perspectives and desire for equality.

Jamiyl returned for a second visit and helped the class design a community superhero together. Students used this model to create individual superhero personas that could help affect change in their communities. Pollution, homelessness, and bullying were just some of the significant issues that they wanted their superheroes to address.

Behind the Book drama consultant Karen Butler then worked with the students to bring their superheroes to life. Through theater games and exercises, students were able to channel their inner heroes using sound and movement to defeat obstacles.

Students also created superhero emblems and capes with guidance from Behind the Book teaching artist Candice Humphries. Behind the Book writing coaches worked with the students to describe the characteristics of their superheroes and what they hoped these superheroes could accomplish.

Through this book you can experience their imagination and passion. These students have many ideas to help cure some major problems. We hope that it inspires you to harness your inner superhero to empower your communities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aiden</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zara</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloe</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarleni</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wynterrayne</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrenique</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paloma</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabiya</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nafitauni</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niam</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marian</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamya</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremiah</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher M</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher C</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
My super hero name’s Zoom. My adventures that I wish to really last
I help anyone out when they’re in trouble.
The problem on my chest shoots out energy for when people are hurt, it will heal them. I have a red helmet, red suit orange gloves and yellow boots.

My super power helps the community stay safe. Anytime someone is in trouble I help them out. The I shoot out help people if they are hurt.

Keeping the environment safe is an important superpower. Everyone needs a safe place to live, children need a safe place to play. Even animals need a safe place to live. A safe environment is great for everyone.
My name is sunlight man. My super power is helping the environment. Every part of my body helps my community. The sunshine emblem on my chest shoots from my underarms.

My superpower helps my community keep light. I help keep people able to see when it's too dark. Every time it's dark I come out on moon & some light.

Keeping the environment bright is an important super power. Everyone in my neighborhood needs some place to see an relax.
My name is the Cleaner. My super power is cleaning the park. I wear cleaning gloves that help me clean the trash. My gloves are black. One glove can suck up trash while the other glove can throw it into the trash. My power helps the community because it helps kids play in a clean place.
My name is Vet Girl. My superpower is helping pets. I can shift shape into any animal. I can change into a fox. If I am a fox, I can sneak into small areas. When I am there, I can get close to small animals who are hurt. I can help them. This power is important because animals will trust me. If they trust me, I can help them. I have two sidekicks. My dog Lucky and my Fox Friend. His name is Wish.
My superhero name is KIND girl.
My superhero is KINDness. I look tall. I have a cape I have red polka dots I have a K for KIND. My power helps the community. I do KIND things like pick up trash so people will get inspired to help people so they can be KIND too...

My superhero is important because my superpower is kindness so probably people will be KIND too. People can be kind to their friends and other people too. KINDness solves all problems. There are a lot of mean and bad people. 50% of people are KIND people. KIND people help the homeless buy food and water for the homeless. KIND people clean and help the community. So that is why kindness is important.
Hi, I'm Litzer Raven. My Power is to pick up trash. I can close my eyes and imagine trash floating even from far away. I have big Peck Ya Nara hair, blue-green eyes, and red clothes, blue scarf, and glasses. Me Power also has the ability to help the environment. Stil, cleaner can float in the air and lightly take trash from the ground and into the garbage. My SupPower is important because I travel around the world. Picking up dirty things and put them in the trash. My Eyes will Glow Red when someone drops litter and blue when they're not. Keeping the environment clean is my Too. I like helping and having fun, but not just for the world. Help the environment with us and maybe you'll like it. It would be a pleasure for you to help us and the environment.
My name is Typer girl. My super hero power is helping kids get smarter and help them learn how to not look at the computer keyboard. My invisible typewriter keyboard represents me because it helps me to type also. It can turn into a flying board. Typing comes from my butt also when I press a pink button. My power is to help others become smart and intelligent. My super power helps other kids help people get smarter easily. Every time there is trouble I help and make sure there is safety. Also I make sure that everyone is smart. Keeping everyone important every student, adult and kid need to be smart. Enjoy your typing hole.

by Terrenique
Sometimes my name is Jet kid. I have super power. My super power is flying on an airplane jet thatdashus faster from one place to another. I look like a professional pilot. My power helps the community by speeding in a jet with people so they don’t have to be late for everything. This superpower is important because some transportation is slow and we are going to speed up. How I will do this is to help get people to where they have to be on time.
Hi! I'm Dancer Woman! My Super power is cheering people up with my dancing. I have hypnotizing eyes that hold people in place. I have a cape so people pay attention to me. My hip hop dancing makes people upbeat. My ballerina dancing makes people calm and relax, and my Jazz dancing makes people exited to clean. My Super power helps people become excited about cleaning. When I see people throwing trash I hypnotize them and then they clean up. Sad people that are crying I cheer them up with my dancing. Making people clean up helps the environment. Plants, animals and humans need to have a clean place to breathe, play, sleep, and eat. Every neighborhood has to be clean, humans, plants and animals are alive so we have to keep it clean so the world can be a better place!

by Paloma
My name is The helper. I help the homeless. My super power is helping the homeless. On my shirt I have a T for helping. I have a red cape, a pink mask, and black gloves. My superpower help the community by giving poor people a special package with food, water, books, clothes, blankets, tents, emergency phone, medicine, and a flash light. Every time I see a homeless person I will give them this special package. I will always make sure that a homeless person has the necessary resources. Keeping the homeless alive is important. My superpower helps everyone in my neighborhood needs to have the necessary resources for survival. Helping the people in my environment helps everyone.
Hi, my name is Art Woman. I help the homeless by designing a shelter for them. The shelter looks like Hollywood. It's a movie frame and a red carpet and a check with 9,100,000,000 dollars. They have a disco ball. I have blue eyes and I have black and little fishies on my suit.
SONIC
by Oscar

My superhero's name is Sonic. My super power is fast speed. I look like speedy fast man.

I can help the community by putting the trash in the garbage truck.

My super power is important because I save people and help the plants by taking away garbage fast.
My name is Captain Sleepy. My superpower is helping the environment to sleep more. My superpower is that I can sing a lullaby out loud and I can fly. I like to fly at night so no one can see me. If I see a bad guy, I will beat them up. And if it’s sunshine, I go to my bed.

How my powers help the community is by using my superpower to make everybody sleep in peace. I get everything sleepy. And everything will be fine in the city, and if I hear a scream, I will chase the bad guy. Why? Because my superpower is important. Because I can help the community sleep peacefully in the city. If I don’t sing a lullaby out loud, nobody will go to sleep. They will not go to sleep, and their eyes are going to be red. Or they will go some where early and you will have a beard.
Hi! I am Spider Boy. My super power is shooting webs and climbing walls. I look like I have a spider on my chest. I have a mask. My super power helps by stopping the bad guy. If a but guy robs the bank, I can web them and they will be stuck to the wall and if a man is making a mess, I will clean it up.
Hi, I’m Police Girl. My powers are to take the bully into jail for 200 days. During this time, they will learn how to be good people. I will help my community to take the bad guys away from my community. Every time I see someone being bullied, I will ask the police to throw them in jail. This will keep my community safe, peaceful, and the environment safe. My super power is taking bullies away to jail. It will help everyone be kind and nice to each other.
BEAUTIFUL GIRL

by Lamyla

My superhero name is Beautiful Girl. My superpower is helping people feel beautiful. I have brown hair, a pink shirt, and a black skirt. I like to build up everyone's self-esteem. My superpower helps the community by making everyone feel good. Everyone will be beautiful and will want their community to be beautiful too. I will make sure that the community is clean and not polluted. My superpower is important because I will keep the environment clean and not dirty. Everyone and everything will live longer because the Earth is clean. Let's keep the Earth beautiful.
THE BUILDER

by Jeremiah

My superhero name is The Builder. My superpower is building things in ten seconds. I wear a hard builder hat. I wear a builder vest and builder pants. My hat helps in case I fall. It protects my head, my vest makes my arm move fast, and my pants make my legs move fast. My power helps the community by giving homeless people a home. I can make trash cans for people to put their trash in them. My super power is important. It helps homeless people have a home for them to stay in and so people don't litter and the community stays clean.
My name is Sunbeam. My superpower is helping the environment. Every part of my body helps my community. The sun shine emblem on my chest shoots out sunbeams for plants to grow from my muscles, and flower seeds shoot from my underwear! My super power helps my community stay clean. Help keep our city clean, community clean! Every time I see trash on the ground, I pick it up with my hand and put it into the trash can. I also make sure that plants are always watered. Keeping the environment clean is an important super power. Everyone in my neighborhood needs a place to live and things need clean places to play. Even animals need a clean environment. Helping the environment helps everyone!
Hi! I’m Teleportist. My superpower is to teleport, so I can teleport from point A to point B in seconds. So I need to move quickly and teleport every day so I can help the community. I will teleport to save a baby from falling or to save people from dangerous situations. Also, I will save people from getting hit by a car and stop people with disabilities. I can also leave tools in a truck by Mike’s mine so I can help with the building. I can build anything with my mine. In case I have to build a spaceship, I can use my mind to build a guard to guard the citizens.
Jamiyl Samuels has been creatively writing for over 25 years. Whether it is screenwriting or making numerous contributions to entertainment magazines, blogs and websites as a freelance writer, creating poetry or song lyrics, he continues to do what he loves while striving to make an impact with his work.

Tracy-Ann Samuels serves as an Ambassador for Autism Speaks and spearheaded the idea to turn “The Amazingly Awesome Amani” into a series of children’s books. She aims to spread awareness about Autism through literature and community outreach via in-school readings, panel discussions, and speaking to patrons at festivals and book fairs.

They are founders of W.R.E.a.C Havoc Enterprises, a company that fosters growth, creativity and education through informed written content, film, and recorded music. They are currently working on expanding the children’s book series and growing their small business online. They reside in New York with their two children.

Class 3-223 is a class of 23 intelligent, creative, and talented third graders. We are great readers and writers. We will never give up! We always try our best to be the best students!

Behind the Book creates intensive learning and empowering experiences for New York City public school students. Working with classes from Pre-K through the 12th grade, Behind the Book brings authors and their books into individual classrooms to build literacy skills and create a community of lifelong readers and writers. Each of a series of workshops is designed to bring books to life to inspire and engage the students. Behind the Book programs are part of the class curriculum and meet the Common Core Learning Standards.
Common Core Learning Standards Addressed

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1
Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3
Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3
Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
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