

# IDEAS 89

International Online Teachers Society  
Debate  
Educational Materials For  
Advance and Upper Intermediate  
Students



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## BEING A PARENT IS HEROIC IN ITSELF

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When we were kids, we all had heroes that we adored, strived to emulate, or hoped to become. Superman was always the superhero that most boys idolized. He was the ultimate symbol of great power capped with tremendous humility. The mild mannered Clark Kent was his human form. In the upcoming movie Man of Steel, the producers aim to show Superman as a typical human being, quite apart from what the earlier opuses on Superman have tried to show. We shall soon find out that he can be temperamental, far from the mild-mannered character we have always been familiar with in earlier versions.

As a little girl, I always liked watching Bionic Woman and Wonder Woman on TV. Too bad Linda Carter and Lindsay Wagner no longer essay the roles of those two super heroines. If TV producers could only bring back those TV series, we'd have better fare to watch at least a week aside from what has been currently offered by the TV networks.

But those mentioned above are superheroes/super heroines. They do not make up the majority of the world's population. Neither do they face common everyday problems like we do. Maybe the Man of Steel who's coming in June hopes to change our earlier perceptions of Superman, but it's not everyday that anyone gets to face a diabolical foe like General Zod!

We are all heroes or heroines in our own right. We face everyday problems and attempt and even succeed at solving them. We face the most outrageous obstacles in life and try our best to maintain our sanity amidst all the madness and chaos. We equip ourselves and our children with the weapons to face every aspect of their lives with their faith intact and their self-esteem undiminished. Parents are heroes in the eyes of their children. It is up to us, therefore, to take care of that image.

However, in keeping our reputation well-preserved, let us not forget that we are humans, too. Let us allow ourselves to show our children that we do have our vulnerabilities. We need not pretend to have an impenetrable shield and a very strong mind all the time. Let us allow our kids to see that we are humans too, prone to weakness and uncertainty. We cannot be perfect heroes all the time. By all means, let us stick to our principles. But let us not mislead our children into believing that we always have the answers and that we do not need other people's assistance.

Perhaps, if we succeed in showing our children more humility rather than immense pride, we may succeed in raising humans who, aware of their inadequacies, can still strive to optimize what they have and will not be too proud to ask for help. Such is the stuff real superheroes are made of.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Who is your favorite superhero? What is it about this superhero that you admire the most?
2. Do you look at your parents as heroes? Elaborate on your answer by talking about their great attributes.
3. Is there any other individual you look up to as your hero? Be able to talk about this person.
4. Why do you think being a superhero isn't easy? Justify this with concrete examples, as needed.
5. How do we become heroes in our own right?



## WHO'S YOUR HERO?

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I was watching this late night TV program where senatorial candidates were interviewed about their platforms for governance and other matters. One of the more interesting segments of the program was when the panelists asked all the candidates who their favorite heroes were. Around 7 out of the 12 senatorial candidates gave common superheroes as their answers, with one even mentioning the hero in a current TV program of the host channel. What touched me were the answers given by almost half of those being interviewed onstage: parents, dad, Jesus. Wow, in a world where great ability has always been equated with being a superhero, we still have people in our midst who quantify being a hero with faith, parental love, and Divine Grace.

I find it interesting when people say their parents are the true heroes in their own lives. Parents often come unnoticed, preferring to stay in the background while their offspring reap the fruits of their labor and become all they have been meant to be. We dote on our children, ignoring the fact that we may not live long enough to see the fulfillment of their dreams.

In my case, losing my husband at 37 was a very painful experience. He had the grandest dreams for his children. When he died, I felt like a part of me died, too. But somehow, something in my late husband lives in each of my children. I see him in my children's eyes, in their laughter and in their simple dreams. I see something that wants to live in my children that used to be a part of what had fueled my husband's dreams. It has now come upon me to make sure those dreams see fruition. The road is often difficult, but this is not the time to be weak. My late husband has always been one of my heroes.

My parents have always been my heroes. When my late father had still been alive, he was the one who wanted to make sure my children's education was provided for despite my husband's early demise. Papa would always be on hand to ensure my kids were in school on time everyday. In his trusty, rickety tricycle, papa would bring my children to school every morning, and even fetch two of them at dismissal time. Mama would always patiently watch over her grandchildren at school, knowing I couldn't be able to do it myself because of the demands of the job I keep. When Papa died, we all lost a huge part of ourselves. But Papa's legacy lives on in his grandchildren. Mama will be the shining beacon that's sure to light our way in the family.

And Jesus? Well, His inclusion is a no-brainer. Jesus has always made sure I have enough zest for living and faith to go on. He's the One who has made possible everything in life. He always loves us more than we love Him.

Be thankful for the heroes we have! They make life sweeter and us stronger.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why do you think people often equate heroes with great power? Why is it not easy to equate heroism with being an everyday human being?
2. If you were a hero, what particular powers would you love to possess?
3. How can heroism be shown during times of chaos? In peacetime?
4. Talk about the national hero you admire. What makes this real person worth emulating?
5. Can you still find heroes in today's times? Be able to justify your answer with concrete examples.



## THE HERO INSIDE US - AN INHERENT EXCELLENCE

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We were never aware at times that there is that hero inside of us, that is, an inherent excellence which is coaching within you. Humans as we all are, we were born with an incredible inner mind which give us an understanding of being able to produce whatever results that we actually desire. I really believe that here is a hero inside each and every one that we tend to overlook and we barely notice it most of the time. We are not even aware and conscious of the fact that we are the best human beings we can be. At the same time, we have all the potentials that we can actually acquire overtime in our life.

We all believe in heroes and this is the sole reason why we all want to hear stories about a hero. We were endowed and bestowed by God with a heart feeling not only for ourselves but with a heart for everybody else. Oh yes, we cannot deny the fact that there are a lot of times when we come to know a story that grips us, as in we are easily moved, bring us to tears and even give us hope or joy. We can see them either in the stories in the Bible or in the movies, where the hero will come and rescue his beloved or maybe rescue his people that he must die so that they can be set free. That is best described in one movie that I have watched several times, the movie "Braveheart" which stars Mel Gibson and I just think that we all have seen and were moved by this story.

You do not have to save the world for you to become a hero for there is a hero inside each and every one of us. It can come up either in a big or small way but in any ways it could be, we are in our own special way a hero to somebody too. It is because of the sole reason that we can make a big difference to one person and that is all that matters. To that one person, you were a hero since you have changed his world. Definitely it makes a big difference when you touch the lives of people around you.

We are not touching on the hero inside us because of intelligence alone, but because of an inherent intelligence, that is not only really referring to perfection. Inherent intelligence, meaning the love and belief in the greatness of the human spirit which is everything we need inside of us. This also means bringing out your gifts and uniqueness in the clear process. We can never know the hero inside us until it comes along. Let's not waste our time looking for heroes, for the hero that we are looking for is already here and that is us!

When the going gets tough, that is when the hero inside of us is, that inherent excellence of making or trying to make circumstances better for everyone else.

Questions for discussion:

1. Do you believe that you have got what it takes to be a hero? Why or why not?
2. Can you feel that inherent excellence inside of you? How?
3. Do you think other people feel indifferently and never thought of themselves as heroes? Why do they never succeed in life?
4. When was the last time that you felt like a hero in your life?
5. Does it pay to think and feel that you are a hero in your own right and respect? Explain your answer.



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