

### Absolutely Incredible Kid Day

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in March is national Absolutely Incredible Kid Day! It's a day created by Camp Fire USA in 1997 to inspire and encourage kids to do amazing things by letting them know how incredible they are. Mentoring Minds believes every day is a great day to celebrate kids AND critical thinking. Since writing assessments are right around the corner, let's use this as a perfect opportunity to develop the **Create** critical thinking trait. Students will use their unique personalities and characteristics to create a new Absolutely Incredible superhero and extend their creativity to develop an informational writing piece.



*Note: Preview literature and Internet websites for appropriate content to match your district guidelines.*

### Getting Started



**Critical Thinking Trait Focus—Create:** *I use my knowledge and imagination to express new and innovative ideas.* Review the **Create** critical thinking trait with students and explain they will be using this trait to help recreate themselves as a superhero.

**Learning Standards Focus**—plan a first draft using a range of strategies; develop an engaging idea; synthesize information to create new understanding.

**Vocabulary**—characteristic, trait, strength, central idea, evidence, structure

**Materials**—**Think It Out** page; crayons, map colors or markers; writing paper

### Instruction

#### Activity Directions:

1. Introduce students to personal traits using a short title or excerpt to read aloud. (See Literature Suggestions.)
2. Share with students that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in March is Absolutely Incredible Kid Day, a fun day to celebrate the uniqueness of kids everywhere. Invite discussions about personal strengths and use the time to introduce vocabulary such as characteristic, trait, strength, and evidence.
3. Prompt students with thought-provoking questions to facilitate the development of the **Create** critical thinking trait. Examples might include:
  - a. “What is the underlying message?”
  - b. “In what ways can you connect with \_\_\_\_?”
  - c. “What are the pros and cons of \_\_\_\_?”
4. Allow students to work individually, in pairs, or in small groups to explore their own personal strengths using situational evidence or examples.
5. Guide students as they select and combine their personal strengths on the **Think It Out** page to reveal their own personal superpower. Encourage students to create a self-portrait that clearly illustrates their personal strengths.

### Reflect

After students have **created** their personal superhero persona, facilitate a discussion about their thinking and learning. Guide students as they focus on how the **Create** critical thinking trait helped them process through the task. Emphasize the importance of using knowledge coupled with imagination to **Create** new ideas.

### Literature Suggestions

**Books Featuring Personal Strengths:** *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown, *Drawn Together* by Minh Lê, *A Bike Like Sergio's* by Maribeth Boelts, *Her Right Foot* by Dave Eggers, *Emmanuel's Dream* by Laurie Ann Thompson, *The Juice Box Bully* by Bob Sornson and Maria Dismondy

### Online Resources

Hidden Superpower Quiz: <https://youtu.be/llNEAUTrki4>

Superhero Wiki for Kids: <https://youtu.be/l4Wv3J2trMs>

Kid President: <https://youtu.be/tgF1Enrgo2g>

### Extend the Activity

Guide students as they use their newly created superhero persona as a topic for informational writing.

**READ** the following quotation.

“The truth is that there’s something unique about each and every one of us. Everyone has a superpower of one kind or another.” –Lizzie Velazquez

**THINK** about the personal strengths and characteristics that might become your superpower.

**WRITE** about one of your personal strengths and explain what makes it your personal superpower.



#### We love to see how students interact with our resources!

Take photos of your students' work, share them on social media, and use the hashtags: **#MentoringMinds** **#CriticalThinking**. Find us on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn **@mentoringminds**

**Be sure to remember your social media tags! Each month, we will choose a post to win a prize!**

### Think It Out!

Choose 3 traits that clearly describe you and blend them together to find your personal superpower.

**Flexible**

Smart  
Competitive  
Self-confident  
Natural Leader

Calm

**Determined**

**Perceptive**

Kindhearted  
Humble  
Honest

**Curious**

Patient  
Trustworthy

On Time  
Organized

**Creative**

Capable  
Neat

**Focused**

Hard-working

**Outspoken**

Independent

**Reflective**

Charming  
Persuasive  
Resourceful  
Mature

Concerned  
Supportive  
Respectful  
Polite  
Helpful

Considerate  
**Team Player**



Use the space below to create a self-portrait of your superhero persona in action.