

The book cover features a vibrant illustration. At the top right, a stack of books is shown with a burst of golden light. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds. In the foreground, a large green superhero figure is depicted from the waist up, wearing a green suit with a red emblem on the chest. The superhero is looking down at two young girls in the bottom left corner. The girl on the left has blonde hair and is wearing a pink dress. The girl on the right has dark hair and is wearing a blue dress. They both have expressions of surprise or awe. In the background, there is a green landscape with trees and a small yellow house with a purple roof. The title 'The Mysterious Superhero' is written in large, bold, orange letters with a slight shadow effect. The author and illustrator names are written in white text on the right side of the cover.

# The Mysterious Superhero

by Winston White  
illustrated by Mary Peterson

**HOUGHTON MIFFLIN**

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**HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT**  
School Publishers

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Printed in China

ISBN-13: 978-0-547-02139-3

ISBN-10: 0-547-02139-9

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 0940 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11

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🔊 Daisy inched her chair closer to Cho.  
“Have you heard the latest news?” whispered Daisy.

“No, what is it?” Cho asked.

🔊 Daisy spoke in a low voice. “The superhero struck again. An elephant escaped from the zoo yesterday. Suddenly the superhero swooped down, scooped up the elephant, and carried it back to the zoo.”

🔊 “Wow!” said Cho. “I wish we knew who this superhero was.”

“Shhh,” Daisy warned. “Here comes Ms. Diller.”

The girls stopped talking as their teacher walked by.





🔊 The whole class was talking about the superhero's most recent rescue. In the past month, the superhero had also stopped a terrible landslide and a roaring flood.

🔊 The landslide happened after a rainstorm. The dirt on a steep hill had started sliding toward the town. The superhero quickly placed giant tree trunks at the bottom of the hill. This quick thinking had saved the town from being swallowed in mud.



Soon after the landslide, a dam had burst. Water began pouring into the town! The superhero rolled a huge boulder in front of the dam until it could be repaired. This quick thinking had saved the town from floating away in the rushing water.

The townspeople were grateful, but they were also very curious. Who was this mysterious person? No one had gotten a close look at the amazing hero. All they knew was that the superhero wore a black mask and a green cape.

🔊 Cho and Daisy walked home after school.

“Do you think we can find out who the superhero is?” asked Cho.

“I’m not sure,” said Daisy. “We’ll have to be really good detectives and find clues that other people have **overlooked.**”

🔊 Cho suggested that they start by visiting the zoo to look for clues. Just as they were leaving for the zoo, they heard some more news. The superhero had been seen at the radio station tower. A baby hawk was trapped at the top and couldn’t fly down. The superhero sprang into action and rescued the bird.

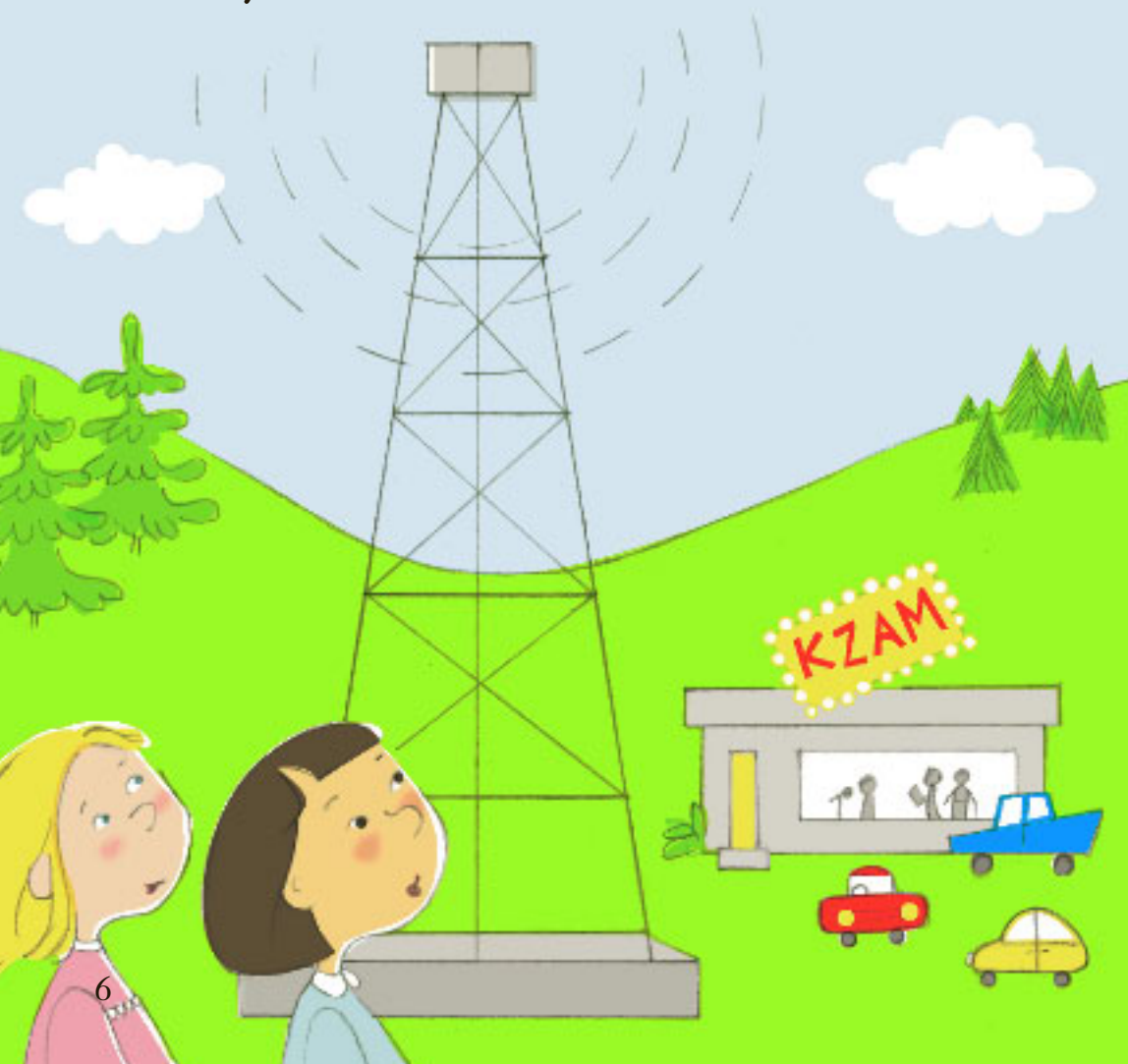


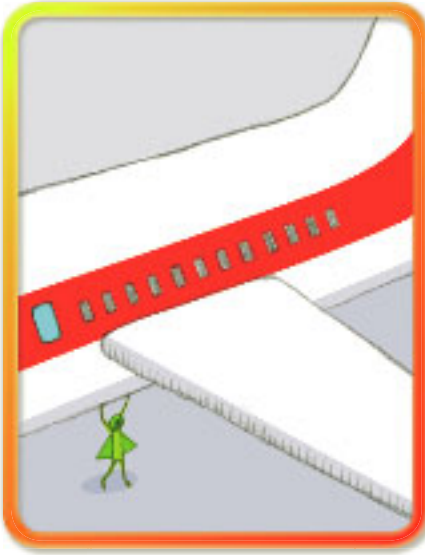


🔊 Cho and Daisy went to the radio station. They stood **gazing** up at the top of the tower.

“The superhero must have legs like **springs** to be able to jump up there,” said Cho.

The girls **studied** the scene carefully but did not find a single clue. Their search was over for the day.





Every day, Daisy and Cho listened for news of a new sighting. They heard that the superhero had plucked a plane from the sky when its landing gear broke. So they went to the airport, but they found no clues.

Then they heard that the superhero had stopped a bus whose brakes had failed. So they went to the bus station. But they still found no clues.

“We’re really getting some **exercise**, aren’t we?” said Daisy.

“My legs are **sore** from walking all over town. Do you think we’ll ever find out who the superhero is?” Cho asked.





🔊 One day, the girls heard that the superhero had been at the park. A park ranger was trapped under a fallen tree. The superhero arrived on the scene and pulled the heavy tree off of the ranger. Cho and Daisy rushed to the park. But the superhero was gone.

“This is getting frustrating. We never find anything,” said Cho glumly.

🔊 “We need a plan,” Daisy said. “We need to get the superhero to come and rescue us so we can take a closer look.”

“Rescue us? We won’t do anything dangerous, will we?” said Cho nervously.

🔊 “Of course not,” answered Daisy. “I have an idea. We can climb up a tall tree. Then we can call for help to get down. When the superhero comes, we’ll take a good look and see if we can figure out who it is.”





🔊 The success of their plan **depended** on convincing the superhero that they needed help. They would have to climb a very tall tree, and they would have to shout loudly enough for the superhero to hear them. Then the superhero would locate them in the tree and rescue them.

🔊 Daisy and Cho climbed a tall tree in Cho's backyard.

“This should be high enough,” said Daisy, sitting down on a sturdy branch. Cho sat next to her. “Now we need to get the attention of the superhero.”

🔊 “Help, help,” the girls called loudly. “We need help to get down from this tree.”

Mrs. Wilson, Cho’s neighbor, heard the girls yelling. She looked out her window and saw Cho and Daisy high up in the tree.

🔊 She shouted out the window, “Hang on, girls. I’ll call the fire department right away. They’ll bring a ladder truck to help you get down. Just hang on until they get here.”





“No, no, no,” muttered Daisy. “We don’t want the fire department. We want the superhero.”

“Our plan isn’t working,” moaned Cho.

The girls could hear the fire truck’s siren screeching in the distance. Help was on the way.

“What will we do now?” Cho asked.

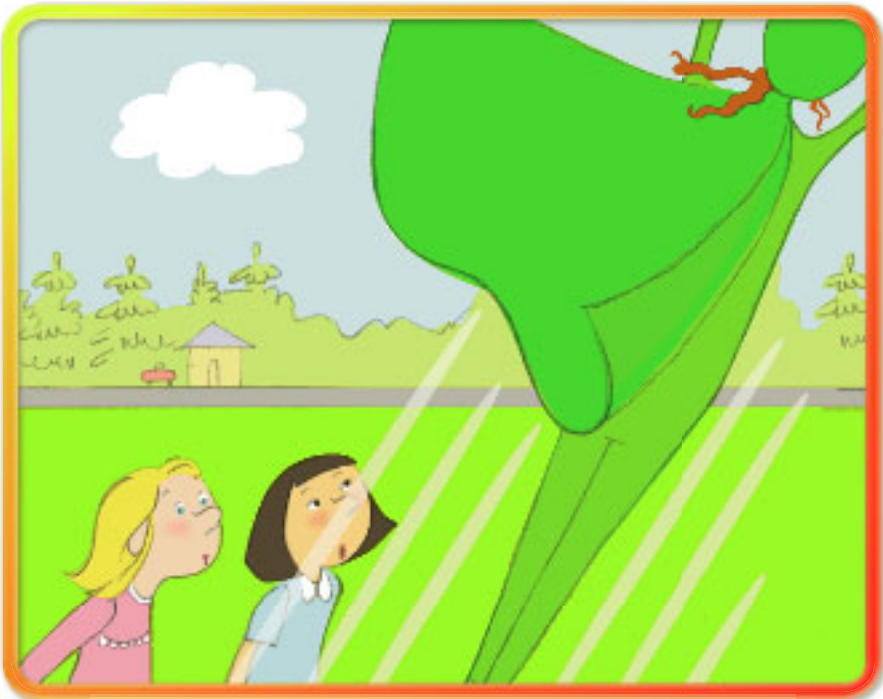
“We’ll have to let the fire department rescue us, and then think of another plan,” Daisy replied with a sigh.

Just as the fire truck got close, Daisy and Cho heard a whooshing sound. The superhero flew into the tree, grabbed one girl under each arm, and floated down to the ground. She placed each girl down gently. Then she flew off into the clouds. Daisy and Cho looked at each other in astonishment.

“Did you get a close look at the superhero?” asked Daisy.

Cho said, “Yes! Was that who I think it was?”

“We can’t be sure yet,” said Daisy. “But I think I know where we might find a clue.”







🔊 Daisy and Cho got to school early the next day. They stepped inside their empty classroom.

“Daisy, look over there in the closet!” exclaimed Cho.

🔊 Inside Ms. Diller’s closet, the girls spied a green cape hanging on a hook. Daisy and Cho grinned at each other. They had discovered the identity of the superhero!

“And we thought Ms. Diller was just an ordinary teacher!” said Daisy.

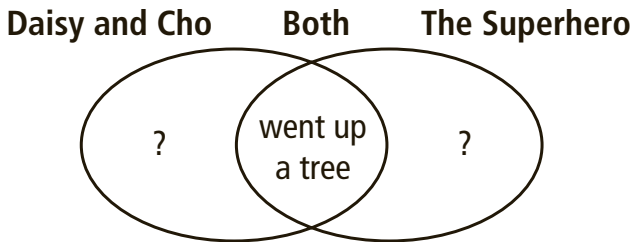
🔊 They smiled at each other. Now that they knew the answer they would keep it a secret. Ms. Diller was the best teacher ever!

# Responding



## TARGET SKILL Compare and Contrast

Copy the Venn diagram below. Think of ways in which Daisy and Cho are the same and different from the superhero. Write words in the diagram to compare and contrast them.



## Write About It

**Text to Text** What other superheroes have you read about? Write a paragraph that describes another superhero. Compare and contrast that superhero to the one in the story. Use a beginning that makes the reader want to read more.



### TARGET VOCABULARY

depended  
exercise  
gazing  
hero

overlooked  
sore  
springs  
studied

### EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

dangerous  
identity  
mysterious

ordinary  
terrible



### TARGET SKILL **Compare and Contrast**

Tell how two things are alike or not.



### TARGET STRATEGY **Monitor/Clarify** Find

ways to figure out what doesn't make sense.



**GENRE** A **fantasy** is a story that could not happen in real life.

**Level:** L

**DRA:** 24

**Genre:**

Fantasy

**Strategy:**

Monitor/Clarify

**Skill:**

Compare and Contrast

**Word Count:** 1,104

2.4.20

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