


Stan Lee's legacy

adapted from an article by Sean O'Neill

- 1 Twelve minutes into the pilot episode of the 1970s TV series *The Amazing Spider Man*, a young Peter Parker, played by Nicholas Hammond, is bitten in a lab by a radioactive spider. Moments later out on the street, his brand-new spidey sense already tingling, he is chased by a car to the end of a blind alley. Without thinking, he launches himself onto the smooth wall and effortlessly climbs several storeys – much to his own surprise.
- 2 I was 6 or 7 years old when I saw this for the first time, and it blew my tiny mind. Those moments drew me into Stan Lee's comic-book world. Lee's decades as Marvel's top writer and editor helped to revolutionise comic-book superheroes and villains. Much of his success came because he focused on depth of character as much as on spectacle.
- 3 In the 1960s, Lee was instrumental in increasing diversity in superhero characters, says psychologist and mental health counsellor Parker Shaw, based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, who has researched the psychological effects of reading superhero comics. "Most people had a superhero that looked like them, and struggled with the same challenges," says Shaw. Today, Shaw sometimes uses comic book narratives in therapy. "As a mental health counsellor, I am trying to connect with my patients in a way that both of us can relate to. Superheroes offer a safe, relatable outlet for children, adolescents and adults to openly discuss superheroes' struggles, while 19."
- 4 While DC Comics served up superheroes often destined for greatness (think Superman and Aquaman), Lee took everyday people, and thrust superpowers upon them, often courtesy of, let's face it, some very dubious science. Where would Lee be without radiation? A radioactive spider created Spider Man, exposure to gamma radiation produced the Hulk, while cosmic rays turned four astronauts into the Fantastic Four. As Lee admitted in an interview: "I'm the least scientific person you'll ever know, but I try to seem scientific with our characters. I wouldn't know a gamma ray if I saw it... But if it sounds good, I'll use it."

- 5 But perhaps Lee was being too 21. From artificial silk with curious properties (though unlikely to catch thieves just like flies), to power-lifting exoskeletons (though without Tony Stark's jet boots – yet), the futuristic technology that features in many Marvel creations may be just around the corner.
- 6 As well as his extraordinary creativity, Lee's own superpowers included his longevity. "I was first interviewed for Stan Lee's obituary about 20 years ago," writer Neil Gaiman tweeted: "I was happy he defied the reaper and carried on. With Stan now gone, aged 95, an era really does come to an end. He was the happy huckster that comics needed."

newscientist.com, 2018

Tekst 6 Stan Lee's legacy

"Stan Lee's legacy" (title)

- 1p 17 How is Stan Lee introduced in paragraph 1?
- A by analysing which elements are behind his success
 - B by applauding the timeless quality of his creative work
 - C by giving an example of an exciting storyline written by him
 - D by glorifying the originality of the characters he created
 - E by highlighting how well he made use of special effects
- 1p 18 What becomes clear about Stan Lee in paragraph 2?
- A He contributed to the development of the comic-book genre.
 - B He criticised fellow comic-book writers for creating flat characters.
 - C He dared to introduce unexpected twists in his comic-book stories.
 - D He was the first comic-book writer who appealed to adult readers.
- 1p 19 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 3?
- A indirectly processing their own issues
 - B obsessively acting out their own fantasies
 - C publicly denying their own limitations
 - D shamelessly justifying their own choices
- "Where would Lee be without radiation?" (paragraph 4)
- 1p 20 How can this remark best be characterised?
- A as admiring
 - B as arrogant
 - C as hypocritical
 - D as playful
 - E as surprised
- 1p 21 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 5?
- A impatient
 - B modest
 - C optimistic
 - D stubborn

In deze tekst zeggen de volgende personen iets over Stan Lee:

1 Parker Shaw (alinea 3)

2 Neil Gaiman (alinea 6)

1p 22 Geef per persoon aan welke uitspraak samenvat wat hij zegt over Stan Lee.

Noteer de letter van de uitspraak achter elk nummer op het antwoordblad.

Let op: er blijven twee uitspraken over.

- a He embodies a period in the history of comic books.
- b He underestimated how much of his fiction could become reality.
- c People can identify with his main characters.
- d Rivalling comic writers tended to be jealous of him.

Bronvermelding

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