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Create a hero and a villain

Imagine you're writing a story, and you can't decide what your hero and your villain should be like.

Here's a fun way to find out:

1. In the boxes on worksheet 1, write down as many good/heroic qualities as you can think of. They might be things like 'kind', 'brave', 'generous', etc. Or 'very strong'. Or 'can breathe underwater'. All the sorts of things that might suit a hero. Put one quality in each box, and try to fill them all.
2. In the boxes on worksheet 2, write down as many bad/villainous qualities as you can think of. They might be things like 'selfish', 'cruel to animals', 'ruthless', etc. Or 'can become invisible'. Or 'a deadly shot with a crossbow'. All the sorts of things that might suit a villain.
3. Take a coin and toss it onto worksheet 1. Wherever it lands, your hero has that quality. Do this three times, and write the answers in the left-hand column of worksheet 3.
4. Toss your coin onto worksheet 2. Wherever it lands, your villain has that quality. Do this three times, and write the answers in the right-hand column of worksheet 3.
5. No one is completely good or completely bad. So toss your coin once onto worksheet 2. Wherever it lands, your hero has that quality. Toss your coin once onto worksheet 1. Wherever it lands, your villain has that quality. Write them down on worksheet 3.
6. Read through what you have discovered about your hero and your villain. Now think of one surprising thing about each of them. Write it on worksheet 3.
7. You're done! It's time to start daydreaming a story where your hero and your villain clash.

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Illustration: Sebastian Ciaffaglione

Worksheet 3: Coin-drop results

Hero	Villain
Good/heroic quality	Bad/villainous quality
Good/heroic quality	Bad/villainous quality
Good/heroic quality	Bad/villainous quality
Bad/villainous quality	Good/heroic quality
One surprising fact about:	One surprising fact about: