

The Beginning of a Hero™

Student Interaction Sheet



Serving the 2017-2018 School Year

Troy Aikman

Troy Aikman

Born: November 21, 1966

West Covina, California

(51 years old)

1. Troy Aikman participated in sports. What special interests do you have?

2. Write about any career goals you might be thinking about already?

3. Troy Aikman became a famous football star. What do you think really made him a HERO?

4. Write about a situation in the world that you would like to HELP, and that you would like to influence others to join you in HELPING.

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Susan B. Anthony

Born: February 15, 1820
Adams, Massachusetts
Died: March 13, 1906 (Age 86)
Rochester, New York

1. Susan learned about self-discipline. Write about how you show self-discipline in your life.

2. Explain what you think “equal rights” means.

3. Write about something in the world today that you believe is not fair.

4. What is something you would like to change that would make life better for others?

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Robert Ballard

Robert Duane Ballard

June 30, 1942

Wichita, Kansas

(75 years old)

1. Robert Ballard's favorite book was 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. What is your favorite book?

2. Tell how interests that you have now might help you with a career as an adult.

3. Robert Ballard was an explorer of the bottom of the ocean. What other kinds of explorers have you heard of or read about?

4. Would you like to be in Robert Ballard's program for learning about the science of ocean exploration? Why or why not?

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Ludwig Van Beethoven

Born: 1770

Bonn, Germany

Died: Mar 26, 1827 (Age 57)

Vienna, Austria

1. Do you enjoy hearing orchestras play? Why or why not?

2. What is your favorite kind of music? How do you think it HELPS people?

3. What do you think made Ludwig Van Beethoven a HERO?

4. Write about something that means as much to you as Beethoven's music meant to him.

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Richard Branson

Richard Branson

Born: July 18, 1950

London, England

(67 years old)

1. There was no television in Richard Branson's home. How would you feel about that? Why?

2. What kind of adventure or challenge do you wish for?

3. If you could start your very own company as Richard Branson did, what kind of company would you like to have?

4. If you had a lot of money to use to HELP people, how would you want to use it for the good of others?

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Warren Buffett

Warren Buffett

Born: August 30, 1930

Omaha, Nebraska

(87 years old)

1. Even a child, Warren Buffett was busy working to earn money. What kind of work have you done to earn money?

2. What do you do with your money after you earn it? (Hint: Saving part of it is a really good idea!)

3. What made Warren Buffett a hero?

4. Would you like to have a lot of money to give away? Who would you give it to and what would you hope they would do with it?

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Dr. Ben Carson

1. Ben had a difficult childhood, but with the HELP of his mother and his own self-discipline, he was able to work through it. How do you get through difficult times?

Benjamin Solomon Carson

Born: September 18, 1951

Detroit, Michigan

(66 years old)

2. When Ben was young, video games and electronic devices had not yet been invented. And television had only 2 or 3 channels. Still, a lot of kids spent a lot of time watching TV. Ben's mother said no to TV, and instead, she required Ben and his brother to read two books every week and write reports on them. Do you think this was a good idea? Why or why not?

3. Ben went from being a not-very-good student to being an excellent student—good enough to earn a scholarship to Yale University! What kinds of educational opportunities are you working toward?

4. Ben chose a career that has now HELPED thousands of people in some really big ways! What kinds of career goals do you have for yourself? Why?

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John Deere

1. Johnny Deere was a child in the early 1800s. Write about what you think life was like then.

Born: Feb 07, 1804
Rutland, Vermont
Died: May 17, 1886 (Age 82)
Moline, Illinois

2. Johnny had to HELP out a lot at home. What do you do to HELP your family?

3. John Deere learned to be a blacksmith. Tell what you know about the job of a blacksmith.

4. John Deere became a HERO by HELPING farmers with a new kind of plow that he invented. What farm, garden, or yard equipment have you seen with the name "John Deere" on it?

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Amelia Earhart

Born: July 24, 1897

Atchison, Kansas

Disappeared: July 2, 1937 (Age 39)

Pacific Ocean

1. Amelia Earhart's favorite book was Black Beauty. Name a favorite book of yours and tell why you like it.

2. When Amelia got her first airplane ride, she decided she wanted to be a pilot, too. Have you ever had a ride in an airplane? Write about it.

3. Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. Why do you think that was important?

4. Would you like to read more about Amelia Earhart's adventures? Why?

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Thomas Edison

1. As a child, Thomas Edison loved to read about science. What do you most like to read about? Write how this might help you in your job someday.

Born: February 11, 1847

Milan, Ohio

Died: October 18, 1931 (Age 84)

West Orange, New Jersey

2. What is your favorite thing that Thomas Edison invented? Write about it.

3. Thomas Edison had perseverance. Explain what perseverance means. Do YOU have perseverance?

4. What did Thomas Edson mean when he said “failure can be our friend?” (Hint: It’s NOT when we fail because we don’t try or don’t care!)

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Pedro Flores

1. Write about your experience with yo-yos! What tricks can you do with yo-yos?

Born: April 26, 1896

Philippines

Died: Dec. 27, 1963 or Jan. 3, 1964 (Age 67)

Coshocton County, Ohio

2. Pedro Flores wanted to be in business for himself. While Pedro Flores did not invent the yo-yo, he was the first to make yo-yos in the U.S. and he sold millions of them! What business of your own would you like to have? Why?

3. Do you think it would be a good idea for movie theaters today to hold yo-yo contests before they showed a movie? Why or why not?

4. Why do you think Pedro Flores was a HERO?

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Robert Frost

1. Robert's childhood was very difficult because suddenly, his father died when Robert was 11. He, along with the rest of the family moved all the way from California to Massachusetts. What fears or concerns do you think he had during this time?

Born: March 26, 1874

San Francisco, California

Died: January 29, 1963 (Age 89)

Boston, Massachusetts

2. When you face a difficult situation, do you have fears and concerns about it? Do you worry, or do you find someone who has faced a similar situation and learn from them? Explain.

3. When Robert was only 12-years-old, he started working to HELP earn money for his family. Write about some things you have done to earn extra money. Do you HELP others with some of the money you earn?

4. Robert Frost loved walking through the woods to think, and to come up with ideas for his poems. Tell about a place where you like to go to do some of your best thinking.

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Bill Gates

1. Bill Gates was good in math, science, and computer programming. Write about the subjects you are strong in and how they can help you in your future.

William Henry Gates III

Born: Oct 28, 1955

Seattle, Washington

(62 years old)

2. Bill Gates created software for computers. What is your favorite software?

3. If you became a billionaire like Bill Gates, would you HELP others with your money? If so, how?

4. Write some ways you could HELP others even if you had no money.

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Tony Hawk

1. Tony Hawk grew up in San Diego, California where the weather is always warm and usually sunny. If you could pick anywhere to live, where would it be? Why?

Tony Hawk

Born: May 12, 1968

Carlsbad, California

(49 years old)

2. Tony was only 9-years-old when he first began skateboarding. What is something you are good at that might HELP you in your future? How can you work to make that happen?

3. Do you like to skateboard? Tell why or why not.

4. What is it that really makes Tony Hawk a HERO? (Hint: It's not that he is aa amazing skateboarder.)

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Milton Hershey

1. Would you like to have a job learning to make candy? Why or why not?

Born: September 13, 1857
Derry Township, Pennsylvania
Died: October 13, 1945 (Age 88)
Hershey, Pennsylvania

2. What is your favorite candy? How do you think it is made?

3. When Milton Hershey tried to start his own candy factory, he failed over and over again. Why do you think he didn't just give up? Write about it.

4. If you could build your own town as Milton Hershey did, what would you want it to be like? Write about it.

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Paul David Hewson (Bono)

Paul David Hewson

Born: May 10, 1960

Dublin, Ireland

(57 years old)

1. Bono was born in Ireland. Find Ireland on a world map. Name another country it is near.

2. Do you enjoy singing? What would your neighbors say if you and your brother or friend sang loudly out in the street?

3. How has Bono truly become a world-class HERO?

4. Write about something you would like to do to become a HERO.

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Danny Kaye

1. Very early in his life, Danny Kaye wanted to be an entertainer. Have you ever wanted to be an entertainer? How would you want to entertain people?

Born: January 18, 1911
Brooklyn, New York
Died: March 3, 1987 (Age 76)
Los Angeles, California

2. As a student still in school, what career goals do you already have? What will you need to do to succeed at those goals?

3. What did Danny Kaye want to give to the poor children in the world?

4. What were some things he did to HELP those children get what they needed?

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. Dr. King had a dream of a different kind of world than when he was a boy. What dreams do you have for the world today?

Born: January 15, 1929

Atlanta, Georgia

Died: April 4, 1968 (Age 39)

Memphis, Tennessee

2. Dr. King HELPED people learn about brotherhood. How would you explain what brotherhood means?

3. Write about a time when you have seen someone mistreated because he or she was different than the people mistreating him.

4. Do you think Dr. King kept the promise he made to himself and his dad? Tell how.

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Rene Laennec

Born: February 17, 1781
Quimper, France
Died: August 13, 1826 (Age 45)
Ploaré, France

1. Rene was from France. Find France on a world map. What is another country near France?

2. By the time he was 12-years-old, Rene could speak five languages. Can you write two or three words from another language you have learned?

3. Explain how the war in France caused Rene Laennec to become interested in being a doctor.

4. Rene Laennec was able to make a stethoscope after watching some children play with a long piece of wood. Tell how a doctors today use a stethoscopes.

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Abraham Lincoln

1. Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States. What is President Lincoln best known for?

Born: February 12, 1809
Hodgenville, Kentucky
Died: April 15, 1865 (Age 56)
Washington D.C.

2. As a young boy, Abe actually HELPED his father chop trees and build a log cabin for their family. Write about something you have HELPED your parents do.

3. What did Abraham Lincoln love more than anything? Tell about ways he found to do this.

4. How do you think it helped Abraham Lincoln to read about George Washington?

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George Lucas

1. Do you have a sports HERO or another kind of HERO? Do you think he or she practiced a lot to get really good?

George Walton Lucas, Jr.

Born: May 14, 1944

Modesto, California

(73 years old)

2. Have you seen any of the Star Wars or Indiana Jones movies? What did you think about them? What kind of person did you think had written them?

3. Do you think it would be fun to have a career making movies? Why or why not?

4. What are the two biggest ways George Lucas has accomplished becoming a HERO?

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Delilah Rene Luke

Delilah Rene Luke

Born: February 15, 1960

Reedsport, Oregon

(57 years old)

1. Delilah's family was very involved in music. Write about something your family is involved in together.

2. How did Delilah use something she was good at to make a career for herself?

3. Explain one of the ways that Delilah HELPS people.

4. Delilah HELPS people in Ghana on the continent of Africa. Find Ghana on a world map. Name another country near Ghana.

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Reba McEntire

1. Reba's family had lots of horses and participated in rodeos. This made Reba very happy. What kind of family activities make you happy?

Reba Nell McEntire

Born: March 28, 1955

McAlester, Oklahoma

(62 years old)

2. Reba and her brother and sister sang in a group called The Singing McEntires. If you were a singer in a group, what would you want your group to be called? Why?

3. Reba McEntire has been called an outstanding humanitarian. Explain what that means.

4. Reba McEntire made a lot of money in recording music, as well as starring in movies and her own television show. Write about what Reba has done with a lot of her money.

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Sir Isaac Newton

1. Isaac Newton was born more than 300 years ago. Think of three things that were very different so long ago.

Born: December 25, 1642
Lincolnshire, England
Died: March 20, 1727 (Age 84)
Kensington, England

2. Isaac would start to do his chores then have wonderful ideas and questions fill his mind. This would make him forget what he was supposed to be doing. Write about a time when you had something like that happen.

3. Isaac liked to make little models of things. Describe a model that you have made or HELPED to make.

4. Even though Isaac Newton lived over 300 years ago, he influenced our modern space programs. How did he do this?

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Florence Nightingale

1. Mr. and Mrs. Nightingale named Florence after the city where she was born? What would your name be if your parents had named you after the city where you were born? Would you like that name? Why or why not?

Born: May 12, 1820

Florence, Italy

Died: August 13, 1910 (Age 90)

London, England

2. Florence was born in Italy but grew up in England. Find those two countries on a world map. Are they very close together? Name some of the countries between them.

3. Florence Nightingale could have spent her life being a proper lady in the high society of London, England. What did she choose to do instead? Why?

4. How did Florence Nightingale make a difference in hospitals and care of sick people?

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Randy Pausch

1. Randy dreamed about doing a lot of different things in his life. Make a list of some things you dream about doing someday.

Born: October 23, 1960
Baltimore, Maryland
Died: July 25, 2008 (Age 47)
Chesapeake, Virginia

2. He used his computer skills to create some cool rides at Disney World. How would you most like to use your computer skills in your job someday?

3. How did Randy Pausch react to the fact that he had a bad disease?

4. Randy Pausch told people they should have fun, dream, and tell the truth all the time. Can you think of some more important advice to give someone?

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Edwin Perkins

1. Over 100 years ago, Edwin's father had a General Store that sold just about everything. What stores today sell just about everything?

Born: January 8, 1889

Lewis, Iowa

Died: July 3rd 1961 (Age 72)

Minnesota

2. Edwin loved to HELP his mom in the kitchen. What do you enjoy HELPING with in the kitchen at your house?

3. In 1929, Kool Aid was distributed to grocery stores all over the United States. It is still in all the groceries today. Do you like Kool Aid? What is your favorite flavor?

4. What really made Edwin Perkins a HERO?

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Pocahontas

Born: About 1595

Werowocomoco (Now in Virginia area)

Died: March, 1617 (Age 21 or 22)

Gravesend, Kent, England

1. If you could travel back 400 years to the time of Pocahontas, describe how America might have looked.

2. Pocahontas' name meant "Playful One." Indians gave names that described the person. What do you think would have been a good Indian name for you?

3. Pocahontas was very curious. Write about something you are very curious about.

4. Write some ways that Pocahontas became a HERO.

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Beatrix Potter

1. Our story says that Beatrix was very lonely as a child. Write about a time when you have felt lonely.

Born: July 28, 1866

London, England

Died: December 22, 1943 (Age 77)

Near Sawrey, Cumbria, England

2. Beatrix loved to draw pictures of small animals and flowers. What do you enjoy drawing? Do you think of yourself as an artist? Why or why not?

3. Do you know the story of Peter Rabbit? Write about a lesson we can learn from Peter's mistakes.

4. How was Beatrix Potter a HERO to the boy who was sick? How has she become a HERO to children everywhere?

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General Colin Powell

1. General Powell says he is thankful for a teacher in his life who insisted that her students learn to read, write, and speak English very well. Write about a teacher who has HELPED you a lot in your education.

Colin Luther Powell

April 5, 1937

New York City, New York

(80 years old)

2. General Powell went to a college where he could learn about being an Army officer. Would you be interested in learning about being in the military? Why or why not?

3. General Colin Powell works very hard to teach young people to be honest, responsible, respectful, and self-disciplined. Write about how you think those things work together to make a person successful.

4. What do you think makes General Colin Powell a real HERO?

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Albert Schweitzer

Born: January 14, 1875
Kaysersberg, Germany (now Haut-Rhin, France)
Died: September 4, 1965 (Age 90)
Lambaréné, Gabon, Africa

1. Dr. Albert Schweitzer believed that life was a wonderful gift. How would you explain that statement?

2. For his life's work of HELPING people and animals, Dr. Schweitzer was presented the Nobel Peace Prize. What is the Nobel Peace Prize? Research.

3. Africa is one of the earth's seven continents. Where is it?

4. What is another word for serving?

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Dr. Seuss

Born: March 2, 1904
Springfield, Massachusetts
Died: September 24, 1991 (Age 87)
La Jolla, California

1. What is your very favorite Dr. Seuss story? Write about it.

2. Explain how Theodore used his talents for creating funny drawings and silly stories to HELP children everywhere.

3. How do you think the people at the book companies that did not want to print his stories felt after Dr. Seuss became so famous?

4. What would you like to be famous for when you grow up? Explain what education you would need to achieve your goals.

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Randy Sparks

1. Randy was born during the Great Depression, a very difficult time in our country's history. Tell what you know about that time in the 1930s. Ask an adult or do a little research and see what more you can learn.

Lloyd A. (Randy) Sparks

Born: July 29, 1933

Leavenworth, Kansas

(84 years old)

2. How do you think songs can HELP people? How did Randy Sparks' songs HELP people?

3. If you could write a song, what would it be about? Would it be a happy song or a sad song? Tell about it.

4. Why does Randy Sparks so strongly fight the idea of using tobacco and drugs?

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Squanto

1. Squanto was born somewhere around the year 1580. How long ago was that?

Born: Sometime in the early to mid 1580s
Patuxent territory, Wampanoag Confederacy (now Plymouth Bay, Massachusetts)

Died: November 30, 1622
Chatham, Massachusetts Bay Colony, English America

2. What was Squanto's life like? What did he learn to do?

3. Write about how Squanto learned to speak English.

4. List some ways that Squanto was a HERO to the Pilgrims.

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Laura Ingalls Wilder

1. Would you like to have been a pioneer in the 1800s? What are some things you think you would have liked about it? What would you not have liked?

Born: February 7, 1867
Pepin County, Wisconsin
Died: February 10, 1957 (Age 90)
Mansfield, Missouri

2. All of the members of Laura's family loved each other very much. It was their family's love and willingness to HELP each other that enabled them survive some very hard times. What can you do to HELP your own family in difficult times?

3. Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote about her own family when she was a child. If you wrote a book about your family, what would be a good title? Why?

4. How did Laura Ingalls Wilder become a HERO?

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Oprah Winfrey

1. Oprah Winfrey's childhood was very difficult. Her grandmother was very special to her. Write about someone who is very special in your life and why he or she is so special.

Oprah Gail Winfrey
January 29, 1954
Kosciusko, Mississippi
(63 years old)

2. When Oprah Winfrey was growing up, do you think she ever guessed she might be rich and famous someday? Do you think much about what your life will be like when you are an adult? Explain.

3. As a child, Oprah learned to HELP her future self by making good choices. She also HELPED her future self by learning to read very well. What kinds of things can you do to HELP your future self?

4. What does "making good choices" mean?