

The Beginning of a *FAMOUS* Hero™

Student Interaction Sheet



Serving the 2024-2025 School Year

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Hans Christian Andersen

1. What is your favorite Hans Christian Andersen story? Write the main idea of the story.

Born: April 2, 1805
Odense, Denmark
Died: August 4, 1875 (Age 70)
Østerbro, Denmark

2. Explain why you think it is good that in our country today, a child goes to school no matter how much money his family might or might not have.

3. What is something you have been teased about? Do you let it keep you from your goals?

4. What do you think made Hans Christian Anderson a HERO?

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Alexander Graham Bell

Born: March 3, 1847
Edinburgh, Scotland
Died: August 2, 1922 (Age 75)
Nova Scotia, Canada

1. Would you like to be an inventor? Write about an idea you have for a new invention.

2. Think of a job you have had to do before that was hard and took a lot of your time. Can you suggest an invention that would make the job easier? Write about it.

3. Why was Alexander Graham Bell interested in inventing the telephone?

4. How do you think he would feel about texting and the many other uses people have for their telephones today? Explain.

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Barbara Bush

1. Barbara Bush always LOVED reading—even as a child. Write about a good book you have read lately.

Born: June 8, 1925
New York City, NY
Died: April 17, 2018 (Age 92)
Houston, Texas

2. If you could be the President or the First Lady of the United States, what message would you like to give children all over the country? Why?

3. Describe the advice Barbara Bush gave students about reading books.

4. What did she encourage students to do who have little brothers and sisters? Write about a time you have read to a younger child.

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George Washington Carver

Born: January ?, 1864
Diamond, Missouri, U.S.
Died: January 5, 1943 (Age 83)
Tuskegee, Alabama

1. What can you make from peanuts? How many things did George learn to make? Try listing some of them?

2. Can you imagine not going to school until you were 10-years-old? What do you think that would be like? How do you think George would have felt about starting school at 4 or 5 years of age like we do?

3. George was very unhealthy as a baby and young child. How do you think the world might have been different if he had died then?

4. George was mostly concerned about HELPING others. Write about some ways you HELP or would like to HELP others.

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Andrea Castañón

1. When Andrea was a child she lived in the Mexican desert beside the Rio Grande River. Why do you think this was a dangerous place to live at that time?

Born: November 1785 (?)

Laredo, Texas (?)

Died: February 10, 1899 (Age 113 or 114)

San Antonio, Texas

2. What was the promise Andrea made to herself when she was only 9-years-old? Was this a good thing to do? Why?

3. Who were some of the Texas HEROES that Andrea could call her friends? Tell something you know about one of them.

4. How do you think Andrea became a HERO?

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John Chapman

Born: Sep 26, 1774
Leominster, Massachusetts
Died: Mar 18, 1845 (Age 70)
Fort Wayne, Indiana

1. Explain some ways this story is different from what you've heard or read before about Johnny Appleseed.

2. What do you think was most important to John as he traveled through the country?

3. John Chapman was called a nurseryman in the story. How would you explain the term nurseryman?

4. Tell what you think made John Chapman a real HERO.

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Roberto Clemente

Born: August 18, 1934

Puerto Rico

Died: December 31, 1972 (Age 38)

San Juan, Puerto Rico

1. Where did Roberto learn to be honest, generous, and respectful? Explain why these qualities are important.

2. What is your favorite sport to play? Why?

3. Write one of the ways Roberto used some of his money to HELP others.

4. Roberto said, "Anytime you have the opportunity to make things better, and you don't, then you are wasting your time on this Earth." Explain what you think he meant by this.

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William Coolidge

1. When William Coolidge was a child, he had the hobby of taking pictures. What is your favorite hobby or what is a hobby you would like to have?

Born: Oct 23, 1873

Hudson, Massachusetts

Died: Feb 03, 1975 (Age 101)

Schenectady, New York

2. After high school, William Coolidge went to college at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Where do you think you would like to attend college?

3. Will studied about X-rays? Write about at time when you or someone in your family has had an X-ray.

4. What do you think you will want to study in college? How will it HELP others?

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Madame Curie

1. As a child, Marya loved studying math and science. What subjects in school do you like best? Why?

Born: November 7, 1867

Warsaw, Poland

Died: July 4, 1934 (Age 66)

Passy, France

2. As Marya grew a little older, her sister wanted to go to college and become a doctor. So, Marya went to work to HELP earn money for her sister's college. Would you be willing to do this for your brother, sister, or someone else in your family? Write about it.

3. Marya eventually became a scientist and made some amazing discoveries about radio-active materials. She also learned how to extract an element called radium! Write about some ways her work has changed the world.

4. Can you imagine doing something to change the world in such profound ways? Write about it.

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Walt Disney

Born: December 5, 1901

Chicago, Illinois

Died: December 15, 1966 (Age 65)

Burbank, California

1. Walter loved to draw. Write about something you really love to do in your free time. Do you think you might be able to use that in a career someday? How?

2. Where would you need to go to school to prepare for your career interest?

3. Write about your favorite Disney movie.

4. How has Walt Disney been a HERO?

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Frederick Douglass

Born: February 1818
Talbot County, Maryland
Died: February 20, 1895 (Age 77)
Washington, D.C.

1. As a child, what was Frederick Douglass hungry for? Explain what you think that means.

2. Write about what you think it was like for Frederick to grow up as a slave.

3. What do you think about Frederick's plan to trade food for knowledge?

4. How did Frederick Douglass become a real HERO?

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George Eastman

1. When George was very young, he really wanted to be able to HELP his family have more money someday. How did George work toward that goal when he was a child?

Born: July 12, 1854

Waterville, New York

Died: March 14, 1932 (Age 77)

Rochester, New York

2. Write about the differences in cameras when George was young and cameras today.

3. Explain why George chose the word KODAK for his company.

4. What two ways did George use to HELP the world? How would you like to HELP the world someday?

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Duke Ellington

1. Edward Kennedy Ellington just wanted to be called “Duke.” What nickname would you like to have if you could choose what people call you? Why?

Born: April 29, 1899

Washington, D.C

Died: May 24, 1974 (Age 75)

New York City, New York

2. What instrument would you like to learn to play? Or are you already learning to play an instrument? Write about it.

3. The Duke played a kind of music called Ragtime. What is your favorite kind of music? Why do you like it the best?

4. How did Duke Ellington become a real HERO?

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Michael J. Fox

1. Write about a time when your family moved. How did you feel about that?

Michael Andrew Fox

Born: June 9, 1961

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

(65 years old)

2. Have you seen Michael J. Fox in a television rerun or in a movie? What did you think about it?

3. What do you know about Parkinson's disease? Maybe you could do some research about it.

4. How did Michael J. Fox turn a bad thing that happened to him into something good he could do for others?

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Patrick Henry

1. Write about something you have learned by listening to adults talk.

Born: May 29, 1736

Colony of Virginia, British America

Died: June 6, 1799 (Age 63)

Brookneal, Virginia

2. Name two things Patrick Henry learned as a child.

3. How did Patrick HELP his friends when they were growing up?

4. What do you think Patrick Henry meant when he said, "Give me liberty, or give me death?"

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Jim Henson

1. The story says that Jim had a very happy childhood. How would you describe a happy childhood?

Born: September 24, 1936
Greenville, Mississippi
Died: May 16, 1990 (Age 53)
New York, New York

2. Do you enjoy making things as Jim did when he was a child? What kinds of things do you like to make?

3. When you were a small child, did you have the opportunity to watch Sesame Street? Write some things you remember about the program. Who were your favorite characters? What things did you learn from the show?

4. It was said that Jim Henson knew how to behave very well toward other people. What do you think his friend meant by those words?

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Bob Hope

1. Bob Hope had a natural talent for being funny. What natural talent or talents do you think you have? How could you use it to HELP others?

Born: May 29, 1903

Eltham, London, England

Died: July 27, 2003 (Age 100)

Toluca Lake, California

2. What were some jobs that Bob worked at as a young person? Even though you might not be paid for them yet, what jobs do you have to do?

3. Explain what you think it means in the story when it says that Bob only told jokes that were funny for everyone.

4. What did Bob Hope do that truly made him a HERO?

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Thomas Jefferson

Born: April 13, 1743
Colony of Virginia, British America
Died: July 4, 1826 (Age 83)
Charlottesville, Virginia

1. The story says Thomas prepared himself even as a child to become a HERO. Explain how he did that.

2. How do you think studying so many different subjects helped Thomas when he was grown and became a governor, vice-president, and then President of the United States?

3. What is the Declaration of Independence? (Maybe you can do a little research about it!)

4. Do you have great handwriting like Thomas Jefferson did? Why is that important?

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Barbara Jordan

1. Barbara was very close to her grandfather and learned many things from him when she was a child. Are you close to your grandparents? Write about it.

Born: February 21, 1936

Houston, Texas

Died: January 17, 1996 (Age 59)

Austin, Texas

2. Barbara had the goal of becoming a lawyer. What career goals are you thinking about? Where could you go to college to achieve those goals?

3. What do you know about the disease called Multiple-Sclerosis? Do a little research.

4. Even from her wheelchair, how did Barbara Jordan become a HERO?

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Helen Keller

1. Helen was only 19-months-old when she became both deaf and blind. She could no longer hear or see! If you can hear and see, describe how thankful you are for that.

Born: June 27, 1880
Tuscumbia, Alabama
Died: June 1, 1968 (Age 87)
Easton, Connecticut

2. Describe what you imagine little Helen's world might have been like before Miss Anne Sullivan came into her life.

3. Write about someone special in your life who is a HELP to you.

4. Helen Keller worked very hard during her life and was able to HELP many people. What would you like to do that would HELP a lot of other people?

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Born: January 15, 1929

Atlanta, Georgia

Died: April 4, 1968 (Age 39)

Memphis, Tennessee

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?

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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Ray Kroc

1. Write about something you work really hard at. How will that HELP you someday?

Born: October 5, 1902

Oak Park, Illinois

January 14, 1984 (Age 81)

San Diego, California

2. How do you think being a hard worker enabled Ray to make it all the way to starting McDonald's restaurant franchises? Have you ever seen a plaque on the wall in McDonald's with Ray Kroc's name and picture? Look for it!

3. What did Ray Kroc do to HELP others?

4. What does franchising mean? Name some other popular franchises.

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Tom Landry

1. How do you think Tom's parents HELPED him to grow up to become a successful professional football coach?

Born: September 11, 1924

Mission, Texas

Died: February 12, 2000 (Age 75)

Dallas, Texas

2. What sport do you most like to play? Would you someday want to coach that sport? What do you think it takes to be a good coach?

3. Which is your favorite professional football team? Who is their coach?

4. What does the story mean when it says that Tom Landry wasn't "just" a coach?

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Daisy Low

1. Write about any experience you have had with Girl Scouting or Boy Scouting.

Born: October 31, 1860

Savannah, Georgia

Died: January 17, 1927 (Age 66)

Savannah, Georgia

2. What have you and your friends ever done to HELP others?

3. When have you been somewhere and seen a person or an animal who needed help? Talk about it. Were you able to HELP?

4. How do you think Daisy Low became a real HERO?

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Chuck Norris

1. Write about a time when you have had a problem with bullies. How did you handle it?

Born: March 10, 1940

Ryan, Oklahoma

Died: March 19, 2026 (Age 86)

Kauai, Hawaii

2. Have you ever studied karate? If so, how do you think it HELPED you? If not, how do you think it could HELP you?

3. Write about a Chuck Norris movie or television show you have seen.

4. How do you think self-discipline, respect, hard work, honor, and truth will HELP you have a more successful life?

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Rosa Parks

Born: February 4, 1913

Tuskegee, Alabama

Died: October 24, 2005 (Age 92)

Detroit, Michigan

1. Discuss a time when you have seen someone treated unfairly.

2. Write about a time when you stood up for what you believed in.

3. If you had the power to change one thing in the world, what would it be?

4. What do you think made Rosa Parks a real HERO?

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H. A. Rey

1. Hans was able to use a talent he had and loved even as a child to someday be the work he did as an adult. What do you really enjoy doing and are good at that maybe someday could serve you in your future?

Born: September 16, 1898
Hamburg, Germany
Died: August 26, 1977 (Age 78)
Cambridge, Massachusetts

2. How can you start working now to really develop that talent?

3. It has been said that you've GOT to do what you've GOT to do, so you can GET to do what you WANT to do! But if you also learn to ENJOY doing what you've GOT to do WHILE you're doing it, your life will be a lot happier! Write your thoughts about that.

4. Do you think Hans Rey did a lot of GOT TOs to get to his WANT TOs? Explain.

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Condoleezza Rice

Condoleezza Rice

Born: November 14, 1954

Birmingham, Alabama

(72 years old)

1. How do you think Condi's early love of learning HELPED her become successful?

2. Write about the very first thing you remember working hard to learn? Was it music, a sport, reading?

3. Have you ever had a friend who had something bad happen to him or her? How did that make you feel?

4. What does the Secretary of State do in the United States government? Do some research and find out.

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Tony Robbins

Anthony J. Mahavorick

February 29, 1960

North Hollywood, California

(66 years old)

1. Write about a time when you were able to HELP someone in your family. How did it make you feel?

2. Has your family had a time when a neighbor did something very special and kind for you? Write about it.

3. What kind of promises have you made to yourself about some good things you want to do for other people someday?

4. What does a life coach do? How do they HELP people? Research it!

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Jackie Robinson

Jackie was born in Georgia, then his family moved to California. Find Georgia on a map. What states did they travel through to get to California?

Born: January 31, 1919

Cairo, Georgia

Died: October 24, 1972 (Age 53)

Stamford, Connecticut

2. How do you think Jackie helped to make his mother's job of raising five children by herself a little easier? How do you help make things easier at your house?

3. Name some places where Jackie Robinson was bullied because of the color of his skin. How does that make you feel?

4. Why do you think all of major league baseball honored Jackie Robinson by retiring his jersey number 42?

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Fred Rogers

1. Did you ever see Mister Rogers on television? Or maybe Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood? Write about it.

Born: March 20, 1928
Latrobe, Pennsylvania
Died: February 27, 2003 (Age 74)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2. Fred's family was very thankful, especially for each other. How would you explain that to someone? Are you thankful for the others in your family? Write about it.

3. Why did Fred think it was strange when some students tried to be like other students instead of just being themselves?

4. What do you think Fred's grandfather meant when he told him he was special just by being himself?

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Dr. Seuss

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

Born: March 2, 1904

Springfield, Massachusetts

Died: September 24, 1991 (Age 87)

La Jolla, California

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 who 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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Danny Thomas

1. Danny Thomas' mother made and kept a promise. Danny Thomas made and kept a promise. Write about a promise that you once made and kept.

Born: January 6, 1912
Deerfield, Michigan
Died: February 6, 1991 (Age 79)
Los Angeles, California

2. Have you or someone you know ever been bitten by an animal? Write about it.

3. Did you ever see a rerun of the Danny Thomas television show?

4. What do you know about St. Jude Hospital? Did you ever participate in a jump-rope event or some other event to HELP raise money for the hospital?

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Booker T. Washington

1. What does it mean when the story says Booker T. Washington was born into slavery?

Born: April 5, 1856
Hale's Ford, Virginia
Died: November 14, 1915 (Age 59)
Tuskegee, Alabama

2. President Abraham Lincoln is mentioned in this story. What do you know about him?

3. Write about a difference you heard in Booker T. Washington's school books and the ones you use today.

4. How did Booker T. Washington become a HERO?

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Eli Whitney

Born: December 8, 1765

Westborough, Massachusetts, British America

January 8, 1825 (Age 59)

New Haven, Connecticut

1. Have you ever seen someone whittling something from wood? Did you enjoy seeing that? What did he or she make?

2. Did you ever have a friend who had something really nice and you really wanted one like it? Write about it.

3. Is it better to just take something that belongs to someone else, or earn for yourself something like it? Why?

4. How did Eli Whitney HELP make a great change in our world?

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The Wright Brothers

1. What is the strangest toy you have ever seen? Describe it.

Orville Wright, Born: August 19, 1871 Dayton, Ohio
Died: January 30, 1948 (Age 76), Dayton
Wilbur Wright: Born: April 16, 1867, Millville, Indiana
Died: May 30, 1912 (Age 45), Dayton

2. Write about something you have dreamed about being able to do.

3. Have you ever worked on a project with your brother or sister? What was it, and was it successful?

4. How did the Wright Brothers change the world?