

MAXINE

Themes

Acceptance

Family

Heroes/heroines

Exploring the Story

Babies are born all the time around the world. But there is nothing quite as exciting as welcoming a new baby into your own family. Encourage the children to share with the group their own experiences of having a new baby in the family, be it a sibling, a cousin or even a close family friend. How did they feel? What did they think the baby would be like? Did they form any expectations?

Discuss with the group what expectations are and what kind of expectations we might form while waiting to meet a new baby. This can include an expectation of gender or expectations of physical attributes (i.e. hair and eye colour, will they frown the same way as Dad does or laugh like their sibling does). It can also include expectations of interests, abilities, skills or personality traits, though we generally have to wait a bit longer to see how these develop.



Even before they knew if she was a girl or a boy, Maxine's family knew she had a mask and was a superhero. She comes from a long line of superheroes. Ask the children if they think the family were shocked that she had a mask already or do they think the family would have been more shocked if she didn't have a mask? Looking at the first illustrations, what other expectations do you think they would have had about Maxine (i.e. she'd have red hair? That she would fly?) Read the story again slowly and ask the children to put up their hand each time they see an expression of expectation from Maxine's family, point out any that they miss (i.e. her baby gifts of knitted cape and leather boots, her pairing with the only other super kid when she starts school, the Lightings-Thunderbolt portrait wall etc).

Ask the children how they think all those expectations from all those people made Maxine feel. Have they ever felt a similar way? Discuss how expectations can be good and bad (or even neutral) in different circumstances. Make a few statements and ask the children to identify if they are good, bad or neutral expectations (i.e. I expect the school bell to ring at home time, my teacher expects me to get every question correct on this test, my parents expect me to eat broccoli for dinner, I expect to get lots of presents on my birthday).

Now ask the children if Maxine had any of her own expectations. Whose expectations are more important, Maxine's or her family's? It takes some time for Maxine to decide who she wants to be and it takes some time for her family to understand and accept it. Ask the group to identify what ways Maxine's family members show their support for her. And later in the story, how does Maxine show her support for someone else trying to find who they want to be?

Activities

Superpowered Family

Imagine you and your family members all had super powers. Would you all have the same powers or would each family member have a different strength? Would you all dress the same like Maxine's family or have different costumes? Would you be a family of HEROES or VILLAINS? Draw your superpowered family on the template provided.

Exciting Expectations

If you found out today that you were going to have a new baby in the family, what expectations do you think you would have? Use the template to write down your thoughts and remember they can be physical attributes, interests, abilities, skills or personality traits.

Be YourSELF Portrait

When we do a self portrait, we usually create a picture of how we look on the outside. For this Be YourSELF Portrait, create a picture of yourself and how you view yourself and who you want to be, regardless of what you actually look like in real life. Be as creative as you like. Just like Maxine when she took her mask off, this is your opportunity to show everyone how it feels to be you and who you are inside.

Word Search

Help Maxine and Max find all the words in this word search.

Related Titles

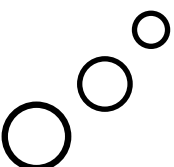
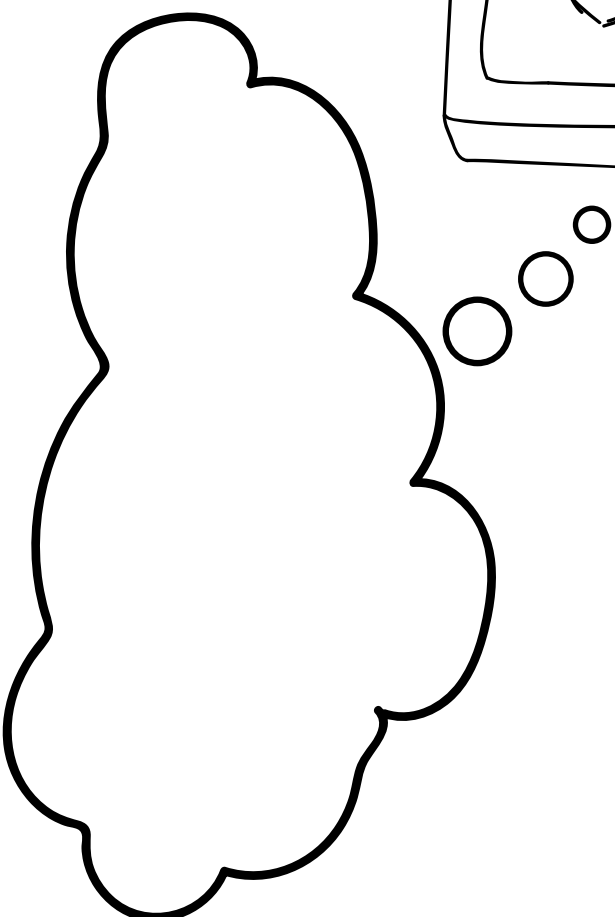
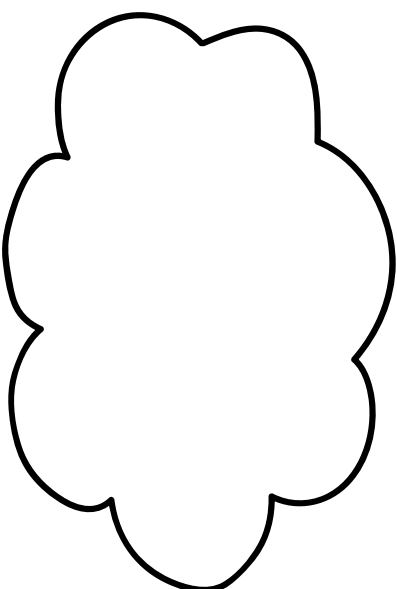
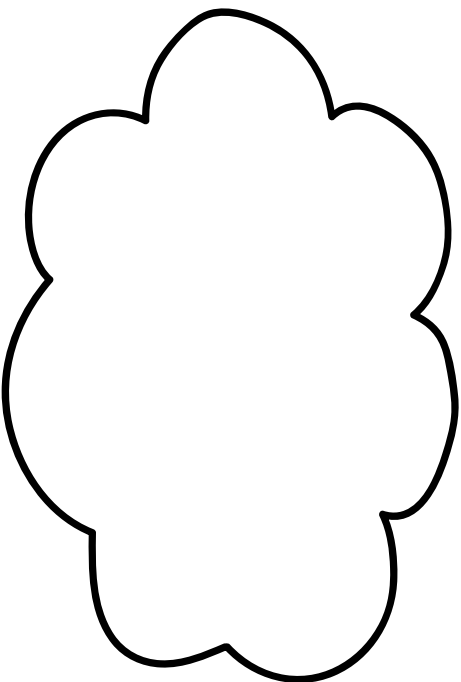
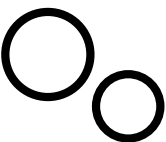
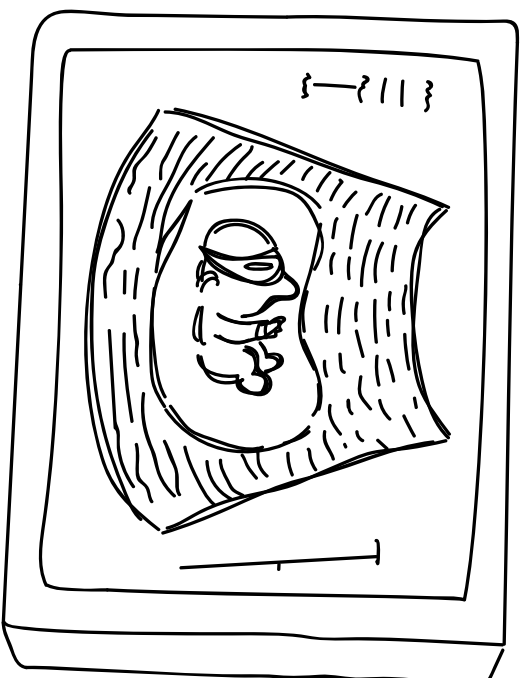
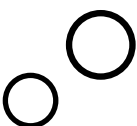
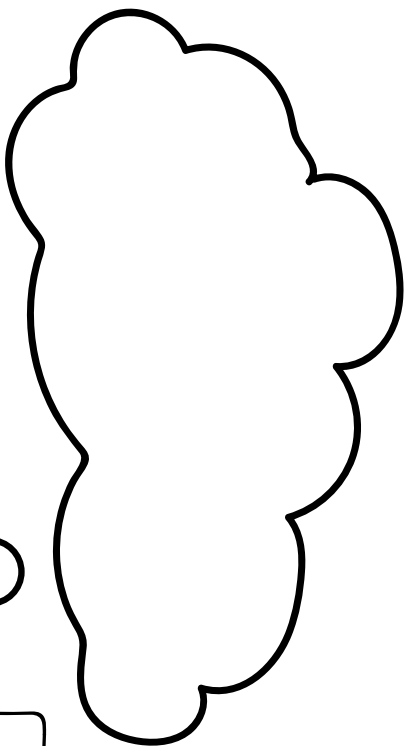


Max
Bob Graham
9781406387742



My Superpowered Family

Name: _____



Word Search

M	N	E	T	E	C	G	O	D	X	D	A	K	O	I	H	G	E
X	G	Z	H	B	C	U	V	M	X	M	C	A	P	E	X	F	I
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WORDS

CAPE

LIGHTNING

SUPERHERO

EXPECTED

MASK

THUNDERBOLT

FAMILY

PARADE

FLY

JEANS