Step 1

Identifying what makes a good superhero: the basic formula
1. "What makes a superhero?"

Make sense

1. Before reading the text.
a. Try to answer the question asked in the title.

Exchange your views with your classmates.
1. "What makes a superhero?"

Make sense

b. Look at the cover and give details about the man you can see.

Cover of Superman, The Man of Steel DC Comics (April 1997)
1. "What makes a superhero ?"

Make sense

2. In groups.

Group A will read the text from lines 1-6.

Group B will read the text from lines 9-25.
1. "What makes a superhero?"

Make sense

2. In groups.

a. Discuss and organise your findings within your group.
1. "What makes a superhero?"

Make sense

2. In groups.

b. Tell the other group what you have understood about superheroes' "basic formula".
1. "What makes a superhero?"

Make sense

3. Explain why Superman is the archetype for superheroes.
1. "What makes a superhero?"

Make sense

4. Summarise what you know about Superman and complete your logpage (handout).
1. "What makes a superhero ?"

Make sense

Can you try to find the French equivalents of the following words by using the context :

- 'trademarks' (l.15)
- 'flagged down' (l.20)
- 'stray' (l.22)
1. "What makes a superhero?"

Zoom on…Words

The outfit of a superhero (handout)

Here are items that can be part of a superhero's costume.
1. a. Classify the items in the grid. Use a dictionary if necessary.
The outfit of a superhero

b. Choose an existing superhero and describe his outfit. Do not forget to add colours or distinctive adjectives.

- Wonder Woman wears star-spangled shorts and red and white high-heel boots...
Expressing abilities

When talking about a superhero, you need to talk about his superpowers to describe him.

- Superman has the ability to regenerate within seconds of receiving a wound.
Expressing abilities

- He is able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.

- He can fly.
Expressing abilities

2. Choose a superhero and give a few details about his powers and abilities.
Comparing

Using comparative forms is a way to describe someone more precisely.

► Superman is faster than a speeding bullet.

► He is more powerful than a locomotive.
Comparing

Imagine two other comparisons to emphasise Superman's powers. You may use the following adjectives:

Talking about Captain America's looks and powers.

Use the pictures and the notes about Captain America to present him briefly.
Talking about Captain America's looks and powers.

Equipment

indestructible shield (to attack multiple targets in succession with a single throw or as a boomerang)
Talking about Captain America's looks and powers.

**Powers**

- enhanced strength, endurance, agility, speed, reflexes
- healing, immune to many diseases
- master of multiple martial arts
- military strategy, pilot
Expressing contrast

Make as many sentences as you can to compare Catwoman's two different outfits in the following images.
Expressing contrast