






Hello everyone!


We are beyond excited to present you this superhero booklet, created as part of the Imperial College London Science Festival!

Together with an awesomely talented illustrator, Anh Cao, we held an online drawing activity where children between 5-12 years old joined to design their very own hospital superhero character, who had special powers like *germ zapping* and *healing super-strength!*

From many beautiful submissions by children around the UK, ten drawings alongside their stories about their hospital experience were selected and illustrated in this book. If you are currently in a hospital or about to go to a hospital, we hope these drawings can give you comfort and strength knowing that you are not alone. Also, at the end of the book, we have added instructions on how to draw your very own superhero! If you wish, you can send your superhero drawing to us on @magicalhospital so that we can share them with everyone around the world to see! Just make sure that your parents are aware that you are sharing your drawing and give their consent!

We hope you enjoy this booklet as much we do. All the best from the Imperial College research team
Lisa Aufegger & Khanh Ha Bui,
and the illustrator Anh Cao





Mia - Age 8

* Mia's powers are on her rollerskates. They tap together and they make her go really fast! They are also magic. They can make her fly in the sky! So high!

She also has an invisible cloak and her gloves help her get a grip when holding onto something. She delivers fluffy clouds to the people in the hospital, but she is best known for being really great on her rollerskates and helping everyone!





Ayaana Alam - Age 6



My superhero: Spider Nurse

The hospital was really nice and they were very gentle, they made me feel better. They made me less sick and I got a sticker for not crying during my blood test and they said I was super brave! My superhero was always busy but always had a smile on his face and listened to all our questions.





Sarah - Age 6

Sarah Seacole The Superhero

My name is Sarah Seacole and I am just an ordinary girl with a pet pigeon, Penopele. It all started one sunny cloudless day when I was strolling through the hospital wards. Suddenly, we saw jagged black and midnight blue streaks emerging out of the children's ward doors. We exchanged nervous glances and dashed inside.....

"Oh my goodness!!!! This place is covered in eerie stripes." I gasped. The children are becoming scared, it was our responsibility to help them.

Tom McFly and his gang of crooked shadow bandits had roamed through the hospital. He has a pot belly and a big mad afro wig with spikes sticking out. He dips his prickles in black or midnight blue paint, if he is in a sunny mood he will use purple. Then he swaggers along the corridor, cackling, pushing his back and bottom against the walls, making jagged figures of eight with his hair, as he scratches saw tooth lines.

Dear Reader, did you know that pigeons are in the Top 10 of animals with amazing hearing?! Well, Penopele hears the rumbling and grumbling of fluttering butterfly wings in the children's tummies. It's getting louder and louder, so I do a **whale spout jump**, a **one handed cartwheel** and a **karate kick** and say:

"A scared child is a scared child
But I am here to hear fear
So no child will fear here!!!!"

I am transformed into Sarah Seacole The Superhero **Fairy** and Penopele is now a **rainbow** pigeon with ear phones.

To stop him, we spritz antiseptic spray and bomb chocolate cupcakes making Tom McFly look like a statue of mushy mulsh. We decide to dedicate our lives to magicking the butterflies in children's stomachs into shimmering hearts.

The End





Nickita - Age 9



Yes... Another mission for Cat and her very loyal pet Stripes. We are victorious.

I can tell you all about me and Stripes' awesome mission in the hospitals.

Do you want to? Okay, then. Now, let's see we were on the rooftop looking for a hospital and then suddenly we spotted one not too far.


There were lots of children in a lot of pain and I was feeling happy because I knew we were going to help them.

I saw a child looking particularly upset, it was a girl, Maddie and she was in a cast. She was asleep and we noticed that she was having a very bad nightmare. I looked through the window and I saw her tossing and turning and moaning, so Stripes took a jar full of Sadness out and she pulled the lid off. She made the sadness rise up from Maddie's thoughts and put it into the jar. She shut it as quick as her and her little paws could, so it wouldn't spread to anyone. Then I took out my Happy jar and sprinkled happiness into her dreams.



The next moment I was there I saw her happily smiling at me although she didn't know I was there of course, because she was asleep but she must've had a really good dream from then on.

Stripes and I headed to help others.







Alma - Age 8



My superhero is Super Fishy.
She has rainbow colours on
her body to bring joy and
smiles to ill children
everywhere. She brings
happiness and fun fishes
wherever she goes. She has the
power to make colourful fish
swim in bubbles that
float in the air.





Santiago - Age 10

Skill O' Pus is an Octopus gentleman who can fly, but he also has lots of other skills and talents to share. He can teach ill children to draw, and how to skateboard. He can also use his tentacles to tickle them and make them laugh, especially if they are having a tough time. He uses his webbed feet for swimming which he's really good at.





Charlotte - Age 11

My hospital hero is called Penny and her animal side kick is Precious the cat.

Penny has the power to create portals and go through walls.

This helps her to get to the children in the hospital that need help quicker than using the stairs or the elevator if they are on different floors.

Precious on the other hand is a cat who owns rocket boots that are powered by laughter and help her to keep up with her owner.

She gives the best of hugs and helps brighten children's days.





Vittoria - Age 9

She has a big mouth to give lots of kisses and tell great stories.

She has big ears to listen carefully.

She has big and long arms to hug children.

Her superpower is to transform the strings into kisses from the mother so the children are not afraid to receive the medicines.





Maryam - Age 7

When you fret, when you're down
You only need to call for the hospital clown

If you have nightmares
Big and Deep,

You'd want to call for the clown cat Sweep.

She'll sweep away your nightmares of goos
And make you snooze.

If it's thundering loud,
And you want to go round,

You need to call for the Hospital Dog,
He'd make it shine, he'd make it nice,
And then you can have a cup of ice!

The hospital Clown,
He never lets you down,

With a cape,
And hands that show rays,


Of sunshine, Rainbow and he leaves you to daze!





Eliza - Age 11

My superhero is called Genius Girl. She is a very smart girl who would have the superpower of mind-reading. She could understand how I felt with her voice of inspiration so I never gave up when I was in hospital. She would be like a teacher to me. Her enemy would be lost education. She would be kind and patient when I found something hard. She is inspired by my best friends.





Jesseca Loganayagam - 12

I suddenly woke up in a panic, my hands shook vigorously at the feeling of not being able to breathe, tubes shrouded me as if I was a precious jewel of some sort. I felt like running miles from this terrible place but, I could not as I was being held in this room like a prisoner. There was no way for me to escape, especially since the doors were firmly shut and I had no other ideas. After a while of contemplation, I dozed off again. A very long time later I awoke, having no idea of what the time could be. I looked at the clock which read 00:00! I couldn't believe my eyes, had I really slept that long - anyhow, it was the perfect time to make my escape.

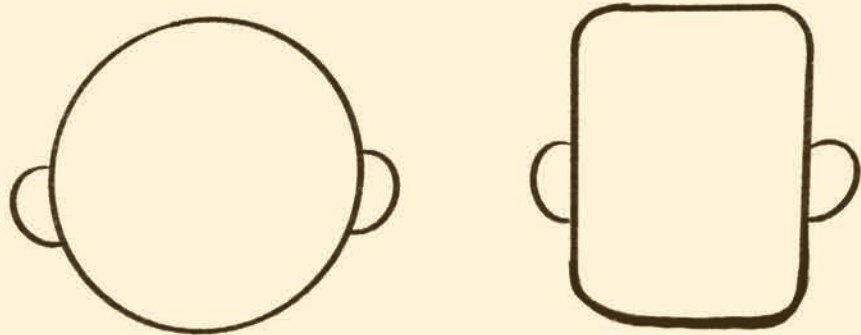
My feet touched the cold, hard floor of the hospital and I crept along silently, trying not to make a single noise. As I crept further along the room, my heart beat faster and faster, it felt like I was on a very important mission (or at least that is what I convinced myself). I saw something peculiar ahead of me - as I drew closer I made out the silhouette of a figure. In a fright I rushed back to my bed and switched on my side lamp. The mysterious figure stepped into the dim light, she had hair like the night sky, skin as pale as white, crimson lips and she wore a garment stating, 'Night-time hero.' I burst out, "Who are you?"

I was hoping they would leave but yet another lady appeared from the darkness - her garment also stated, 'Night-time assistant.' "You must listen to what we are saying," she said quite harshly, 'The way you have been treating the nurses is not very kind. I saw how you ill-treated the nurse who came to give you your medicine - you told her to go away. Your illness is your enemy, your bully. Your pain and your struggles have victimized and changed your behaviour towards other others in a negative way. If you do not co-operate with the nurses and doctors, it'll take longer for you to get better and leave the hospital'. Now, I suddenly came to my senses. I felt ashamed of myself. I was also desperate to find out their identity. When I turned around, I realised they had gone. I sat pondering about what each one of them had said, my eye lids unexpectedly felt heavy and I fell asleep.

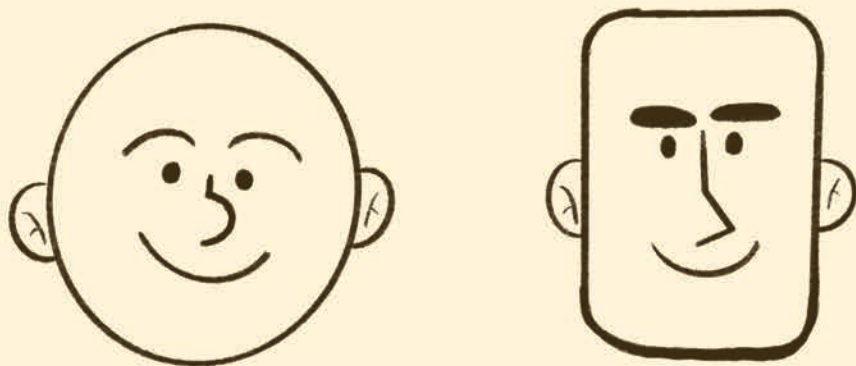
The sun arose the next day and I made sure to be as kind as possible to everyone I encountered. One nurse came in (who looked a lot like the Night-time hero) gave me a scrumptious meal, I thanked her but before she left, she winked at me discreetly. I started to wonder if she was the Night-time hero but alas, I would never know for sure...

LET'S DRAW A SUPERHERO TOGETHER

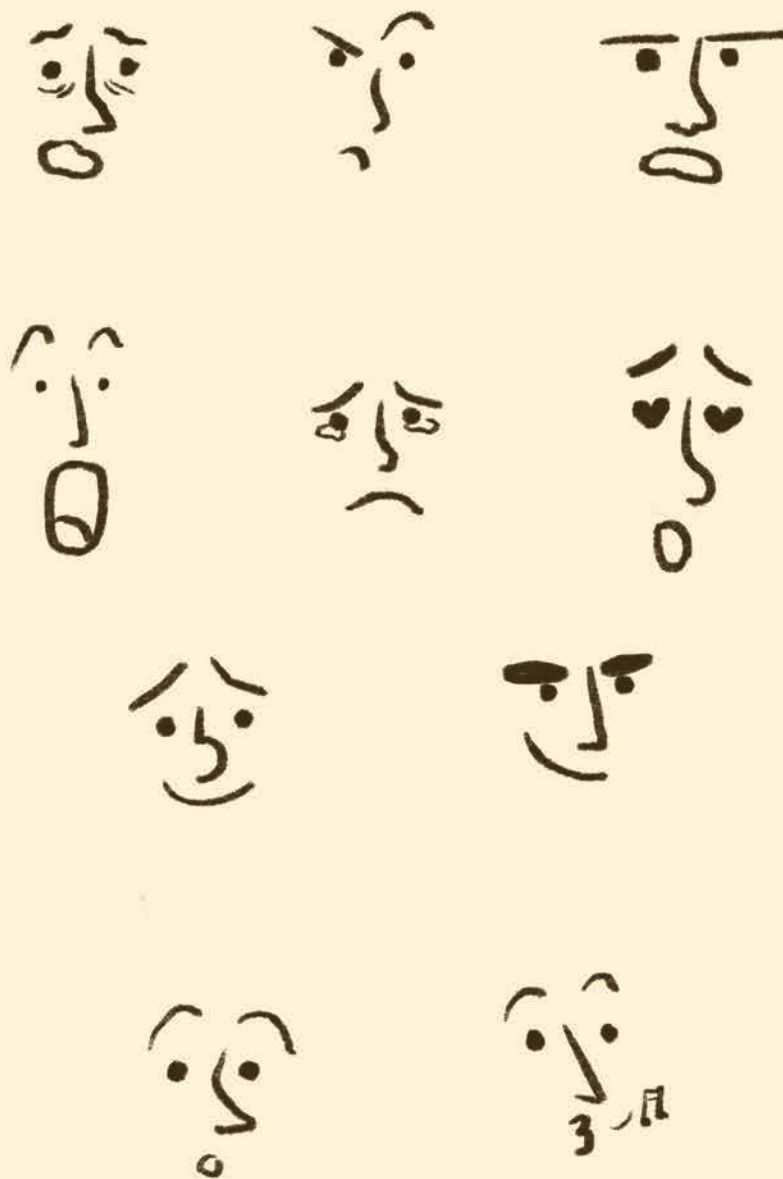
Let's start with the face and then add the ears. Use simple shapes like circle or rectangular



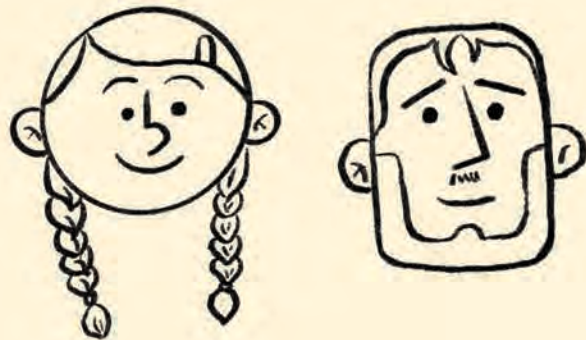
Now let's give it a nose, eyes and a mouth



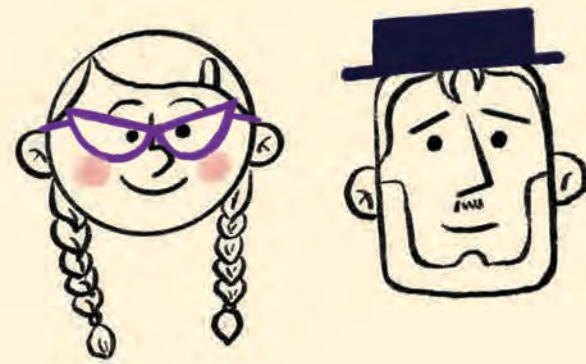
How about some expression?



Let's give them a cool hairstyle!

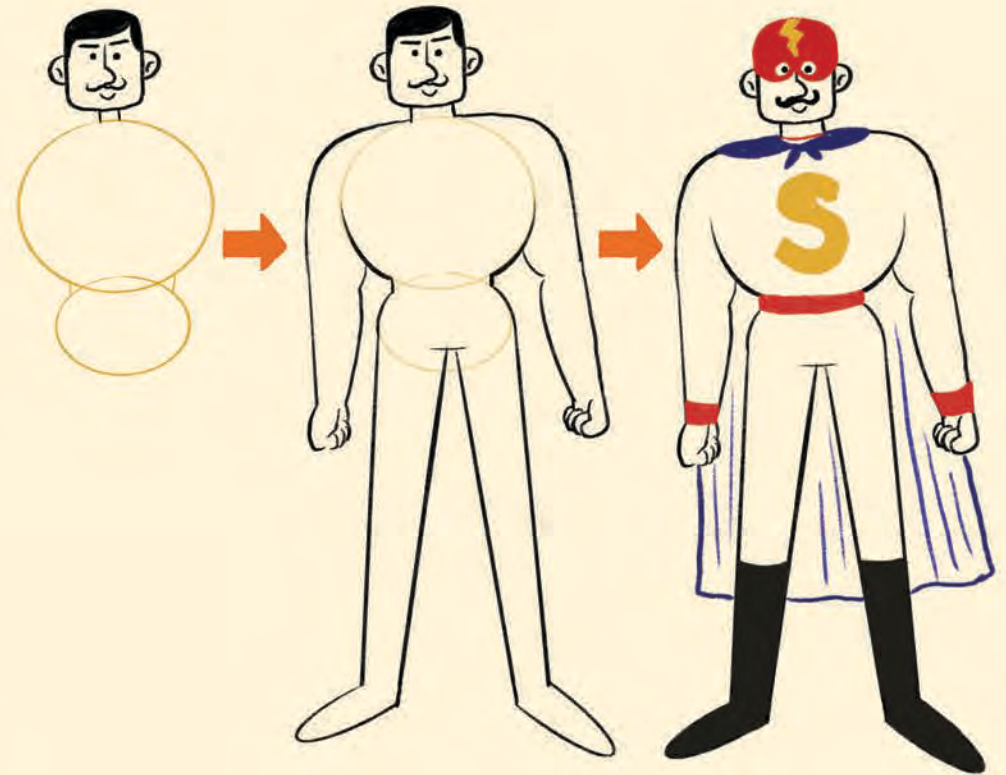
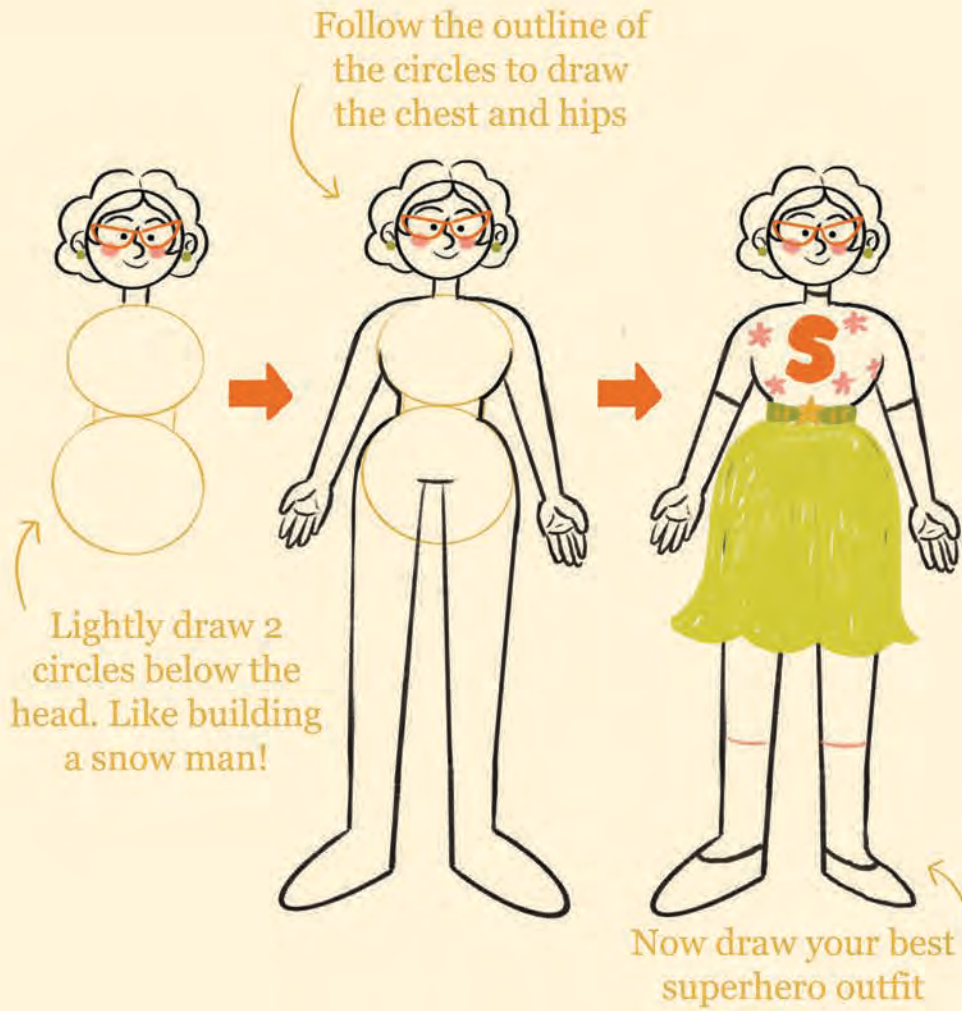


How about adding some more details?

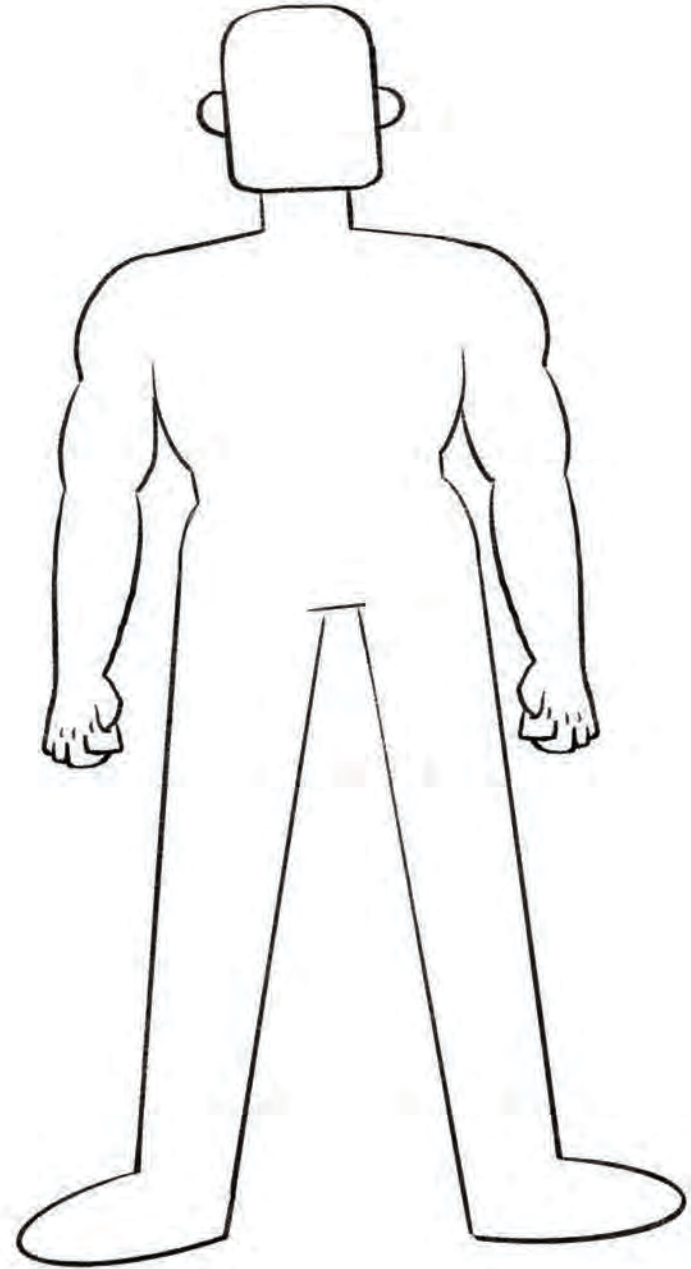
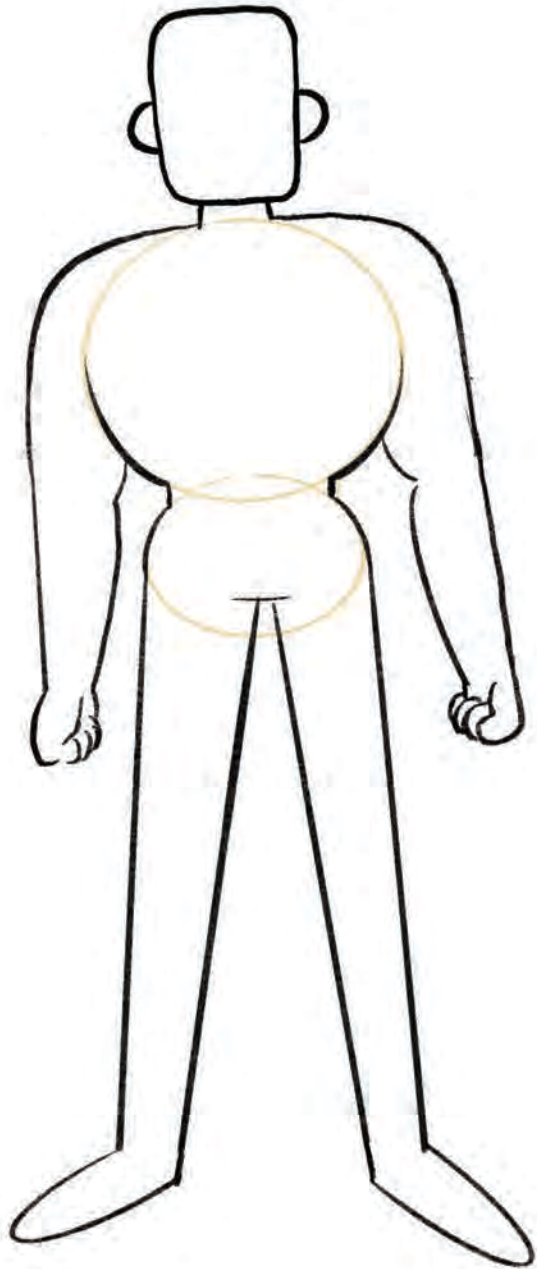


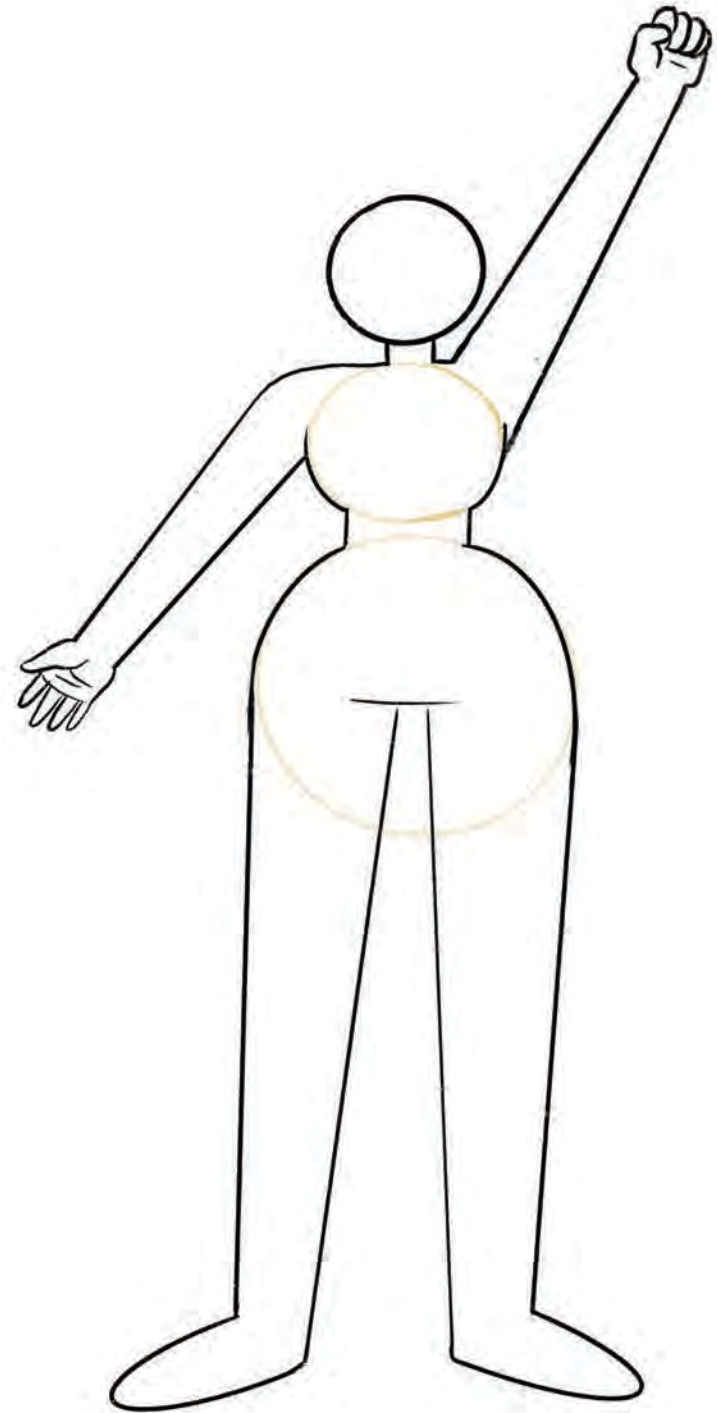
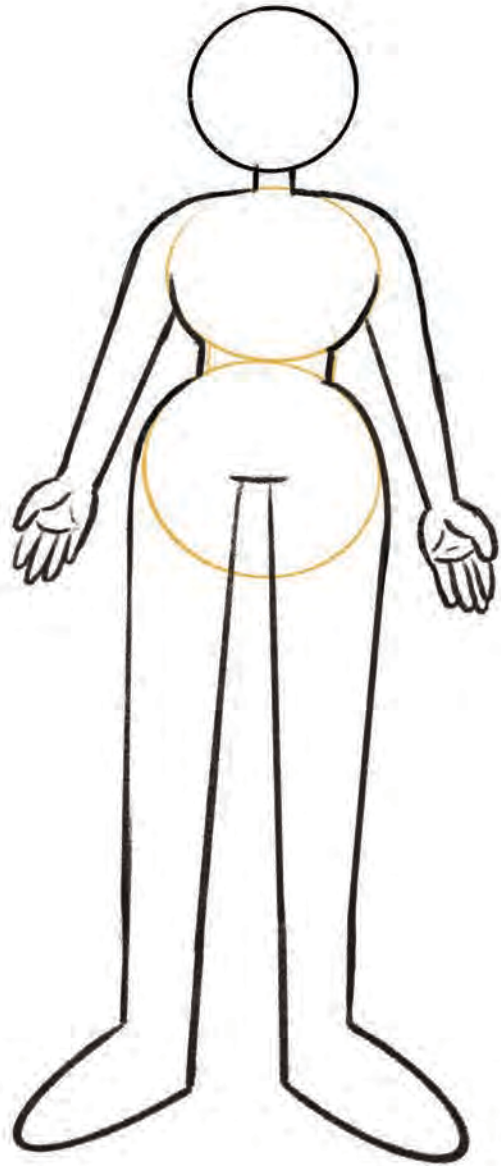
It's time for the outfit.

Here's another example.



Here are some templates for you
to create your own superhero





This booklet is a product of the Great Exhibition Road Festival. The Great Exhibition Road Festival is a free annual celebration of curiosity, discovery and exploration, with events and activities from over 20 research and culture organisations around South Kensington including Imperial College London, Royal Commission of 1851, Discover South Kensington, Royal Albert Hall, V&A, Science Museum, Royal College of Music, Natural History Museum and many more. This event was part of the Festival's new online events programme, celebrating science and the arts from your home, and was supported by Huawei, Lead Technology Sponsor.

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Lisa is an honorary Research Fellow at the Patient Safety Translational Research Centre at Imperial College London. Her research focuses on improving healthcare services and delivery through simulation-based interventions and user experience research.

Khanh Ha Bui:

Khanh Ha is a final-year PhD researcher in Health Economics, based in the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London. Whilst her background is in Economics, she developed an interest and passion in healthcare policy and services research, particularly in End-of-Life care and secondary care resource usage of frail patients.

Anh Cao:

Anh is an illustrator originally from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. She now works and lives in London, as an illustrator and visual development artist. She is inspired by different cultures, landscapes and fairytale stories from places she has visited, and brings these inspirations into her paintings to create whimsical, vibrant, fantastical worlds, for clients such as Oxford University Press, Piccadilly Press, BBC Teach and Netflix.



If you would like to stay up to date with the researchers and artists from this project, you can email them and/or connect with them using the following contact information:

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