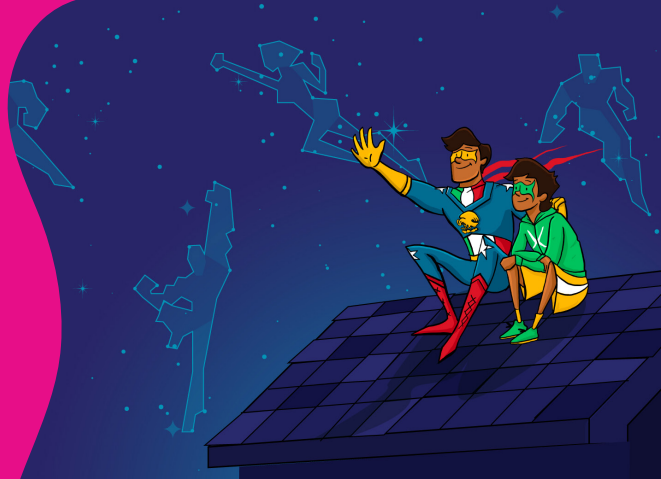


BEYOND THE STAGE STUDY GUIDE

I'll Be Your Superhero

AGES 8+ | WARM • VULNERABLE • HOPEFUL



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There's no need to do it all! Choose the activities that best fit your students, goals, and time. **LOOK+LISTEN** offers an accessible entry point, while **TRY IT YOURSELF** and **TAKE IT FURTHER** extends the learning through deeper discussion, investigation, and creative exploration.

MEET THE STORY

When Xavier arrives at his Uncle John John's apartment, neither of them knows quite what to expect. Xavier's mother, Maria, is receiving mental health care, and John John has suddenly taken on the role of caregiver. The apartment is filled with unopened boxes, and in some ways, their relationship feels much the same. Then Xavier opens one. Inside, he discovers action figures, comic books, and superheroes. A shared obsession of superheroes becomes the beginning of a new connection. As Xavier and John John plan for Comic-Con, build superhero costumes, and navigate difficult emotions together, they discover that strength doesn't mean being free from sadness or fear. Sometimes, real heroism is found in honesty, vulnerability, compassion, and simply showing up for someone you love.

BIG IDEAS

- Mental health
- Vulnerability
- Heroism
- Family



BEFORE YOU GO

Check your inbox for your **Know Before You Go** email, sent ahead of your field trip. It includes important details for your visit, plus a short video showing what to expect and what to do when you arrive at SCT.



LOOK + LISTEN

Notice how costume, body shape, voice, gesture, and behavior work together to tell us who a hero is before the character explains it.



SEATTLE
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE

THINK + TALK

Help your students move from what happened in the story to personal connection and then to the world beyond the stage.

STORY

What brings Xavier and John John closer together? Why does making their costumes become important?

SELF

What helps you when a feeling becomes overwhelming? Who are the people you can ask for help?

WORLD

What qualities does our world need in its heroes?



BRING IT HOME

Who helps make a place feel like home to you?

Across SCT's 26/27 season, HOME is more than a place. It can be a person, a memory, a tradition, a story, a feeling of belonging, or something we carry with us.

LOOK AT THE CRAFT

As you watch, notice HOW the artists work together to create what you hear and see.

Choose one moment that feels like magic, then ask:

- How did they do that?
- How did the artists make it happen?
- What did you notice about performance, design, movement, sound, objects, or space?



Scenic design rendering for I'll Be Your Superhero by scenic and video designer Arnold Bueso.



Costume design sketch for I'll Be Your Superhero by costume designer Danielle Nieves.



SEATTLE
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE

TRY IT YOURSELF: DESIGN YOUR POWER



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What if a human quality were a superpower?

START HERE

- **Imagine:** Choose one human quality—empathy, courage, listening, patience, honesty, humor, or another strength—and imagine it as a superpower.
- **Explore:** Practice three tools that communicate character: sketch a symbol or costume detail, build a repeatable power pose using clear body shape and focus, and rehearse a one-line motto using strong voice and intention.
- **Express:** Introduce your hero to a partner or create a two-panel comic showing the power in action.
- **Reflect:** How did your design, body, and voice communicate the same idea in different ways?

TAKE IT FURTHER

Add acting craft: Give the hero an objective, an obstacle, and a moment when using the power is difficult. Rehearse a short scene in which the hero must actively choose to use the human quality—not simply announce it. **Challenge:** Let the hero fail first and try again.

WASHINGTON ARTS LEARNING STANDARDS

- Creating 1–3
- Performing 4–6
- Responding 7–9
- Connecting 10–11



KEEP EXPLORING

Learn more about our other educational offerings and see what's next on stage!

Share your theatre journey with us!



@seattlechildrenstheatre



@sct_seattle



SEATTLE
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE