

Superhero Facts

9 Superheroes are fantasy characters who are dedicated to tackling crime and battling villains. They were originally created as part of comic book stories in the late 1930s. Superheroes have special (superhuman) powers such as those described here:

39 Lightning Girl

51 Lightning Girl is one of the daughters of a native American tribal princess, all of whom have auburn hair and the potential to wield magic.

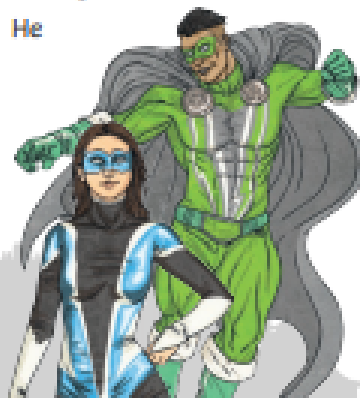
71 **Flight speed:** Subsonic (when propelled by winds)

77 **Fighting skills:** Excellent hand-to-hand combatant, trained by Anaconda.

80 Anaconda

87 Anaconda was born with superhuman strength, the ability to heal his own wounds (unless they are severe) and the power of flight. He was later given an invisible, strong exoskeleton to protect him further.

119 **Age:** Over one-hundred years old (but not immortal).



Quick Questions



1. When were superheroes first created?



2. Find and copy two verbs which mean the same as 'fighting'



3. Why do you think that Anaconda is 'not immortal'?



4. Who do you think is more powerful: Lightning Girl or Anaconda? Explain your reasons why.

Help!

10 The trees were like inky giants menacingly looming over
17 the house with twisted, reaching arms. Their decaying
25 leaves rustled loudly and the air smelled damp.

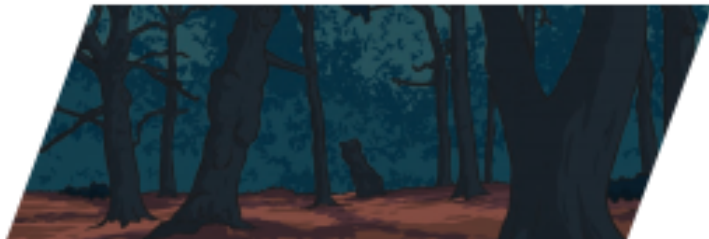
35 Lucy arrived at the door. Her chest tightened. Her eyes
44 widened. She lifted her shaking, clammy hand to knock
55 on the door but before she could touch it, it creaked
56 open...

61 They wouldn't find her here.

70 Slowly edging across the threshold, her heart began to
78 pound. Thoughts were racing wildly around her head
87 as she tentatively peered into the darkness, trying to
98 see if the coast was clear. After moments of silence and
107 stillness, she had reassured herself; judging by the state
116 of the house, nobody had ventured there in years.

117 Relief.

126 Then, from the floors above, a small, almost inaudible
130 voice called, "Help... me..."



Quick Questions



1. Where did the voice come from?



2. Define: inaudible.



3. Why was her 'heart pounding'? Give two reasons.



4. What do you predict Lucy will do next? Use the text to support your answer.
