

Cuba at the Crossroads

Lesson 3: Superheroes of the 21st Century

Essential Questions

- *How do superheroes enhance our sense of possibilities?*
- *How do nations bridge differences and forge new relationships?*
- *How can we learn about a culture and history by studying art?*
- *What steps can a country take to improve the economic climate?*

In this unit on Cuban history and culture, you learned about the push-pull factors for migration to the United States and about life in Cuba during the Special Period after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Gradually, Cuba began to ease the country's economic woes by loosening restrictions on American remittances, creating economic and tourism deals with European and Latin American countries, diversifying agriculture and cooperating with Venezuela under President Hugo Chavez. In December, 2014 the White House announced that President Obama is "charting a new course on Cuba".

Activity 1:

What does it take to improve Cuban-US relations? According to *Los tres magníficos* by Cuban artist Pablo Borges Delgado, Pope Francis, Barak Obama and Raúl Castro are superheroes for opening a new era in Cuban- US relations. In small groups, answer the following questions about superheroes and share your ideas during class discussion.

1. What is a superhero?

2. What character traits does a superhero exhibit? Do you think it is the same in other cultures as it is in our own?

3. Name some popular superheroes in our culture.

4. Where is the evidence of superheroes in American pop culture?

5. What superhuman physical abilities does Superman possess?

6. What is the "Superman stance"? What does this body language mean?

7. What is the dress code of a superhero?

8. How can the average person identify with a superhero? Do we have common traits?

9. Did you have dreams of being a superhero when you were younger?

10. Name examples of real life heroes/ superheroes from historic and contemporary times.