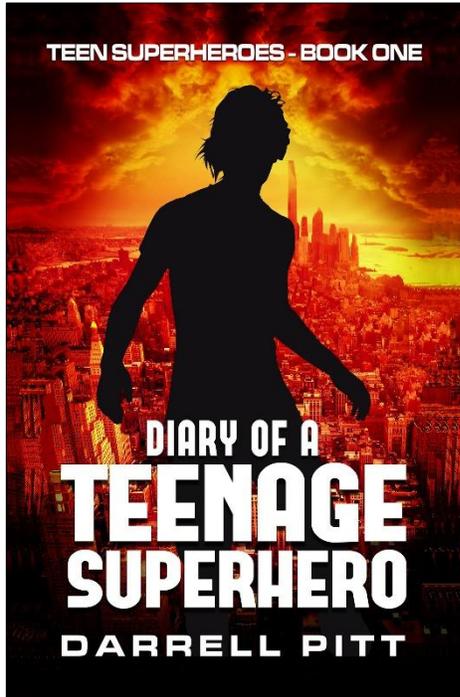


## *Diary of a Teenage Superhero – Teaching Notes*



Teenagers with superpowers. A secret organization. Aliens on Earth. A weapon designed to destroy a city.

Axel wakes up in a seedy hotel room with no memory of his past. A man lies dying on the floor next to him. Someone starts pounding at the door. Axel runs. While staying one step ahead of his pursuers, Axel begins to assemble the pieces of his life. He is the victim of an amazing experiment – he has been given incredible powers – and he is not alone.

An organization known only as The Agency has modified other teenagers too. Brodie is a master of martial arts. Ebony can transmute one substance into another. Dan controls metals with his mind. Chad creates fire and ice from nothing.

They have been handed incredible powers to help the human race in times of crisis – and one of those times is now. A terrorist organization intends to fire a nuclear weapon at an American city. Only this bunch of untried, untested teenage superheroes stands any chance of stopping it.

**Series:** Book One – Teen Superheroes

**Genre:** YA / Sci-Fi Adventure

**Theme:** Identity & Self-Discovery, Responsibility, Teamwork, Ethics of Power.

### **1. Book Summary & Metadata**

- **Target Age:** 10–14 years
- **The Hook:** Being a teenager is hard enough, but when a group of ordinary students discovers they have extraordinary abilities, they

must decide: do they hide their gifts to fit in, or step up to protect a world that might be afraid of them?

- **Curriculum Links:** English (Character Archetypes, The Hero's Journey), Health & PE (Identity, Peer Pressure), Civics & Citizenship (Social Responsibility).

## 2. Pre-Reading Questions

- **The "Super" Choice:** If you woke up tomorrow with one superpower, but you could never tell your best friend about it, would you keep the power or give it back?
- **Defining a Hero:** What is the difference between a "hero" and a "celebrity"? Can you have one without the other?
- **Genre Conventions:** What are the "rules" of a superhero story (e.g., secret identities, costumes, villains)? How do these stories usually end?

## 3. Discussion Questions (The "Deep Dive")

- **The Burden of Power:** "With great power comes great responsibility." How does this quote apply to the main character? What is the "cost" of their new life?
- **Secret Identities:** Why do the characters feel the need to hide who they are? How does this reflect the way teenagers sometimes hide their true selves to fit in at school?
- **The "Grey" Villain:** Does the villain in the story believe they are doing the right thing? Discuss the idea that every villain is the hero of their own story.

## 4. Activities (Pick & Choose)

- **[English]** – The Hero's Journey Map: Draw a "Journey Map" for the protagonist. Mark the "Call to Adventure," the "Belly of the Whale" (the lowest point), and the "Transformation."
- **[Visual Arts/Media]** – Brand Your Hero: Create a logo and a costume design that reflects the character's personality, not just their power. Why did you choose those specific colours?
- **[Health/Ethics]** – The Ethical Dilemma: Create a "What Would You Do?" scenario. For example: You use your super-speed to stop a

bully, but in doing so, you accidentally break a school rule. Do you confess or stay silent to protect your secret? Class debate.

### 5. Australian Curriculum Alignment (V9.0)

<b>Year Level</b>	<b>Content Description</b>	<b>Code</b>
Year 7/8	English: Explore how themes of identity and social issues are represented in texts.	AC9E7LE01
Year 7/8	Health/PE: Evaluate how emotional responses vary and how they can be managed in different situations.	AC9HP8P02
Year 9	English: Analyze how authors use archetypes and subvert genre expectations.	AC9E9LE02