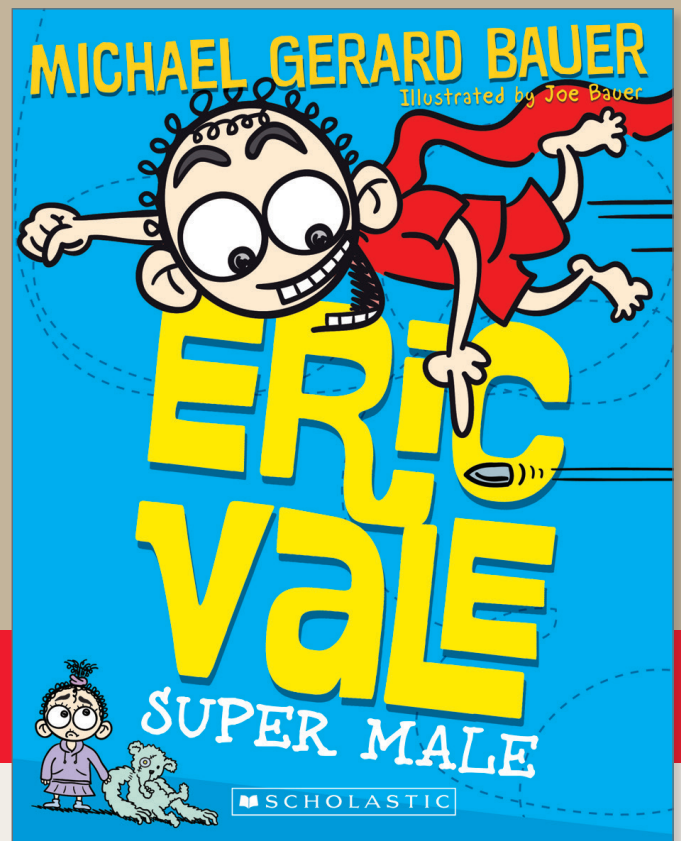


Eric Vale Super Male

Written by Michael Gerard Bauer

Illustrated by Joe Bauer

- Humour • Fear and self-belief
- Engaging reluctant readers • Superheroes



Synopsis

When Mr. Winter announces a study unit on superheroes and declares a superhero week, Eric Vale knows it's his time to shine. Superheroes are the coolest thing ever and Eric's practically an expert on the subject. He's shrugged off the Epic Fail moniker and things are looking up. What Eric should really know by now is that he has a case of bad luck up to his eyeballs, and what goes up must come down. Not to mention that whenever Chewy and Eric's sister, Katie, are involved, things tend to go badly.

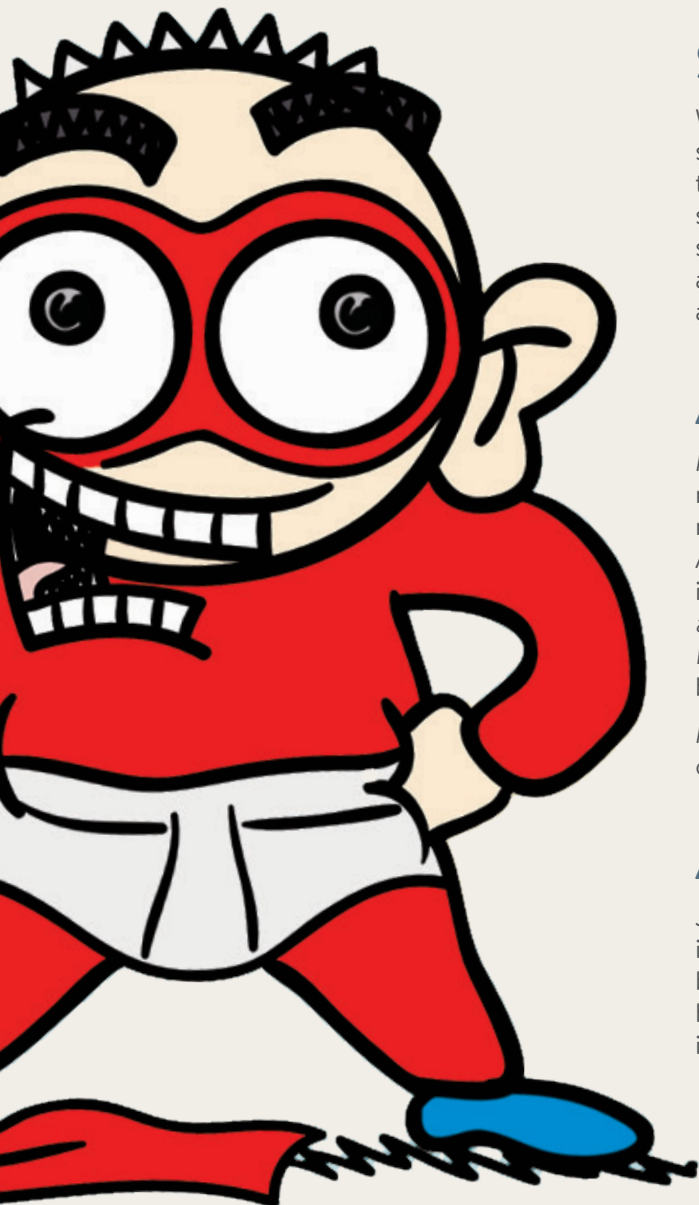
About the Author

Michael Gerard Bauer was born in Brisbane. He taught at schools before resigning in 2000 to pursue his dream of being a published writer. His first novel *The Running Man* won the CBCA Book of the Year (Older Readers) Award in 2005 and he has since garnered many other honours including international awards. His other books include *Don't Call Me Ishmael!*, *Ishmael and the Return of the Dugongs*, *Ishmael and the Hoops of Steel*, *Dinosaur Knights*, *You Turkeys!*, *Just a Dog* and *Eric Vale—Epic Fail*. Many of Michael's books have been published in other countries and in different languages.

Michael blogs at michaelgerardbauer.wordpress.com and has an author page on Facebook.

About the Illustrator

Joe Bauer is a young filmmaker whose recent film *The Killage* has enjoyed international critical success. In addition to making comedy films, Joe has been drawing since childhood. He is the creator of the original covers for his father Michael's first two *Ishmael* books. This is his second published illustrated book.



Discussion Points

CLASS DISCUSSION

After you have read the first chapter, have a discussion about your first impressions and thoughts on *Eric Vale—Super Male*. Here are some topics you can use to prompt discussion:

- What do you remember about Eric Vale from his first book? Has he changed in *Eric Vale—Super Male*?
- Why can't Eric focus in class?
- Do we learn anything new about Eric's classmates or teacher in the opening chapters?
- What do you think about Eric's Agent Dale obsession? Can you relate to this?
- What do you think the story might be about? Does the title give anything away?

RESEARCH TASK

Eric sets his story about Secret Agent Derek 'Danger' Dale in a Pharaoh's tomb. What do you know about pyramids and mummies and pharaohs? Why do you think this is an appealing setting? What other historical settings do you think might make good backgrounds for Eric's stories?

Choose a place that you think would make an interesting setting for a story and research it as if you are a writer searching for information for a new book. Write up your findings on your blog to share with your classmates.

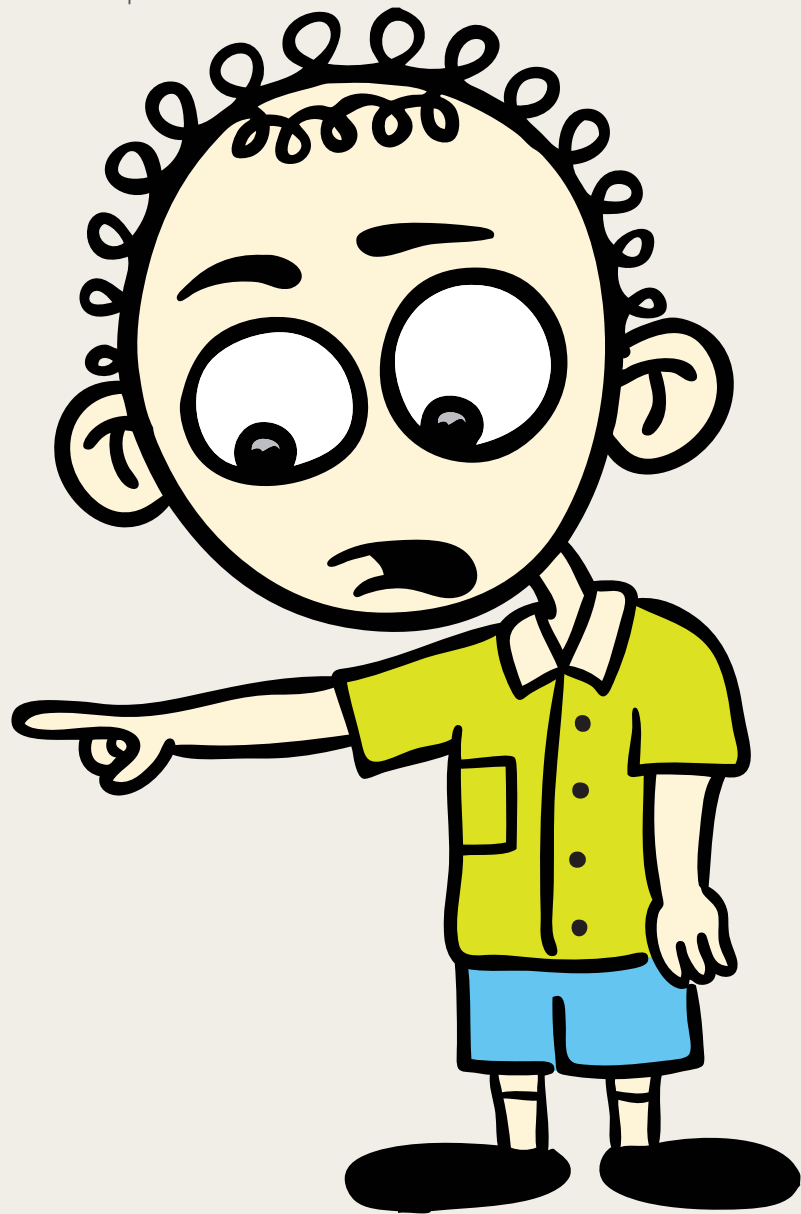
CLASS DISCUSSION

Have a class discussion about heroes. Here are some questions to prompt conversation:

- Do you agree with Meredith's assessment of superheroes or Eric's?
- What are the qualities of a superhero?
- What is the difference between a real-life hero and a superhero?
- Can you name someone who displayed heroic qualities?
- What would you call an act of heroism?
- What do you think of Chewy's character 'Mr Self-Belief'?
- In your opinion, what makes a hero?
- Can you think of different groups of people we call heroes in everyday life? (example: sports men and women)
- What is the opposite of a hero?

Activities and Copy Masters

- 1) Write a review on *Eric Vale—Super Male* that is suitable for publication in your school newsletter. **SEE CM A.**
- 2) Create an anti-bullying role play, like Sophie and Jarrod's, that can be performed at an assembly.
- 3) Rewrite an episode in the book from Chewy's perspective. Before you begin, think about how Chewy views the world. **SEE CM B.**
- 4) Create a detailed plan for your own Hall of Horrors. **SEE CM C.**
- 5) Design an alternative cover for the novel. **SEE CM D.**
- 6) Choose a scene from the novel and write a script to act out as a group or in pairs. The scene might be presented as a live performance in class or as a film.



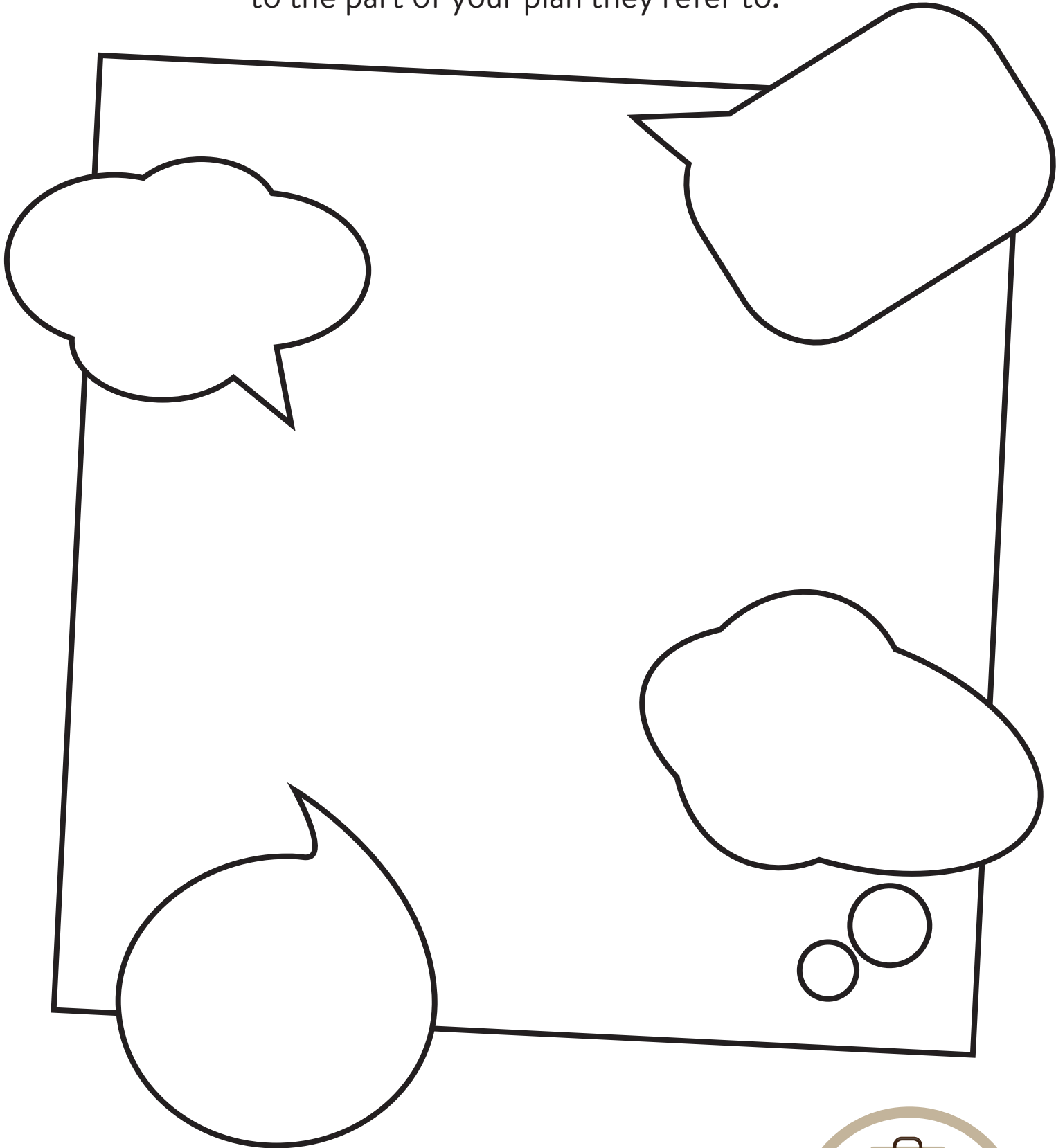
teacher toolkit

 SCHOLASTIC



Hall of Horrors!

Create a new plan for your very own Hall of Horrors. Don't forget to complete labels and captions to explain your ideas, and draw arrows to the part of your plan they refer to.



Name:

Date:



Design a New Book Cover



teacher toolkit

 SCHOLASTIC