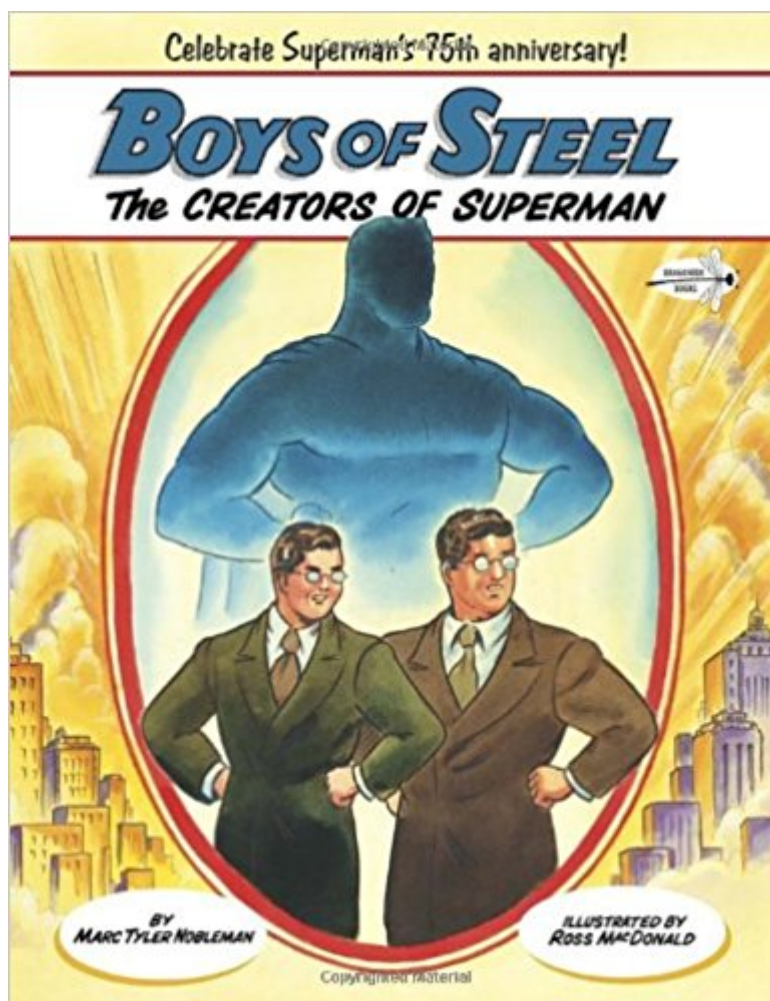




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Boys Of Steel: The Creators Of Superman



Synopsis

Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, two high school misfits in Depression-era Cleveland, were more like Clark Kent--meek, mild, and myopic--than his secret identity, Superman. Both boys escaped into the worlds of science fiction and pulp magazine adventure tales. Jerry wrote his own original stories and Joe illustrated them. In 1934, the summer they graduated from high school, they created a superhero who was everything they were not. It was four more years before they convinced a publisher to take a chance on their Man of Steel in a new format--the comic book. The author includes a provocative afterword about the long struggle Jerry and Joe had with DC Comics when the boys realized they had made a mistake in selling all rights to Superman for a mere \$130.

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 4-6 • Nobleman portrays teenaged Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster as outcasts who found solace in the world of pulp magazines and comics. Their peers did not understand their fascination with tales of musclemen and detectives with gadgets, and their teachers deemed the stories that they loved to write and illustrate "trash." Despite these obstacles, the two friends continued writing and illustrating, and in 1934, Siegel had an avalanche of ideas about a new type of hero that he then shared with Shuster, who drew the first concept illustrations of Superman. It took another four years, however, before the superhero would make his public debut in Action Comics

#1. MacDonald's illustrations are a tribute to 1930s pulp art, from the lines of the characters outlined in brown to the washes of yellow in the background. While the layout remains primarily in picture-book format, comic-book elements appear sporadically, such as with phrases separated from the rest of the text and placed in oval bubbles. One spread also uses panels to depict Siegel's thoughts as he conceptualized Superman. The story ends with the young men successfully landing a publisher. The afterword fills in more of the details, including Siegel and Shuster's long-running battle with DC Comics for a greater share of the profits, how their Jewish background affected Superman during World War II, and their final years. *Boys of Steel* is a solid introduction to the history of Superman's creation, especially for children who find an outlet in storytelling and art. © Kim T. Ha, Elkridge Branch Library, MD Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review Though rich in thrilling big breaks and cultural touchstones, comic-book history appears most often in books for adults, such as Michael Chabon's *Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* (2000), inspired by the story of Superman's creators. This book brings the young men behind the Man of Steel to a picture-book audience. Along with a compressed account of the partnership between nerdy high-school outcasts Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel, *Nobleman* includes insights about superheroes' cultural significance and the chord struck by Superman—a "hero who would always come home" even as World War II loomed on the horizon. It's hard to imagine a better sidekick for the text than MacDonald's illustrations, which capture the look of 1930s comics with their sepia-toned, stylized imagery, although some children may wish for more distinctions between Shuster and Siegel's bespectacled faces. The narrative ends on an upbeat note, but the detailed, candid afterword clues youngsters into the creators' bitter compensation battle with DC Comics. A bibliography and assurances that "all dialogue was excerpted from interviews" puts factual muscle on the narrative. Any kid who has scribbled caped crusaders in the margins of homework will find Shuster and Siegel's accomplishment of interest; this robust treatment does their story justice. Grades 1-3. --Jennifer Mattson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As much as I love this book, I wanted more. The book gives a brief description over VAST stretches of the lives of Siegal and Shuster. I felt like I was not given the whole story.

Nobleman has written a tender, well researched kid's biography of the two boys who created Superman. The illustrator adds to the ambiance and flavor of story. This is a great book for elementary students, especially those who love superheroes.

The book was terrific. It was great to get some insight on how the Superman character came to be especially since he is a part of our American culture. What is unbelievable is how the two men who created the Superman action hero were treated. Kids will love this book.

Fun story for boys who like comics. Only downside is that there are not enough words and the kindle format is a little tricky to navigate on the fire. My son loved the book though, and he is now in the process of making his own comic book that he is going to "sell" someday.

Any Superman fan will be proud of this clever homage to the two creative guys who created the original Kal-El/Clark Kent/Superman...arguably America's greatest pop culture icon. In its simplicity, this thin volume will appeal to the freshman comic fan but true historians and buffs will instantly recognize, appreciate and celebrate the honorific narrative of the Jerry & Joe's story and also of the beautiful illustrations that pay tribute to the original artwork found in the early Action Comics. Kudos to the creative forces behind this powerful little memoir. Somewhere in the heavenly portion of the Phantom Zone, Siegel & Schuster are smiling.

Nice large format! I like this and loaned it to my neighbor to use in her classroom also!

An important, informative, and very entertaining story well written and researched. The illustrations are superb also. Read it and add it to your library.

Very well written, insightful, and great story. The illustrations add to the story and help make the book more interesting for the younger crowd (and older crowd who appreciates comics). This book is one that can stay on the shelf for many years and enjoyed by generations.

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