



SUPERMAN

RETURNS

-EXTRA

Level 3

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least three years and up to four years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level B1.

SYNOPSIS

Superman has been away from Earth for five years. He answered a call for help from his home planet, Krypton, and almost died there. Now he returns to Earth and re-appears as Clark Kent again. He returns to Metropolis to work for his old newspaper, the Daily Planet, and meets his former love, Lois Lane. Now she has a new man in her life, Richard, and a five-year old son, Jason.

Lex Luthor and his friends are in Metropolis too. Luthor plans to build a new world and destroy the old one. He causes some mysterious blackouts in Metropolis and Lois goes to investigate but she and Jason are caught by Luthor. Luthor steals Superman's crystal from the Fortress of Solitude and a meteorite with kryptonite from the museum in Metropolis. He uses the crystal and kryptonite to create a new land and causes a huge earthquake. Superman saves Lois and the world.

THE BACK STORY

Superman was created in 1932, by a Canadian artist (Joe Shuster) and an American writer (Jerry Siegel) and first appeared in a comic strip published by DC Comics. Since then, he has

appeared in comic books, radio serials, television programmes, films, newspaper strips and video games.

Superman Returns is the fifth Superman film. The popular TV series, *Smallville*, is about Clark Kent and Lex Luthor growing up together in the town of Smallville.

Superman Returns focuses on the fight between good (Superman) and bad (Luthor). In this story, Superman is not always so super and so perfect. He doesn't know where he belongs, on Krypton or on Earth, and he wonders if he should help people or not. In the end, good does not completely win over bad: Superman saves the planet but Luthor escapes.

MEDIA LINKS

DVD: The film of *Superman Returns* is available on DVD.

CD: A recording of *Superman Returns* is available to accompany the Richmond reader.

Internet: Look at the official website at www.warnerbros.co.uk and find out about the original comic strip at www.dccomics.com.

Books: This reader is adapted from *Superman Returns* – the Junior Novel, by Little, Brown.

HOW TO USE YOUR RICHMOND MEDIA READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Have they heard of Superman? Have they seen any of the films? Do they want to read *Superman Returns*? If not, choose another book! Motivate students by telling them some background information and by reading aloud the first page of the story with dramatic atmosphere and emotion.

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each section of reading. (All answers on page 4.)

Using the DVD

Try to get the English language version DVD (with or without subtitles) of the film. Watch it yourself first in case there are scenes or language that are not suitable for your class. Show it in chunks of, say, 20 minutes in parallel with the class reading schedule. Alternatively, show the whole film in two sessions, perhaps over two lunchtimes when the whole class can get together. Ask students to identify and discuss any differences between the book and the film. There are other ideas for using the DVD in class on page 4.

Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these options will enhance their understanding and speed up their reading.

Glossary

Go to 'New Words' on the inside back cover of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home.

Book exercises

Show students the Self-Study Activities on pages 62-64. These are divided into sections. They complete some exercises before they read a section, and some after.

Feedback

Have class feedback sessions each week. Talk and ask about the story so far. Get students to ask each other questions. Check resource sheet exercise answers with the whole class.

Fact Files

After the story, there are 4 Fact Files. Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. The files explore the themes of the story and relevant cultural contexts with interactive elements. Project ideas are on page 4.

What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or verbal review of the book. Compare opinions. Will they read more *Superman* or *Smallville* stories? Will they go and see the film? Did you like it?

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



S U P E R M A N

R E T U R N S

- E X T R A

People and places

1 Answer the questions.

Who ...

- a) wants to control the world? *Lex Luthor*
- b) is in love with Superman?
- c) is a photographer?
- d) lives with Lois and Jason?

What ...

- e) is Superman's Earth name?
- f) is the only thing that can kill him?

What's the name of ...

- g) the city they live in?
- h) Lois Lane's son?
- i) Lex Luthor's girlfriend?
- j) the head of the *Daily Planet*?
- k) the planet Superman came from?
- l) the men who work for Luthor?
- m) Luthor's yacht?

Where ...

- n) does Clark Kent work?
- o) does Superman go to talk to his father?

2 Talk to a partner. What are Superman's special powers? If you could choose to have three special powers, what would they be?

Chapters 1-2

1 Answer the questions.

- a) What is the title of Chapter 1? Which two characters have new beginnings? Where did Superman go? Where was Luthor before?
- b) What is the title of Chapter 2? Who is back home? What does he do there? Who tells him some surprising news? What?

2 Which words go with Superman? Which go with Clark Kent? Write S or C next to each one.

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| crystal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S | dog | <input type="checkbox"/> | Earth | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| farm | <input type="checkbox"/> | Kar-El | <input type="checkbox"/> | Martha | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> | ordinary | <input type="checkbox"/> | reporter | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| spaceship | <input type="checkbox"/> | special | <input type="checkbox"/> | sun | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 Write answers to the questions in an exercise book.

- a) Why did Superman's parents send him to Earth?
- b) Why did they put a crystal with him in the spaceship?
- c) Why was Lex Luthor kind to Gertrude Vanderworth before she died?
- d) What did Clark think about Lois' article WHY THE WORLD DOESN'T NEED SUPERMAN?

Chapters 3-4

1 Answer the questions.

- a) What's the title of Chapter 3? Who went to the Arctic and why? How did they get there?
- b) What's the title of Chapter 4? What 'surprise' did Clark get?

2 Which words are about: (a) the yacht? (b) the newspaper office?

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| amazing bedrooms | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a | crowded room | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| desks full of papers | <input type="checkbox"/> | grand piano | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| games room | <input type="checkbox"/> | old coffee cups | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| swimming-pool | <input type="checkbox"/> | wonderful kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| telephones | <input type="checkbox"/> | computers | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 Talk to a partner.

- a) Describe the yacht *Gertrude*. If you were a millionaire, what other things (e.g. personal cinema, swimming pool) would you have on your yacht?

Chapters 5-6

1 Answer the questions.

- a) What was *Luthor's plan* in Chapter 5?
- b) What is the title of Chapter 6? Who is going to write about Superman and why?

2 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- a) In the plane the lights went out and came on again. T
- b) The engines went on working.
- c) The pilot was able to free the rocket.
- d) Lois was fine. She knew they would be OK.
- e) When the rocket took off, the plane was still joined to it.
- f) Superman pushed the rocket away from the plane.
- g) He threw the plane into space.
- h) He caught the rocket and put it in a baseball stadium.

3 Talk to a partner.

- a) What does Perry White want these people to do:
Jimmy? The sports reporter? The travel reporter? Lois?
- b) What does Lois want to do?
- c) What would *you* want to do?

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Chapters 7–9

1 Answer the questions.

- a) What is the title of Chapter 7? How does Luthor find out? How does he feel?
- b) Where does *The robbery* take place in Chapter 8? What is stolen? Who steals it? Why?
- c) Who has *An interview with Superman* in Chapter 9? What questions does she ask him? What are his answers?

2 Who said these things? Who were they talking to? In what situation?

- a) 'Hell-o, handsome!'
- b) 'You worry too much.'
- c) 'Have you ever been in love?'
- d) 'I have no right to a normal life.'
- e) 'You didn't have to cut them!'
- f) 'Let's start with the big question.'
- g) 'Were you in love with him?'
- h) 'You'll get one some day.'

3 Complete the sentences about Superman, Kitty and Lois with the correct form of the verbs.

turn on turn off pick up put down get out of look for

Superman (a) picked up the front of Kitty's car.
 (b) '..... the engine!' he shouted. He
 (c) the car. Kitty (d)
 the car and fell into his arms.
 Lois (e) her tape recorder. It was in her coat
 pocket. She (f) the recorder and asked
 Superman some questions.

4 Work with a partner. Write Lois' INTERVIEW WITH SUPERMAN for the *Daily Planet*.

Chapters 10–11

1 Answer the questions.

- a) What is the title of Chapter 10? What does Lois investigate? How? What does she do first? What does she do next?
- b) What's the title of Chapter 11? How does the earthquake start?

2 Put these sentences in the correct order.

- a) The yacht began to move.
- b) She drove with Jason to a large house next to the river.
- c) She wrote an X on a map to show the centre of the blackouts.
- d) Lois rang the Water and Light Department.
- e) They went onto a yacht behind the house.
- f) She picked up Jason from school.
- g) She found when the blackouts started in different parts of the city.

3 Make sentences. Write a preposition if necessary.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| a) Luthor put the crystal and kryptonite | i) the air. |
| b) The rocket flew | ii) rise. |
| c) It hit | iii) Metropolis. |
| d) It exploded | iv) <u>...into...</u> the rocket. |
| e) The sky and sea were | v) the sea. |
| f) Crystal mountains began | vi) fire. |
| g) The earthquake moved | vii) water. |

Chapters 12–13

1 Answer the questions.

- a) Who said '*Goodbye Superman!*' in Chapter 12? What had just happened?
- b) What's the title of Chapter 13? How did he do it?

2 Who said this? In what situation?

- a) 'I can't take off in this!'
- b) 'We must go and help him.'
- c) 'You're going to die now.'
- d) 'There he is!'
- e) 'You'll die!'
- f) 'That's awesome!'
- g) 'All he needs is a little sunlight.'
- h) 'I saved the world!'
- i) 'I might be home late.'

3 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- a) Richard rescued Lois and Jason without Superman's help.
- b) Richard promised Superman he would come back.
- c) Superman fell into the sea with a knife in his back.
- d) The crystals in the water had kryptonite in them.
- e) Lois, Jason and Richard saved Superman's life.
- f) Superman used the sunlight to become strong again.
- g) Superman pushed Luthor's crystal island down to the bottom of the sea.

4 Work with a partner. One of you is Superman. The other is a presenter for a TV news programme. The presenter interviews Superman about the events of the last few days.

FINAL TASKS

1 Where do you think Luthor and Kitty went after they escaped? What do you think Lois' idea is? Write what happens next.

2 Choose one of the photos in the book. Describe what is happening. Say why it's important in the story and what happens before and after.

3 Imagine you are Jimmy Olsen. Write part of the story from his point of view. Use the first person 'I'.

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

VOCABULARY BUILDER

1 Find 'New Words' at the back of the book for these definitions.

- a) You can wear this on your head to change your appearance.
- b) People win one for very good work.
- c) These big words tell you what a newspaper article is about.
- d) This makes buildings shake and crash to the ground.
- e) You use these to stop a vehicle or slow it down.
- f) A very big stone which moves fast through space.
- g) It flies but it isn't a bird, it isn't a plane and it isn't Superman!
- h) A small ship or a large boat.
- i) A stone made of a sort of glass.
- j) A popular sport in the United States.
- k) Another word for save.

2 There are one or two wrong words in each of these sentences. Find the right New Words.

- a) Repeaters write letters for newspapers.
Reporters *articles*
- b) Superman came from the plane Krypton.

- c) They are going to lunch the pocket tomorrow morning.

- d) All the lights went out and there was a complete blackboard.

- e) You need to put the key in the car to start the envelope!

- f) The planet Krypton was destroyed by a big exploration.

- g) A round ball with a map of the world on it is a goal.

- h) They grow fruit and vegetables on their form.

- i) The Egg goes around the sun.

- j) A small copy of a town or railway etc is called a middle.

FACT FILE FOLLOW-UP

SUPERMAN: THE FACTS (page 56)

Interview

Students work individually to invent a superhero they would like to be. They can use *Superman: the facts* on page 56 for guidance but can add any more details they choose.

Students then work in pairs to improvise an interview. One is a journalist asking questions. The other plays the role of their own superhero and answers the questions. This activity could be followed up by each 'journalist' writing a brief article about the superhero they interviewed.

THE SCIENCE OF SUPERMAN (page 57)

Research

Students work in small groups and research another superhero or comic book character (good or bad) e.g. Spiderman, Batman, the Joker, the Incredible Hulk, the X-men etc. What are their special powers? How did they get them? Can their powers be explained by science? Try to make sure each group chooses a different character. Each group makes a poster about their character. Put the posters up around the class so students can go around and look at them and ask questions.

EARTHQUAKES (pages 58–9)

Presentation

Students find out about natural disasters other than earthquakes, for example, volcano eruptions, hurricanes, floods or droughts. They work in pairs or groups and choose a topic to research. The pairs/groups make a poster to present to the rest of the class. The research may be done in the students' own language or in English but the poster and presentation must be done in English. Encourage other students to ask questions during the presentations.

21ST CENTURY NEWS (pages 60–1)

Survey

Students find out reactions to the stories and pictures in this week's newspapers, asking their friends, parents, relatives, teachers etc: *What did you think was the most interesting story in the papers this week? What was the most interesting picture?* They should make a note of the answers and then present their findings to the class. If possible they should also bring copies of some of the articles or pictures. Which stories and pictures were considered to be the most interesting overall?

DVD/CD FOLLOW-UP

If you plan to show the film in class, watch it yourself. Check that it is suitable. Identify good places to pause. Explain that the dialogue is fast and that students shouldn't be discouraged if they can't understand everything at first.

What happens next?

Freeze-frame a scene just before a dramatic moment. Students say what is about to happen and what has just happened.

Observing

Choose a scene before class and prepare questions on it. Tell the students to watch carefully and note down details about clothes, people in the scene, objects etc. Play the scene a couple of times and then ask questions, e.g. *What colour is Lois' dress? What can you see on her desk? Is she wearing a watch?*

Put it in context

Play short sections of the story. After each one, ask students to give the context, i.e. explain who the speakers are, where they are and what they are talking about. This could be a written quiz with students writing down the answers.

Self-Study Activities (pages 62–4)

- 1 a) helicopter, rocket, spaceship, yacht
b) article, headline, reporter
- 2 a) wig b) award c) engine d) blackout e) explosion
f) planets, Earth
- 3 a) vi b) vii c) v d) ii e) i f) iii g) iv
- 4 a) Because he had to keep his identity secret.
b) He got a message asking for help. He nearly died there. He was away for five years.
c) She said maybe people were better off without superheroes. Yes, it was a good article. She won the Pulitzer Prize.
d) He went to the Arctic. He found the Fortress of Solitude.
e) Luthor put a piece of crystal in the water of the model of the city.
f) The pilot couldn't free the rocket. Superman pushed the rocket off the plane and threw it into space. He caught the plane and put it down in a baseball stadium.
- 6 brakes, wheels, engine, mirror, lights, windows, doors
- 8 Sentences a, b, e and f are true, c, d and g are false.
c) Lois wasn't happy when Perry told her to write about Superman. She wanted to investigate the blackout.
d) Kitty's brakes failed because Luthor had cut them.
g) When Superman flew to the Fortress of Solitude, everything was dead. The crystal had gone.
- 10 a) explosion, earthquake, rocket
b) earth, planet, globe, baseball
c) farmer, reporter, protector
- 12 a) Luthor b) Lois c) Jimmy d) Richard e) Luthor f) Lois
g) Superman

Resource Sheet Activities

People and places

- 1 b) Lois Lane c) Jimmy Olsen d) Richard White
e) Clark Kent f) kryptonite g) Metropolis
h) Jason i) Kitty Kowalski j) Perry White k) Krypton
l) Gant, Riley m) *The Gertrude* n) *The Daily Planet* offices
o) The Fortress of Solitude (in the Arctic)

Chapters 1–2

- 1 a) *New beginnings*. Superman/Clark Kent and Lex Luthor. Superman went to Krypton. Luthor was in prison.
b) *Back home*. Superman/Clark Kent is back. He finds some old newspapers and reads Lois' article. His mother tells him she is getting married.
- 2 S = crystal, Kar-El, spaceship, special, sun
C = dog, Earth, farm, Martha, newspaper, ordinary, reporter
- 3 a) Because Krypton was about to explode.
b) So that Superman could communicate with his father and learn everything he needed to know.
c) Because he wanted her money.
d) He was hurt, it made him wonder if the world was better off without him.

Chapters 3–4

- 1 a) *A trip to the Arctic*. Luthor, Kitty Kowalski and Luthor's men went to find the Fortress of Solitude in the yacht *The Gertrude*
b) *Clark gets a surprise*. He finds out Lois has a son, Jason.
- 2 a) amazing bedrooms, grand piano, games room, swimming-pool, wonderful kitchen
b) crowded room, desks full of papers, old coffee cups, telephones, computers

Chapters 5–6

- 1 a) To build a new land and destroy the old world.
b) *'Write about Superman!'* Lois is going to write about Superman because people are interested and it sells papers.
- 2 a, e and f are true.
b, c, d, g and h are false.
b) The engines stopped.
c) The pilot couldn't free the rocket.
d) Lois was frightened. She thought they were going to die.
g) He threw the rocket into space.
h) He caught the plane and put it in a baseball stadium.

Chapters 7–9

- 1 a) *Superman is back!* He reads it in a newspaper. He is angry.
b) In the Museum. Luthor and his men steal a meteorite with kryptonite in it. They want the kryptonite.
c) Lois has an interview with Superman. She asks him where he went and why he left. He says went to Krypton because he got a message asking for help.
- 2 a) Kitty Kowalski (to Superman's photo in the newspaper).
b) Lex Luthor to Stanford.
c) Lois to Clark (thinking about Superman).
d) Superman to himself.
e) Kitty to Luthor (talking about her brakes).
f) Lois to Superman.
g) Richard to Lois (talking about Superman).
h) Clark to Jimmy (talking about a photo of Superman).
- 3 b) turn off c) put down d) got out of e) looked for
f) turned on

Chapters 10–11

- 1 a) *Lois investigates*. She investigates the blackouts. She phones the electricity company and asks when the lights went out in each place. She finds the origin of the blackouts and goes there with Jason.
b) *The earthquake*. Luthor launches the rocket.
- 2 The correct order is: d, g, c, f, b, e, a.
- 3 b) i – through c) v – d) vii – under e) vi – on f) ii – to
g) iii – towards

Chapters 12–13

- 1 a) Luthor. He had just stabbed Superman with a piece of kryptonite.
b) *Superman saves the world!* He heated the sea and lifted up the crystal island and threw it into space.
- 2 a) Richard, when he was trying to get his seaplane off the sea.
b) Lois, talking about Superman in trouble.
c) Luthor, after he hurt Superman.
d) Jason, seeing Superman in the sea.
e) Lois, when Superman decides to go back.
f) Jason, watching Superman lift the crystals out of the sea.
g) An old lady, looking at Superman in the park.
h) Jason, playing Superman.
i) Lois, going to find Lex Luthor.
- 3 d, e and f are true.
a, b, c and g are false.
a) Superman rescued them all.
b) Richard promised Superman he wouldn't come back.
c) Superman fell into the sea with a piece of kryptonite in his back.
g) He lifted it out of the sea and threw it into space.

Vocabulary Builder

- 1 a) wig b) award c) headline d) earthquake e) brakes
f) meteorite g) helicopter h) yacht i) crystal j) baseball
k) protect
- 2 b) planet c) launch/rocket d) blackout e) engine
f) explosion g) globe h) farm i) Earth j) model