

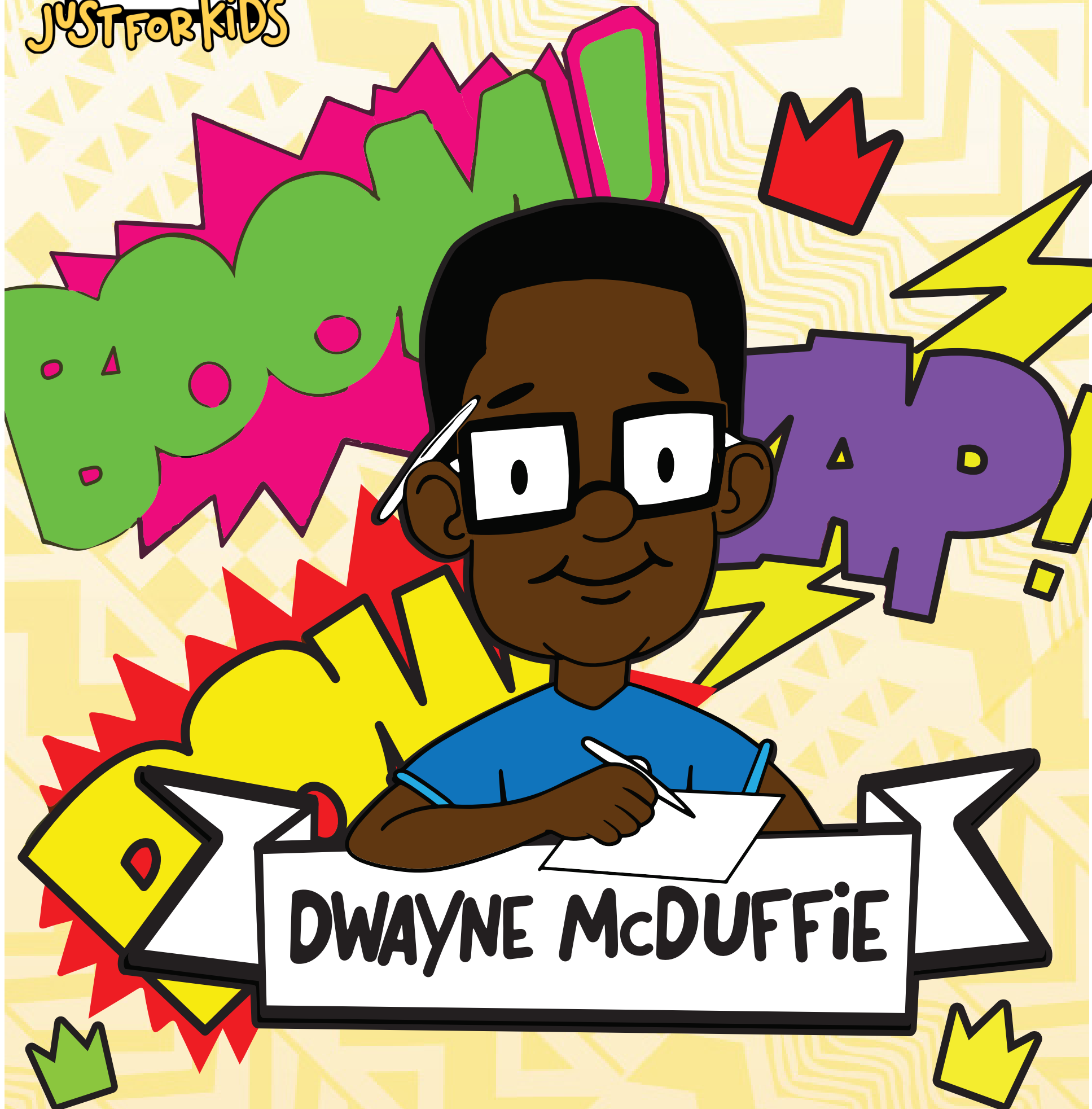
**BECAUSE  
OF THEM  
WE CAN**

**BOX**

**JUST FOR KIDS**

# BECAUSE OF DWAYNE MCDUFFIE

AGES 5-8



# THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES

*Instructions: Read the story about Dwayne McDuffie, which is very very similar to events that happened in his life. Once you are finished, write about how McDuffie responds to wanting more Black superheroes.*

There are some made-up heroes and there are some real ones. This story is about a real-life hero named Dwayne McDuffie who not only created some well-known Black superheroes but also was the **owner** of a comic book company.



It all started when he was a child. McDuffie loved comic books. He was really liked the pictures in comics and he loved the stories. But there was a **problem** he didn't like and that stayed on his mind. There were some Black superheroes and some that were good, but he felt that many of them were nothing like him. Their stories were too simple or just so different from how he knew the world. He wanted to read about **characters** that were not only Black but also had some **personality** and didn't just fight.

He searched and searched for comics but also had most of the comics that he liked didn't have many main Black characters. One he found that he did like was *Black Panther* by Don McGregor.

McDuffie always loved comics but he **focused** on his education and went to college. However, his love for comics and telling stories didn't go away, so when he got older he first started in comics working at Marvel. This young man had the dream and he even helped to create a famous Marvel comic called "Damage Control".

But the young McDuffie didn't stop there. He made his own comics and superheroes! He **cofounded** and created Milestone Media. Thanks to his work and that of Milestone Media made even more Black superheroes were born - like Static and Icon.



One day he was sitting in his office and he got a call that would completely change his life.

"Mr. McDuffie?"

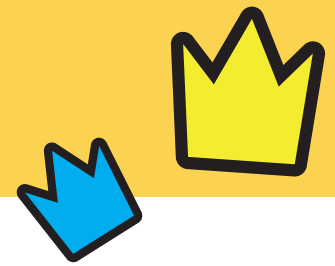
"Yes?"

"How would you feel if we made Static into a cartoon and had you as a writer?"

"I'd love that", he screamed.

Dwayne McDuffie not only proved no dream is too big but he showed we can do what we love while making a huge **impact**.

# READ & RESPOND



What did McDuffie love?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What did McDuffie do when he wanted there to be more interesting Black superheroes?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

How did he make an impact?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

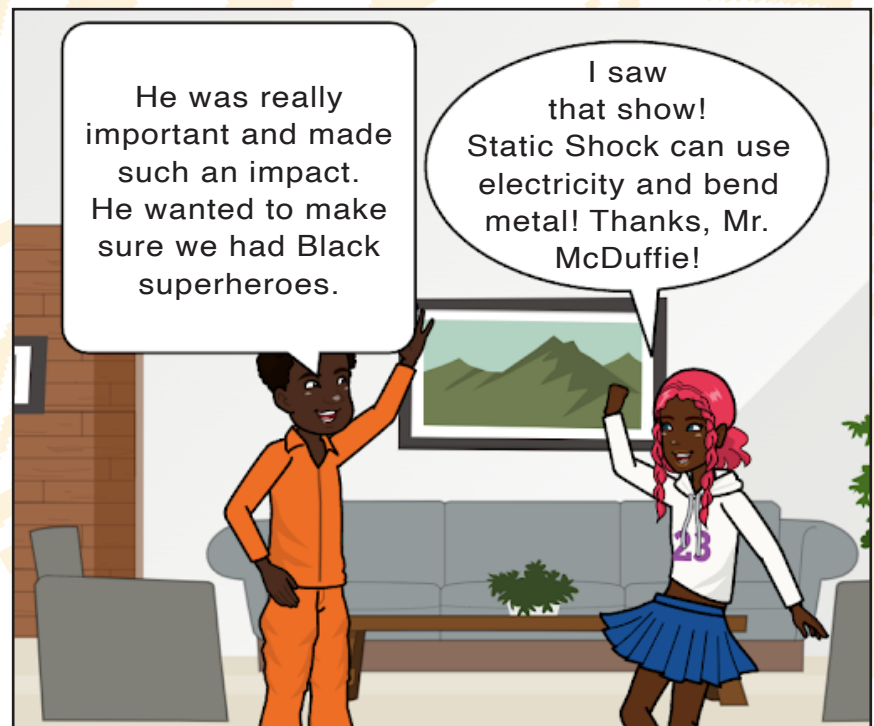
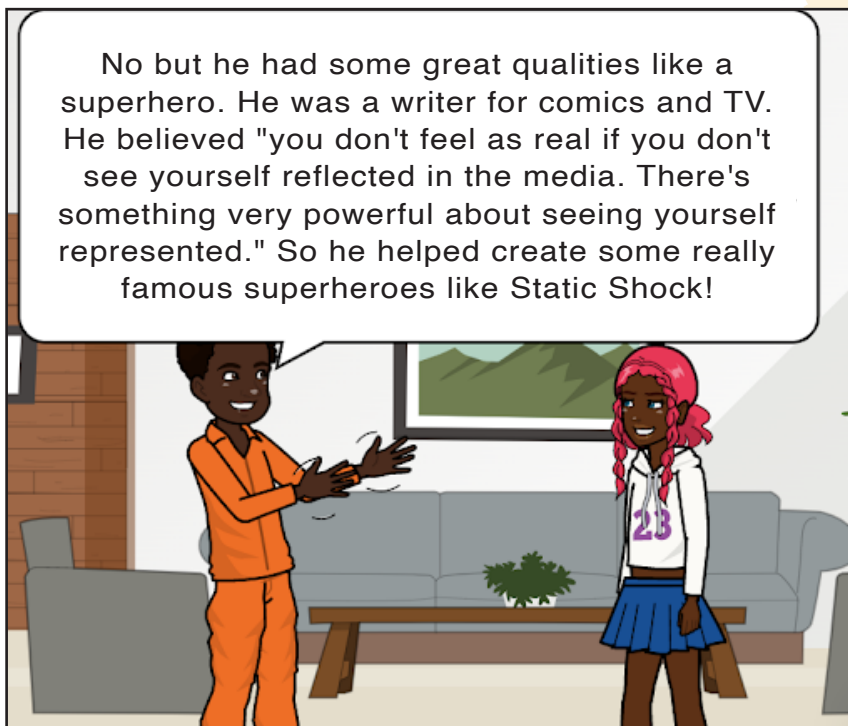
**BANG!**





# CREATIVE COMICS

*Instructions: The comic below is about the impact of Dwayne McDuffie. This is a great example of how to use a comic to tell a story and to help someone else learn something new. Think about a topic that you want someone else to learn about and turn it into a comic!*



## GLOSSARY

**Owner** - a person or group that owns something.

**Problem** - something that is difficult to deal with: something that is a source of trouble, worry, etc.

**Character** - a person who appears in a story, book, play, movie, or television show.

**Personality** - the set of emotional qualities, ways of behaving, etc., that makes a person different from other people.

**Focused** - gave attention and effort to a specific task or goal.

**Cofound** - to begin or create (something that is meant to last for a long time) with another person or people.

**Impact** - a powerful or major influence or effect.

# IT'S YOUR TURN!

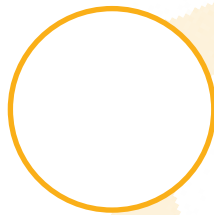
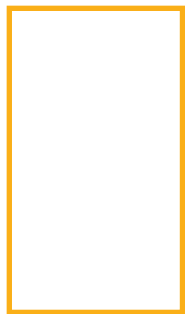
*Instructions: Now draw your own comic!*

The page contains four large, empty rectangular panels arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each panel is outlined with a thin black border and is intended for drawing a comic strip. The panels are separated by thin black lines. The entire page is framed by a thick yellow border, and there are decorative yellow and orange brushstroke-like patterns in the corners and along the sides.

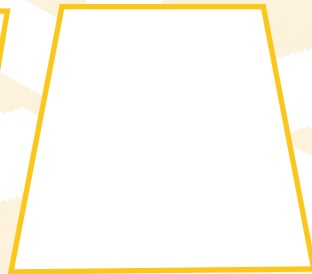
# MATH IS MY SUPERPOWER

You will create a math superhero. In the example below, this superhero is called "Shape Finder Woman". She can see shapes even at the darkest times and can see through many layers to find shapes. She helps people find things when they lose them, helps to find criminals by their unique shapes. Below you have to be like Shape Finder Woman and find the shape that does not belong. Circle the shape that is different for the set and then identify each of the shapes. When you are done you can challenge yourself and create your own math superhero and create your own problems.

1.



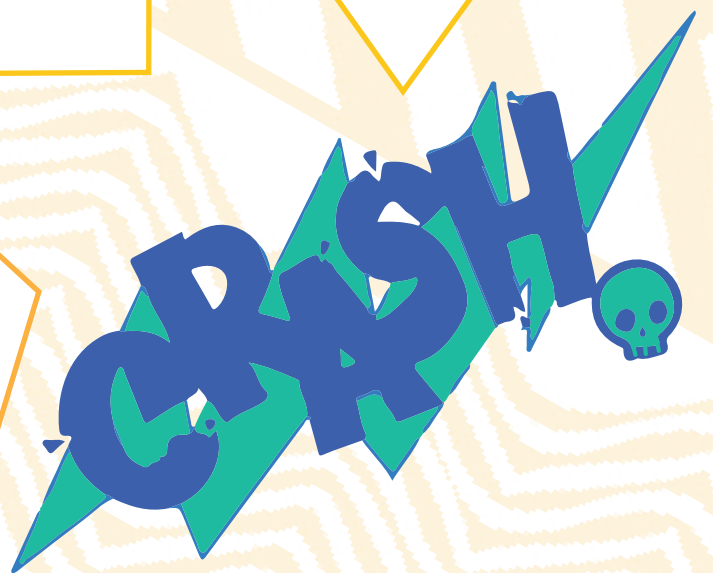
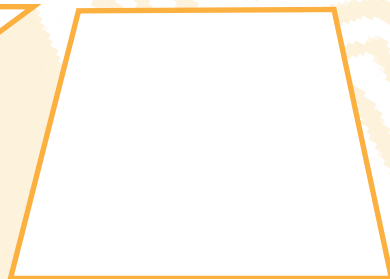
2.



3.



4.



ANSWER KEY: The following should be circled: (1) The circle - last shape. The others are rectangles. (2) The pentagon - 2nd shape. The others are trapezoids. (3) The diamond - last shape. The others are triangles. (4) The pentagon - 3rd shape. The others are parallelograms.

## TAKE THE PLEDGE

**I WILL HONOR**  
THE SACRIFICES OF  
MY ANCESTORS.

**I WILL BELIEVE**  
IN ME.

**I WILL PURSUE**  
MY DREAMS.

**I WILL HELP**  
OTHERS ALONG  
THE WAY.