

Zoey Zoombeck Superhero

By Heidi E.Y. Stemple | Illustrated by Alexandra Colombo

READING GUIDE

About the Book

Yo-Yo: Unsafe

Marbles: Choking Hazard

New Bike: Just no . . .

It's Zoey's birthday, and she's beginning to think that birthdays are just too dangerous. But then she receives a superhero cape from her Aunt Miriam and transforms into Zoey Zoombeck, Superhero!

From stopping avalanches to rescuing children from runaway trains, Zoey faces danger with her cape and a little imagination.

When her cat Afikomen needs her help, she discovers that she can find her courage even without her cape.

Heidi E.Y. Stemple didn't want to be a writer when she grew up. She became a probation officer, before joining the family business at age 28, when her first short story was published in a book called *Famous Writers and Their Kids Write Spooky Stories*. The daughter of Jane Yolen, Heidi has since published more than 35 books and many short stories and poems. She lives on a farm in Massachusetts.

Alexandra Colombo has illustrated more than 200 books in countries around the world. She was born in Sofia, Bulgaria and attended secondary school in Italy, specializing in scientific studies. She then studied at the Milan European Institute of Design, receiving a degree in illustration. Alexandra's charming artwork captures the magic, idiosyncrasies and unique personalities of children and animals in memorable, colorful settings. She lives in Milan, Italy.



Key Themes:

Bravery in the face of fear, Coping with anxiety, Empathy, Inner strength,

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Ages 4–6 years

Use these questions to preface and conclude a reading of this book with children. Encourage them to share their observations as you read the book together, and take time to linger on pages or spreads that generate more discussion.

Before Reading

- Strike a superhero pose. How does it make you feel? Do you think that wearing a superpower cape would make you feel different or more powerful? Why?
- If you could choose any superpower to have, what would it be?

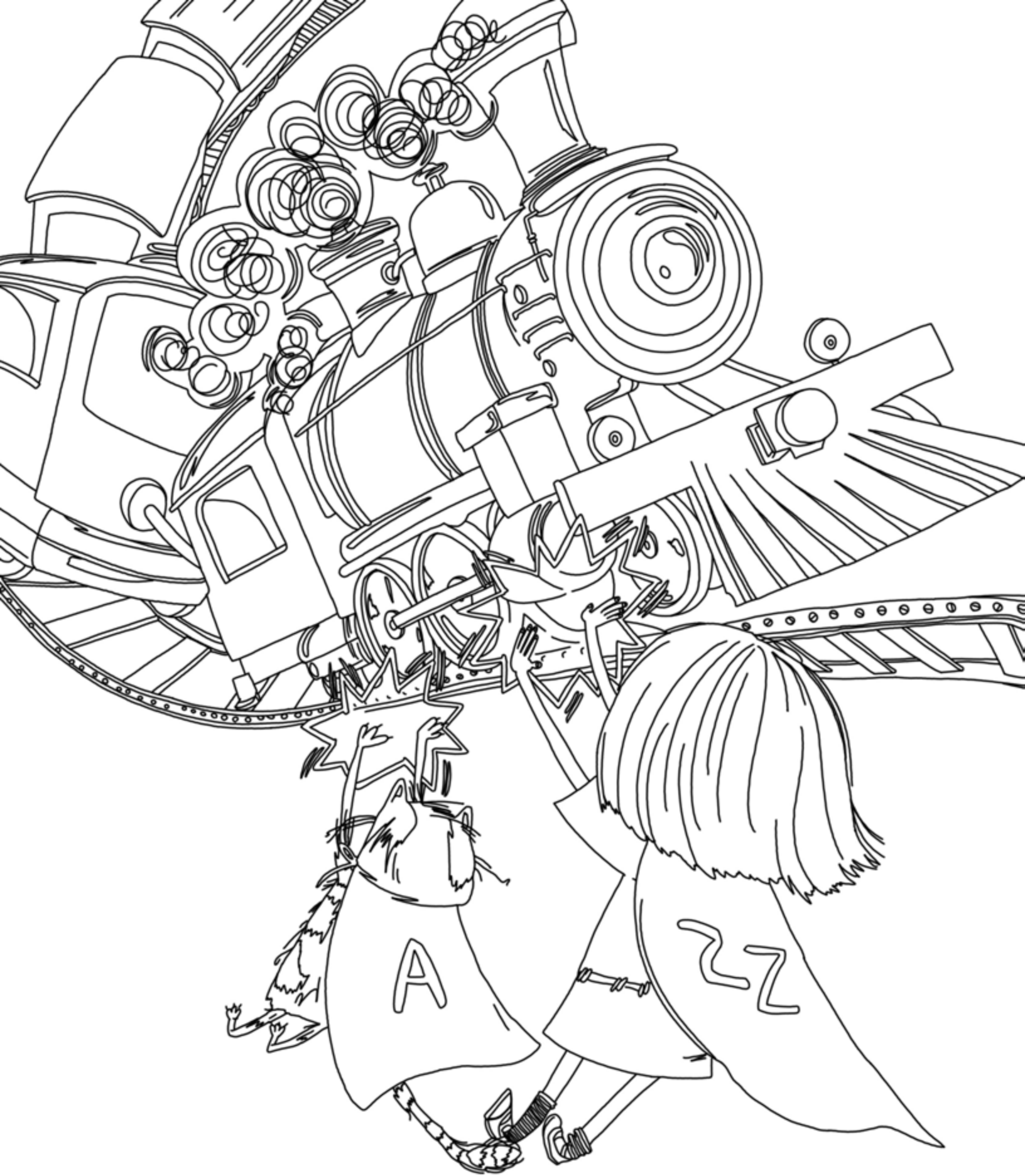
After Reading

- Zoey worries about many different things. Are you a worrier? What are some of the things you worry about?
- In the story, wearing her superhero cape helps Zoe stop worrying. What do you do when you're worried? Do you have a good luck charm? What are the things—or who are the people—that help you when you feel that way?
- Worry is usually characterized as something negative, but can you think of any situations when worrying is a good reaction to have? When? What are some positive things that come from worrying?
- Think about some times in the past when you've felt like a superhero. What happened to make you feel that way?

Optional: Extension Activity

Draw a picture of yourself as a superhero. What would you be doing? What special superhero logo would your cape have? Don't forget to write your special superhero name on the picture!





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Character Cut Outs

