

“Super Hero Joe”
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On a hot, summer day in Cleveland, Ohio, a little boy was sitting on his porch and thinking about how nice it would be for somebody to come clean up the city. The boy’s name was Christopher, but most people called him Chris. He would always think of the litter every time he had a little quality time to himself. Chris’s street was full of trash. He had things on the street like broken glass, drugs, sticks, chip bags, pop cans, and candy paper. He even had ten abandoned houses on his street and their yards will full of garbage. Chris always picked up things in his neighborhood, but every time he would do it, something would always land back on the ground. So Chris decided that he wasn’t going to do it anymore.

Then, five minutes later, Chris’s friend Avery came over. He said, “Why aren’t you playing outside with your friends? Chris replied, “I was thinking about how it would be nice if somebody would just come and clean up the city.”

Avery said, “Do you mean like somebody going green?”

”Exactly like that,” Chris said, “but it would have to somebody that’s a big influence on everybody.”

Avery said, “That way the whole world could go green.”

Chris asked, “Who could we think of?”

Avery said, “I don’t know. We might have to sleep on this one.”

Chris replied, “You might be right.”

“I’m going home, call me tomorrow,” said Avery.

“OK,” said Chris.

Chris was still thinking to himself about who would be a big influence on everybody. LeBron? Mo Williams? What about President Obama? Chris was sitting in the house watching his favorite super hero tv show “The Chronicles of Super Hero Joe.” Chris thought how crazy it would be if Super Hero Joe became green. While Chris was watching his favorite show, he fell asleep. He was dreaming about who would be a big influence. Big enough to get everybody to pick up trash and make the neighborhoods look pretty again.

That night, Super Hero Joe came to Cleveland, Ohio, and went to Chris’s house. Super Hero Joe looked around and thought, “Wow, what a big mess.” He knocked on Chris’s door and Chris woke up and answered the door. He never knew it was going to be Super Hero Joe. When he opened the door there was Super Hero Joe in his red and blue cape, a red and blue visor over his eyes, a red shirt like a jersey with the letter J in blue, and with a black glove and high-top red and blue boots. Super Hero Joe said, “I heard you need some help with cleaning the city and I’m here because I’m going green!”

Chris said, “You were exactly what I was looking for – a big influence to make everybody become green.”

Super Hero Joe said, “Well, that’s why I’m here – to make a big influence on your life and other people as well.”

“Come into my house and have a seat,” Chris said. “So where do we get started?”

Super Hero Joe said, “Well, we can get started after you sign this contract.”

Chris said with surprise, “A contract? For what?”

Super Hero Joe replied, “We have to make sure that we stay true to our word by cleaning up the neighborhood.”

Chris was thinking to himself, "Well, okay, it does make sense." So he signed the contract.

So the next day Avery came to Chris's house. He knocked on the door and Chris opened the door real fast. Avery said, "Why are you so happy? Chris said, "I found the city's big influence."

Avery asked, "Who?"

Chris said, "Super Hero Joe."

Avery said in disbelief, "No way! Where is he?"

Super Hero Joe said, "Right here!"

Avery said, "So now we can have everybody turn green in the whole city!"

"Let's get started," said Chris.

So as they walked around the neighborhood, they saw an old lady that needed help cleaning her yard. Chris, Avery, and Super Hero Joe helped her. They helped her plant a flower garden. They helped her pick up all the trash that was all over the ground. They even mowed her grass for her. After they were done, the lady said, "It's really nice to see people going green in this neighborhood. Well, here's twenty-five dollars."

Chris said, "We don't want no money. We just came to clean the neighborhood."

The old lady asked, "Who is this guy walking around with the cape?"

Avery replied, "That's Super Hero Joe."

The old lady said to Super Hero Joe, "My grandson watches your tv show all the time. Maybe if my grandson sees you doing this, he will start to recycle things and clean up his neighborhood.

Super Hero Joe said, "Exactly."

Chris, Avery, and Super Hero Joe, went back on Chris's street. Chris said, "Now we should pick up my street." So they started to get to work. Super Hero Joe had a magnetic force to make everything come in his hand without moving. Chris would pick up a pop can and instead of throwing it in the trash, he would put it in a recycling container. As they were cleaning up the street, 19 Action News drove past. They had to stop because they wanted to know what the boys were doing. The news reporter came up to Chris and said, "What are you doing?"

Chris said, "Well, my self and my two friends, Avery and Super Hero Joe, are trying to clean up the city."

The news reporter replied with surprise, "You guys are lying. There's no super hero around here."

Chris said, "Yes there is. Do you want to meet him?"

The news reporter said, "Yeah."

They walked to the field where they had been picking up trash and Super Joe was gone!

Avery said, "Where did he go?"

Chris said, "He was right here!" After thinking for a second, he said, "Never mind, we are just cleaning up the neighborhood."

Then Avery pulled Chris to the side and said, "Chris, this is our big shot to get everybody in Cleveland to turn green in their neighborhood."

Chris said, "How are we doing to do that and we don't have Super Hero Joe here."

Avery replied, "We don't need him right now. I'm talking about us telling the news reporter that we want to clean up our neighborhood and go green."

Chris said, "Yeah, that way everybody in Cleveland will clean up."

So Chris went back to the news reporter and said, "Do you want to know what will make us happy?"

The news reporter said, "What?"

Chris said, "If you put our story in the news."

At that moment Chris felt like he was making progress. The news reporter said, "Well, this is something good and I haven't had a good story all day. I guess we could put your story on the news."

Chris said, "We're making progress! I feel like the Bulls when they won the NBA Championship!"

Avery laughed and said, "I can do better than that. I feel like we're the CAVS and we just won the Eastern Conference Finals!" Then he said more seriously, "See, when you really want something you don't stop until you get it."

The news reporter came back to the field after getting his camera from the truck. Then he said, "Are you ready to tell your story to national television?"

Chris said, "Yes!" So, Chris was telling his story to the news reporter when the old lady's grandson came to where Chris and Avery were standing with the reporter.

Avery said, "Hello, who are you?"

"My name is Diego, my grandmother lives on this street."

Avery said, "Yeah, your grandmother was telling us how you like Super Hero Joe."

Diego asked, "Why is the news reporter here?"

Avery answered, "My friend Chris is telling the whole city of Cleveland, Ohio, that we want everyone to start cleaning up their neighborhoods and go green."

Diego said, "Well, can I help you two clean your neighborhood?"

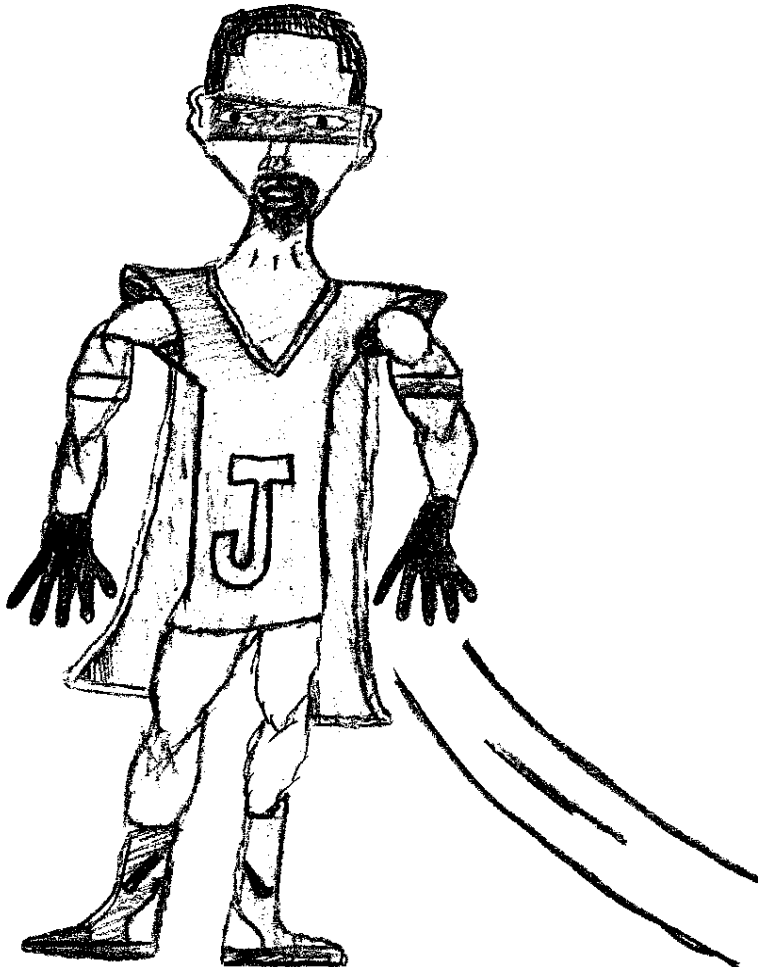
"Yeah, come on," said Avery. So the news reporter was done interviewing Chris and Chris was walking back to the field and he saw Diego and asked, "Who is this, Avery?"

Avery said, "He is the old lady's grandson, Diego."

Chris said, "Yeah, your grandma was telling us about you."

Then, all of a sudden, Super Hero Joe was back. They all started cleaning up the neighborhood. The next thing you know, the whole city of Cleveland, Ohio, has gone green and is clean.

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