

Superman: A Celebration of 75 Years Study Guide

Part 1 Directions: While reading *Superman: A Celebration of 75 Years*, answer the following questions. You do **NOT** have to write your responses in complete sentences, but make sure that your answers are thorough and analytical, which means that you will need to write your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Then, for each issue - every 2 assignments - pick a panel or page for discussion – write brief, bullet-pointed analysis or an analytical question.

Keep up with the study guide questions, because 1) they will function as your reading check, in place of reading quizzes and 2) they will help aid you in class discussion.

Action Comics Issue 1 (pages 8-21)

1. The cover of *Action Comics* 1 is iconic, because it was America's first glimpse at Superman – what is happening on this cover and what does it tell Americans? Provide 4 brief bullet-pointed notes.
2. How was Superman raised? (9)
3. What are Superman's powers? (9)
4. Describe the panel transitions on page 9.
5. How does Superman treat others? (10)
6. How do Jerry Siegel and Simon Shuster format Clark Kent's thought bubble on page 12?
7. Within the first four pages (8-12), what did Siegel and Shuster already tell the audience about Superman?
8. How does Clark Kent respond to adversity? (14-5)
9. How do Siegel and Shuster end the comic issue? (21)

Superman Issue 17 (pages 37-50)

1. The first page has an usually large text box with more words in it than many modern comics have on a 2 page spread. What is the purpose of this text box? (38)
2. How do the first few frames on page 39 help to imply the setting? (39)
3. How does Lois respond to Clark's disappearance on page 39?
4. Based off of the interaction between Clark and Lois, what can the reader infer about the characters' personalities and their relationship?
5. How does the change in panel shape contribute to the story on pages 42 and 43?

6. After the train incident, Lois Lane suspects Clark Kent as Superman, but 2 pages later she calls her thought “silly”. Why does she find her initial thought – the dual identity of Kent and Superman – ridiculous? (44-6)
7. How does Clark manage to maintain his secret identity, despite Lois Lane’s plan? (48)
8. How many times does Clark “scoop” a story from Lois? (50)

Part 2 Directions: In groups of 3-4 people, you will analyze an issue from *Superman: A Celebration of 75 Years*. You will read the issue, write at least 4 analytical questions, and select 1-2 pages to analyze for the class. In your page analysis, focus on panel shape, panel transitions, coloring, lettering, plot, language, or any other comic components that we have discussed in class.

Superman Issue 53: “The Origin of Superman” by Bill Finger (pages 51-62)

After Krypton explodes, Superman ends up with the Kents

Superman Annual 11: “For the Man That Has Everything” by Alan Moore (203-43)

A flower reveals Superman’s deepest desires

Superman Issue 75: “Doomsday” by Dan Jurgens (269-97)

Superman dies

Action Comics Issue 775: “What’s so Funny About Truth, Justice and the American Way?” by Joe Kelly (298-337)

Superman confronts rebels who save the city by killing others

Action Comics Issue 0: “The Boy Who Stole Superman’s Cape” by Grant Morrison (360-82)

Clark Kent just moved to Metropolis and got a job with the Daily Planet