

Jack Ryan
English 2XL
Section 4
PV Original Poem CM #1

“Hero”

I wrote this poem in response to a video shown to my class in English a month or two ago. The video featured a speaker at a high school graduation telling the students how they weren't really special at all and that they were just like everyone else in the world. One of my favorite quotes was along the lines of "If you are one in a million, then there are 20 other people in the world just like you." The video wasn't meant to depress these newly graduated students, but it pushed them to become even more unique and more influential. It challenged the students to not be content with "just good enough," and made them do more to make more of a difference in their world.

My poem features a hero who tried to teach a man to fish to feed him for a lifetime. It backfires, however, because people are corrupt and they abuse their power. It emphasized how people must be content with what they were born with and how they should make the most out of the talents they have. It encourages people to use their gifts and not just let them die on the shelf unused. I wrote this poem based off a quote from Disney/Pixar's *The Incredibles*. The villain, Syndrome, has no real powers, but he invents a suit to make himself a super villain, and he plans the following: "Oh, I'm real. Real enough to defeat you! And I did it without your precious gifts, your oh-so-special powers. I'll give them heroics. I'll give them the most spectacular heroics the world has ever seen! And when I'm old and I've had my fun, I'll sell my inventions so that everyone can have powers. Everyone can be super! And when everyone's super...no one will be." I have always liked this quote, and this assignment finally gave me a place to use it through writing a poem. It makes me feel like I need to do something more to become great. Society's standards are being raised every single day, and this poem encourages me to keep up and surpass these standards on a regular basis.