

**THE GREAT POWER PRINCIPLE**

Have you ever imagined that you had some great power? Often, thoughts like this can enter our minds: “What if I could remember everything as soon as I read it so I would never have to study again!” Or, “if I could have great basketball talent, everyone would admire me and I could forget about school and just play professional sports!”

For me, I wanted the power to become invisible. That way, I could go to the movies without paying, leave the classroom during tests to check the correct answers, listen while my friends were talking without me, go to the store and take anything I wanted, or simply disappear when it was time to do chores around the house.

I have always read a lot of comic books and Peter Parker, aka Spiderman, is my favorite. I admired his strength. I admired how many good actions he could perform with his powers and how he earned the admiration and respect of everyone. But then, one day, I read this quote, which maybe you’ve heard too: “With great power comes great responsibility.”

Later I found that this principle was not just in the movies or comic books. Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister who defeated Hitler in WWII, said: “Where there is great power there is great responsibility.” And US President, Theodore Roosevelt, similarly once stated: “I believe in power; but I believe that responsibility should go with power.”

I call it The Great Power Principle. While I had always dreamed of having superpowers to be able to do things that I wanted (admittedly, they were often things that could cause harm to others, like going to someone’s store and taking what I wanted) these people saw superpowers as something different, something tied to *responsibility*.

Thinking about it, it suddenly dawned on me: maybe I already do have powers. There’s the power to grow or the power to move from one place to another. Then, there are the unique powers that every human being possesses: to think and to choose. Ok, so then I thought to myself, “if I have these powers... am I taking responsibility for my choices?” I can see why other people also thought that they should use their power to choose to help others and to make the world a better place.

That’s when I realized: what makes a person great is not super strength. Or even admiration from others. It’s not even an invisible cloak. One thing and the one thing only that makes someone great is how they use their powers to think and to choose for the good. That’s why Spiderman is my favorite. That’s why choosing to take responsibility is the beginning of greatness.

**The Great Power Principle - Answer Key****QUESTIONS FOR A DISCUSSION:**

1. Which unique powers do human beings have that no other living or non-living beings possess?
2. How should we use our powers according to The Great Power Principle?
3. What are some ways you could be a hero, by applying the Great Power Principle in your life?

**ANSWERS:**

1. Human beings in fact have two great powers which no other living or non-living beings possess, and these are the powers to think and choose. These powers are uniquely human and are very important since they enable us to do great things and become excellent.
2. These powers should be used responsibly and in an excellent way. This is especially true with regards to the power to choose. We can make choices that hurt others and do harm to ourselves, or we can make excellent choices that make ourselves and others better. There are a million little ways that we can use our power to think and to choose in our life, from going to bed on time to listening when someone is talking to us or doing a small act of kindness for someone during the day.
3. There are so many great answers to this question!

The Great Power Principle implies that we should use our powers responsibly, i.e. not causing harm to oneself and others, and always trying to use these powers for the benefit of everyone involved.