



Search For A Superhero

Teams are trying to figure out who will be Earth's next superhero. There are 26 candidates. Over the course of the game, teams will determine each superhero's ...

- Alter ego
- Home constellation
- Weakness

At the end, a panel of judges will eliminate all but one superhero, who will be crowned champion.

The steps in this game are **gated**, i.e. teams must prove that they've done the work in one step before moving on. Each gate is a **creative task**. There are no wrong answers, but if you feel that a team hasn't put in the effort, you may push back a little bit, and suggest they try harder.

Part A

- At the end of **Part A**, they get this message: **FOR THE NEXT PACKAGE SAY SHAZAM**
- When a team says that, give them permission to open envelope 02.

Part B

- At the end of **Part B**, they get a message to **GIVE YOURSELF SUPERHERO NAMES.**
- There are 8 blank name tags where they can write their new superhero names.
- Ask everyone to say their superhero names. If some folks demur, that's fine.
- Then give permission to open envelope 03.

Part C

- At the end of **Part C**, they get the message **WHAT WOULD YOUR SUPERPOWERS BE?**
- Go around the table and ask for their answers.
- Then give permission to open envelope 04.

Part D

- At the end of **Part D**, they are told to **INVENT NAME FOR YOUR SUPER TEAM.**
- Have them write this down on the poster.
- Then give permission to open envelope 05 (the white one).

Finale

- Eliminate 25 superheroes. The remaining one is the winner (see final page for answer).

Your jobs

Confirm each step

- Each time a team solves a memo, spot check the answers. (See following pages.)
- Confirm the creative tasks. (See page 1.)

Keep them on track

If teams are falling behind, feel free to give them some answers. The slideshow on the big screens in the room will give a sense of the pace, so teams will be able to tell you if they feel they're behind.

Hints

Walk around and make yourself available for hints. Every so often, ask every team how they're doing, and if they need a nudge.

Confirming

[You may always confirm when a team is doing something correctly.](#)

However, if a team is struggling, you may then also tell them where they're wrong. (But don't do that if a team is doing well.)

General purpose hints

Feel free to deploy these early and often:

"Tell me what you know."

"READ EVERYTHING. Almost every word and design is important."

"Stuck? Show it to a teammate."

"You don't need to guess. Every solution will be clear when you get it."

Part A

Process

- Teams are told to put the superheroes in order.
- Solution: **alphabetize** by Superhero name.
 - There's one name for every letter of the alphabet.
- Then, turn each **price** into a letter of the alphabet
 - See table below for a guide
- In order, they get this message:
 - **FOR THE NEXT PACKAGE SAY SHAZAM**



Common sticking points

- They try to order by price.
 - *“But some prices are the same. Look for something that’s unique.”*
- They try to use price to extract a letter from the name:
 - *“Nope, it’s simpler than that.”*
- They don’t notice that the first letters are unique.
 - *“Look for something that’s unique among the superheroes, that you can sort by.”*

Hints

- “How many covers are there?”
- “What are the lowest and highest prices? Does that range sound familiar?”
- If they need help converting numbers to the alphabet, remind them they have an alphabet in front of them (the comic books, in order), but you can also use this table to help.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Part B

Process

- Keep superheroes in alphabetical order.
- Use taglines to find a short “middle name”.
 - It fit in the blanks.
- Attach it to the **end of the first name** and the **beginning of the last name** to make new words.
 - e.g. MAY “OR” PHAN = MAYOR / ORPHAN
 - Sometimes the words are used *phonetically*
 - E.g. CAN “NEW” TONNE = CANOE / NEWTON
- Match up each new “middle name” with a publisher
 - **OR** goes with Conjunction Comics
 - **NEW** goes with Ultramodern Comics
 - etc.
- Use the dot count on each name tag to extract a letter from the superhero’s name
 - 2 dots on CAN TONNE means take the 2nd letter of **Agent Ticktock**, which is a G.
 - Put a G on the first blank of the message, since Agent Ticktock is first in order.
- Answer is **GIVE YOURSELF SUPERHERO NAMES**



Finally, they **must write** each alter ego name on the back of each card. Don't let them forget!

Common sticking points

- Not sure where to start.
 - Point them to May Phan, and ask “*what do you call the leader of a town? What’s an abandoned child called?*”
- Not sure which spelling to use for some words (like MAIN / MANE).
 - Tell them “*You’ll figure it out on the next step. It’s ok to guess for now.*”
- Not sure what to count into.
 - Tell them to re-read the memo.

Answers

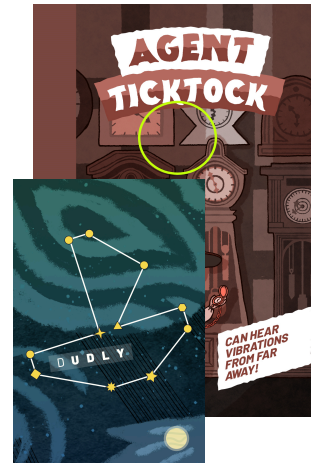
See next page

Alter Ego	Word	Converted words	Publisher	Superhero	Letter
Anne Jurry	Sir	Answer / Surgery	Knight's Title	Earl <u>Y</u> Byrd	Y
Atlan Lish	Tic	Atlantic / Ticklish	Nervous twitch	X <u>M</u> arker	M
Ban Cur	Joe	Banjo / Joker	Coffee Slang	Zoo <u>S</u> e	S
Bax Uckle	Pin	Backspin / Pinnacle	Sharp Fastener	Oo <u>P</u> a Doopa	P
Beet Shio	Ray	Betray / Ratio	Shaft of Sunlight	Victro <u>N</u>	N
Can Tonne	New	Canoe / Newton	Ultramodern	A <u>G</u> ent Ticktock	G
Curly Cumber	Queue	Curlicue / Cucumber	Waiting Line	Rut <u>H</u> less Dude	H
Doe Tane	Main	Domain / Maintain	Primary	Fell <u>O</u> Mello	O
Herb Loon	Ball	Herbal / Balloon	Round Plaything	Qui <u>R</u> x	R
Hin Plex	Dew	Hindu / Duplex	Morning moisture	Ki <u>L</u> roy	L
Hugh Date	Man	Human / Mandate	Fellow	Night W <u>U</u> nder	U
Hugh Ning	More	Humor / Morning	Additional	Sparg <u>E</u> I Tarzan	E
Jack Ten	Kit	Jacket / Kitten	Sports Uniform	Ut <u>O</u> pio	O
Mare Mio	Row	Marrow / Romeo	Straight Line	Pink <u>E</u> e	E
May Phan	Or	Mayor / Orphan	Conjunction	Cuddle Lo <u>V</u> er	V
Mi Dree	Lawn	Milan / Laundry	Grassy expanse	Mi <u>S</u> s Bitsy	S
O Conn	Bay	Obey / Bacon	Inlet of the Sea	W <u>A</u> nda Psych	A
Oss Bon	Car	Oscar / Carbon	Automobile	J'Attaqu <u>E</u>	E
Pez Teak	Ant	Peasant / Antique	Tiny farmer	He <u>R</u> mia, Hell Princess	R
Phil Perkut	Up	Fill-up / Uppercut	Skyward	Impre <u>S</u> so	S
Rue Quest	Bee	Ruby / Bequest	Striped stinger	D <u>E</u> epness	E
Thor Wrest	Knee	Thorny / Nearest	Flexible Joint	T <u>R</u> oog	R
Ver Lent	Sigh	Versailles / Silent	Exasperation	Yuck <u>E</u> e	E
Vi Dom	King	Viking / Kingdom	Queen's man	Laissez <u>E</u> rere	F
Vinda Minos	Loo	Vindaloo / Luminous	W.C.	Booz <u>I</u>	I
Warf Rose	Air	Warfare / Arrows	Lung filler	Gr <u>U</u> nk Hunk	U

Part C

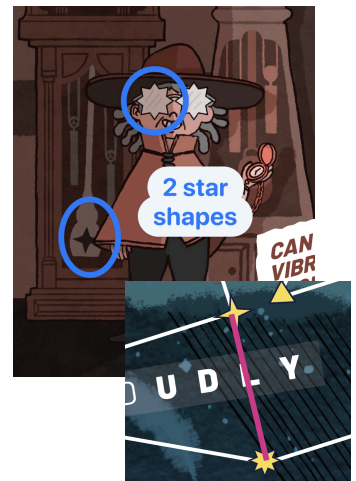
Process, part 1

- Match constellations to supers by finding the *exact shape* of a constellation in one of the cover designs.
- Keeping the comic books in alphabetical order, lay the constellations on top of them.
- Use the thin letter in each constellation name to read a message.
- **DRAW EXTRA LINES / THEN ASSEMBLE**
- **At this point, they must write the constellation name on the back of each card. Don't let them forget!**



Process, part 2

- Each drawing has two hidden star shapes in it.
 - e.g. see Agent Ticktock's shapes to the right
- Find the two star shapes on the corresponding constellation, and draw a line between them.
- The line will cross through a single letter.
- Write that letter on the planet in the corner.



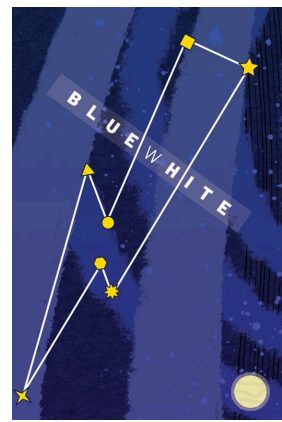
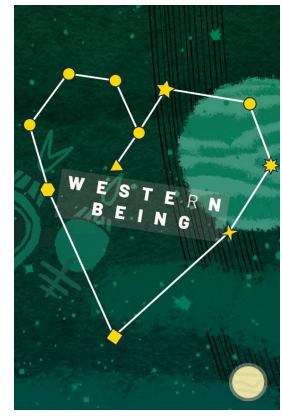
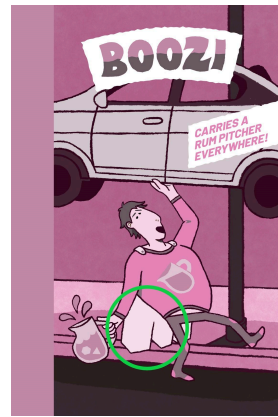
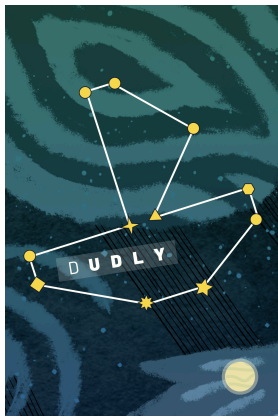
Process, part 3

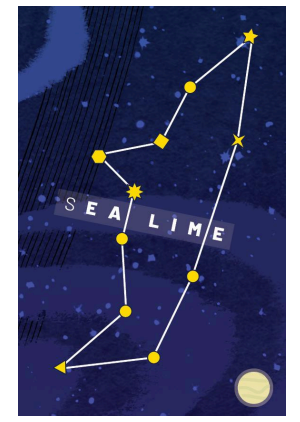
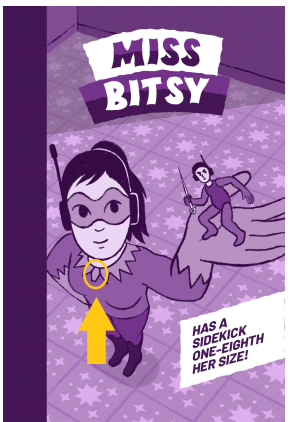
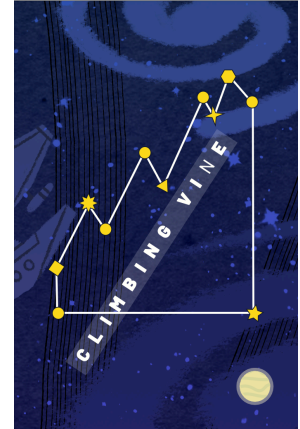
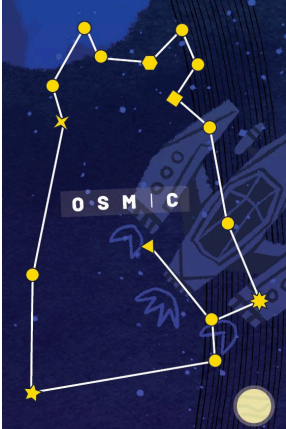
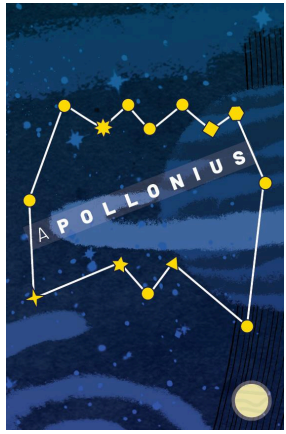
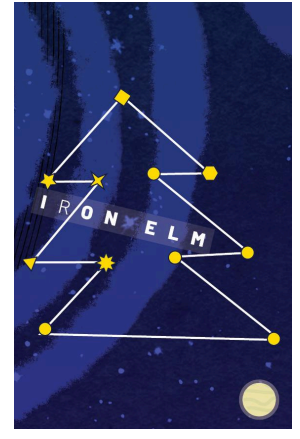
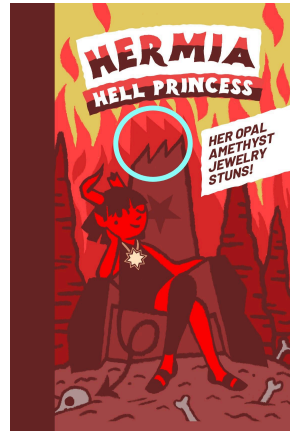
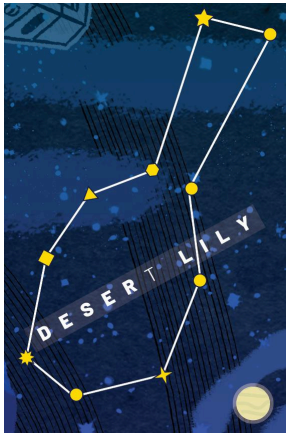
- The 26 cards make a giant jigsaw, using the space background.
- Arrange them together,, then read the planet letters in order. They spell...
- **WHAT WOULD YOUR SUPERPOWERS BE**

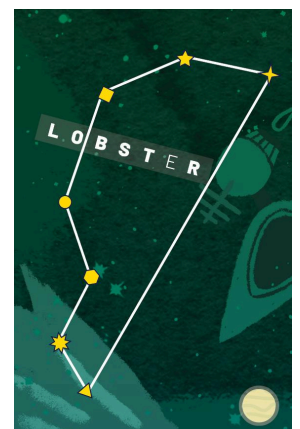
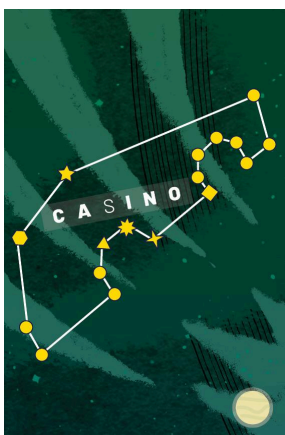
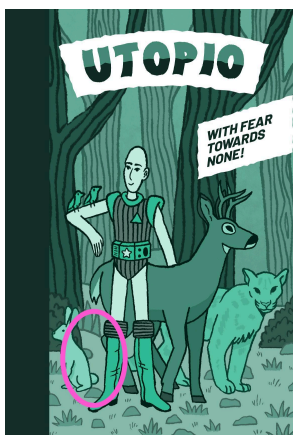
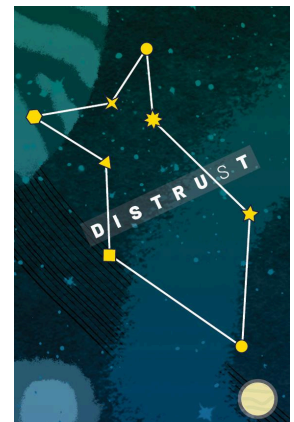
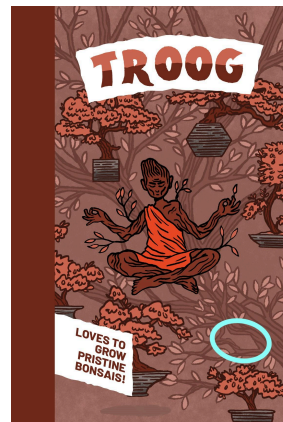
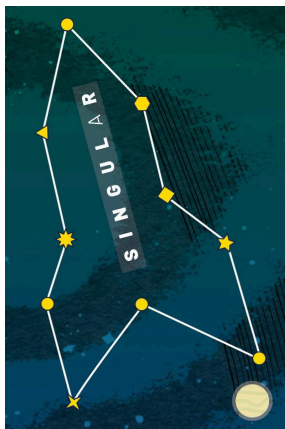
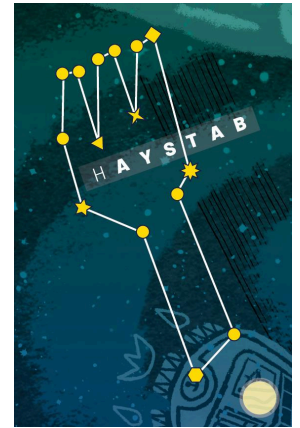
Common sticking points

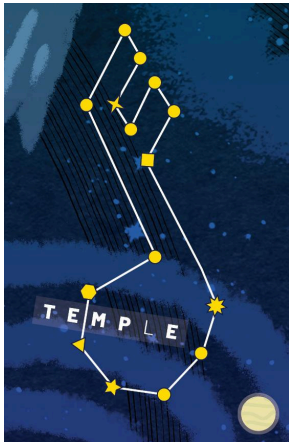
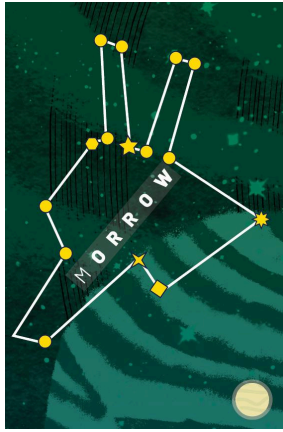
- They start guessing thematic connections (like pairing the guitar constellation with the singer)
 - "You'll know a match is right when you get it. The memo tells you to consider shapes."
 - "You're looking for the exact constellation shape within the comic book illustrations."
- They can't find matches
 - Point out Laissez Frere's background
 - Point out Boozi's upside-down heart.
 - "Often, the constellation is in the negative space between objects."
- They don't know what DRAW LINES means.
 - "Look for something in the illustration that would tell you how to draw a new line in the constellation."
- They don't know what ASSEMBLE means
 - "What part of the constellation cards haven't you used yet?"
 - "Look at the spaceships." (They're the easiest place to start.)

Part C, constellation match-ups

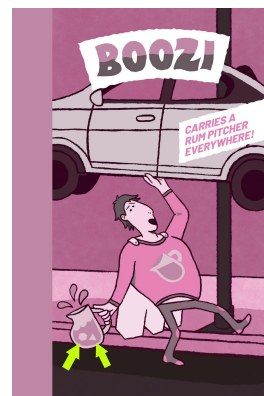
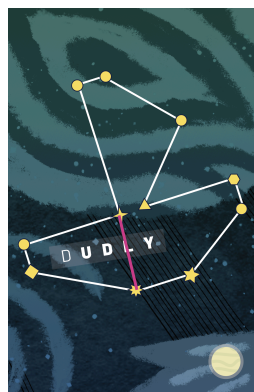
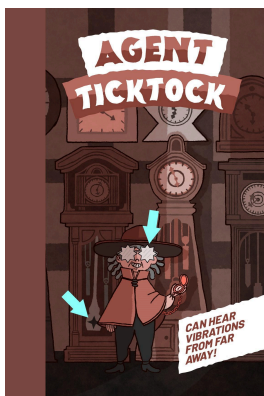


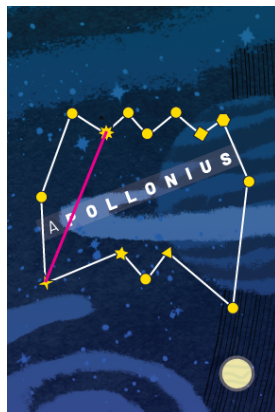
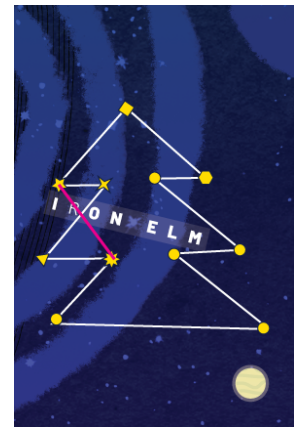
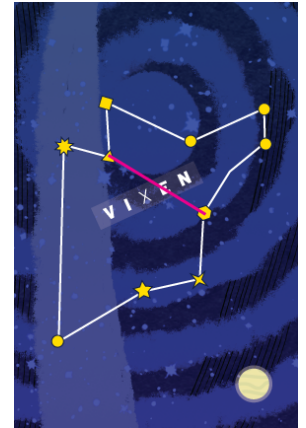
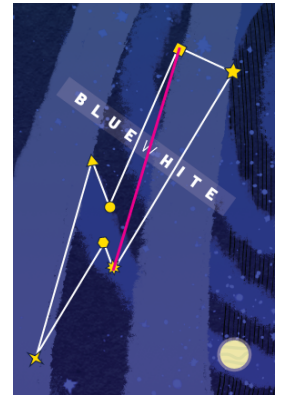
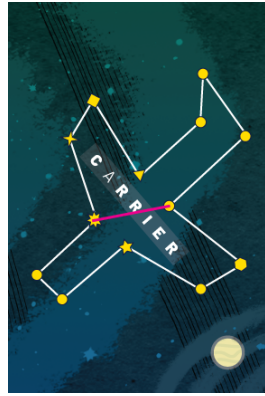


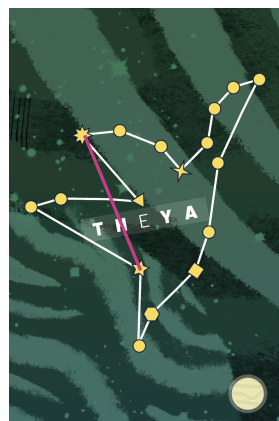
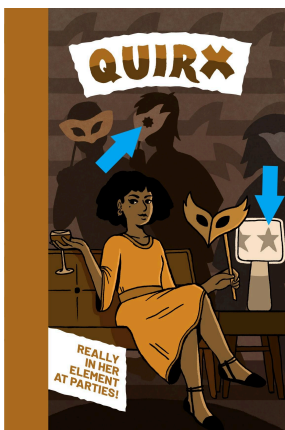
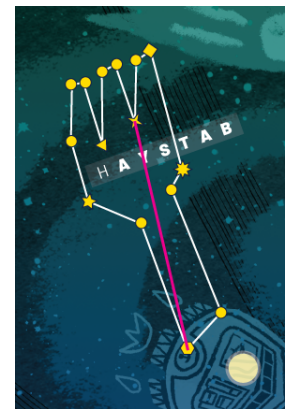
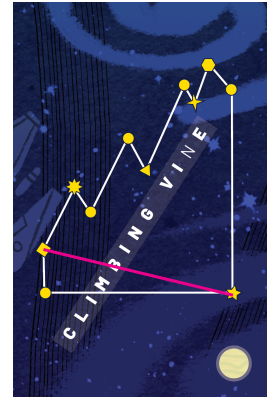


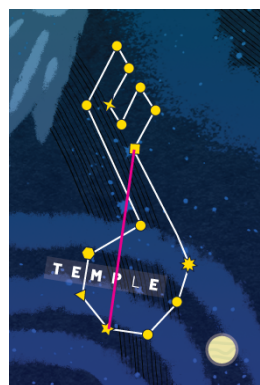
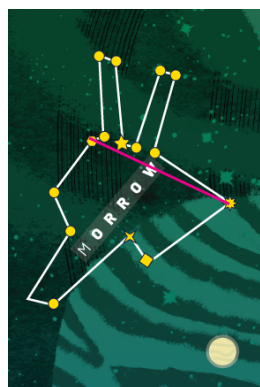
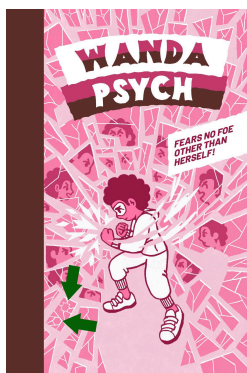
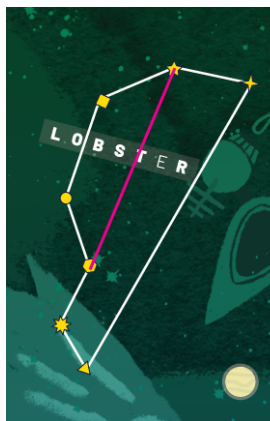
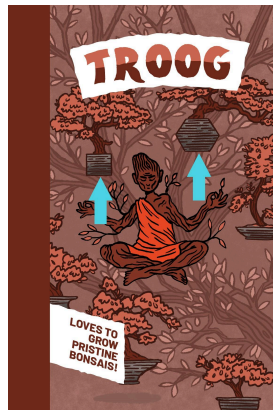


Part C, drawing lines

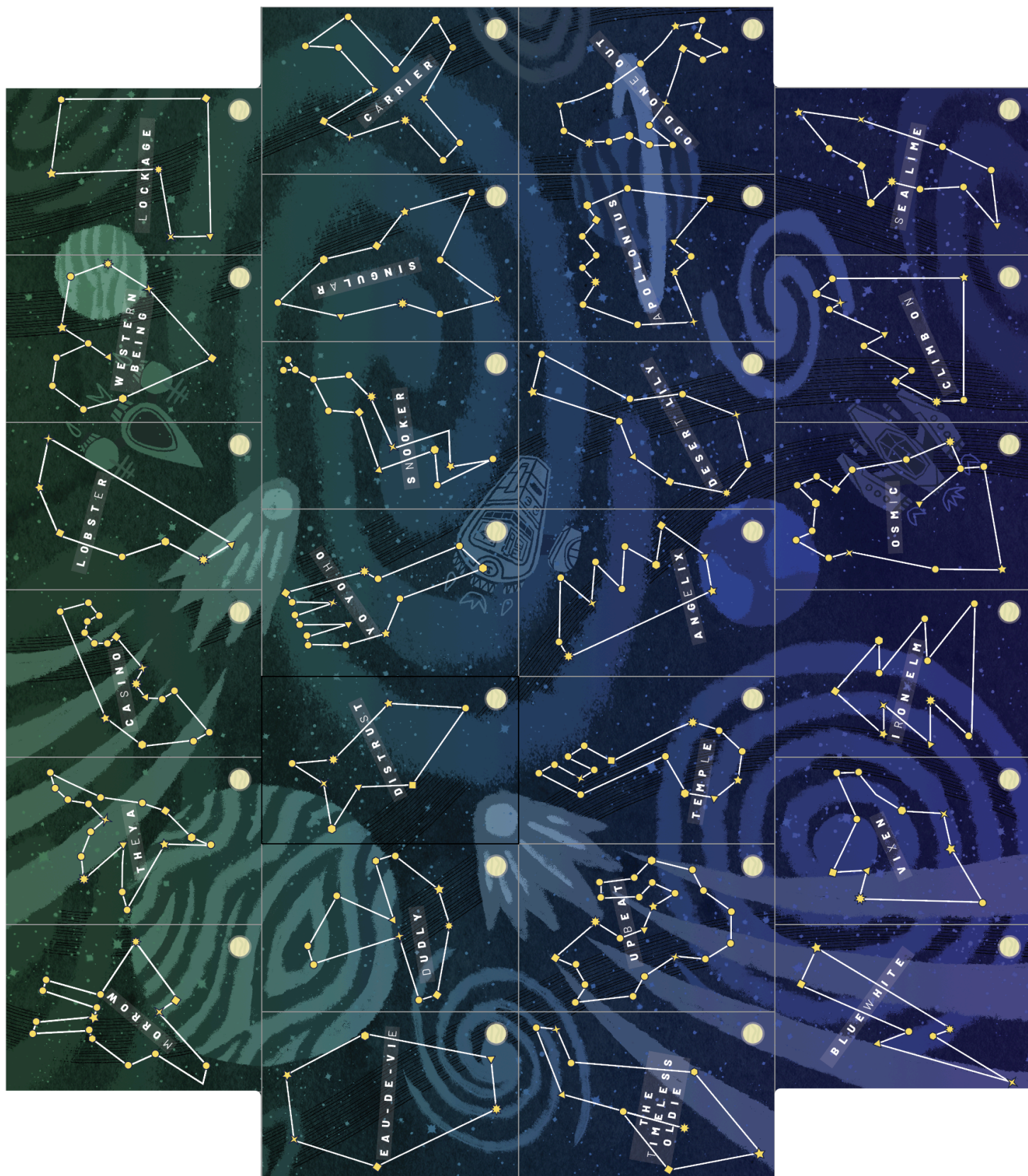








Part C, constellation jigsaw



Part D

Process

- The poster has lines connected to 26 body parts.
- Every one of those body parts can be found hidden inside the tagline for a superhero.
 - E.g. **X Marker**'s tagline is "His Forte: Headbutts!".
 - Hidden in that phrase is FORTEHEAD, which is the word FOREHEAD with an **extra T**.
- On the poster, wrote the extra letters in the proper boxes.
 - E.g. write a **T** on the box attached to the line that extends from the forehead.
 - They can position the card next to the poster, at the end of that line, if they want.
- Do the same for all 26 superheroes.
- Read clockwise from top right to get the message:
- **INVENT NAME FOR YOUR SUPER TEAM**

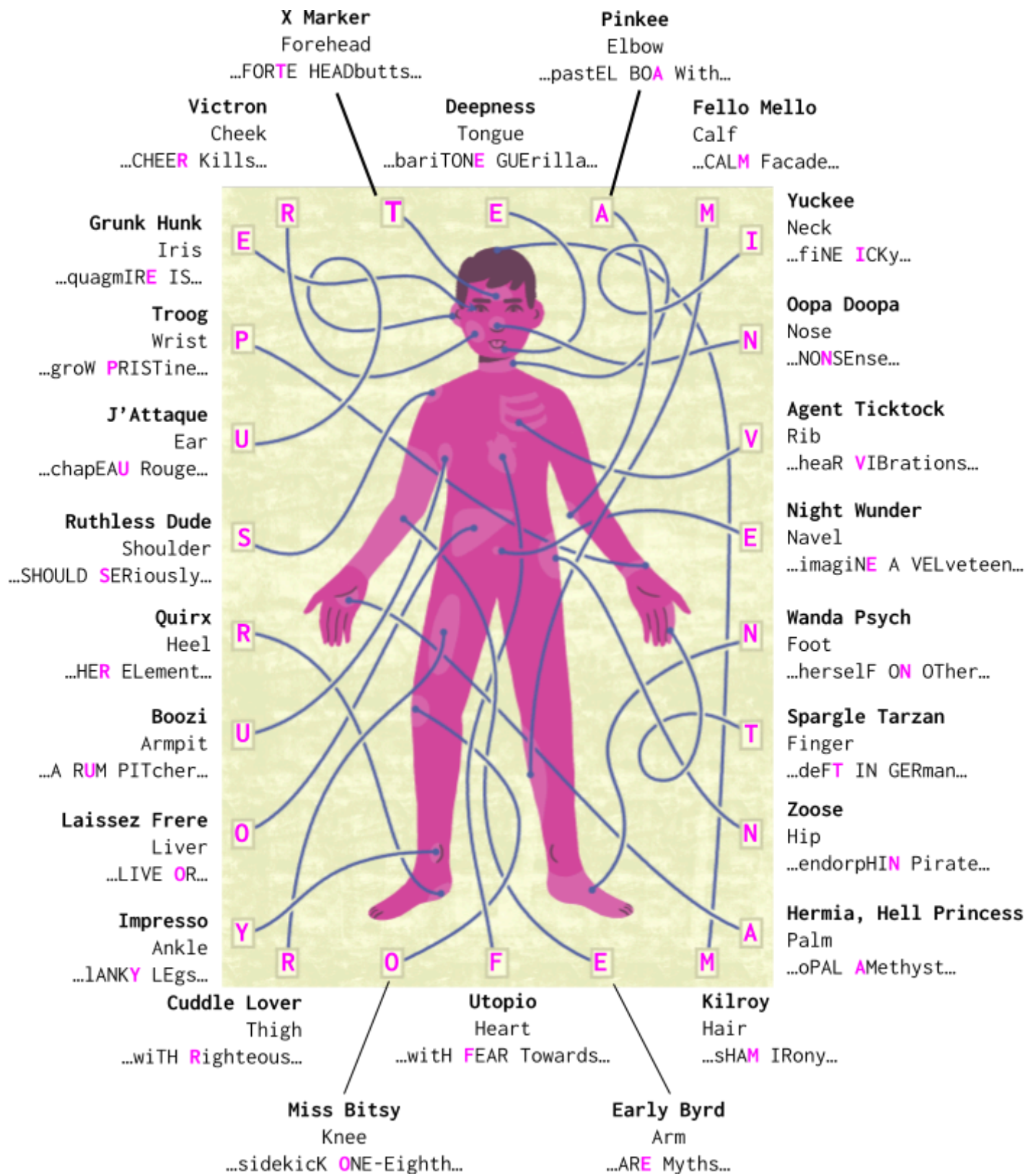


Also, they **must write** each weakness on the back of each card.
Don't let them forget!

Pard D answer key

Superhero	Body part	Tagline	Extra letter
Agent Ticktock	rib	Can Feel Sonar <u>V</u> ibrations!	V
Boozi	armpit	He Schleps a <u>rUm</u> pitcher everywhere!	U
Cuddle Lover	thigh	Smothers With <u>R</u> ighteous Hugs!	R
Deepness	tongue	Known As Bariton <u>E</u> Guerilla!	E
Early Byrd	arm	Rumors of Lateness <u>arE</u> Myths!	E
Fello Mello	calf	Has an Extremely <u>CalM</u> Facade!	M
Grunk Hunk	iris	A Quagmir <u>E</u> Is His Happy Place!	E
Hermia, Hell Princess	palm	Her <u>Opal A</u> methyst Jewelry Stuns!	A
Impresso	ankle	They Call Him <u>LankY</u> Legs!	Y
J'Attaque	ear	Jamais Sans Chapea <u>U</u> Rouge!	U
Kilroy	hair	Master of <u>ShaM</u> Irony!	M
Laissez Frere	liver	Motto: <u>Live Or</u> Die Free!	O
Miss Bitsy	knee	Has Sidekick <u>One</u> -Eighth Her Size!	O
Night Wunder	navel	Imagin <u>E</u> a <u>vel</u> veteen ninja!	E
Oopa Doopa	nose	Spews <u>noN</u> sense!	N
Pinkee	elbow	Sports A Pastel <u>BoA</u> With Stripes!	A
Quirx	heel	Really in <u>HeR</u> Element at Parties!	R
Ruthless Dude	shoulder	<u>Should S</u> eriously Chill!	S
Spargel Tarzan	finger	Def <u>I</u> in German Insults!	T
Troog	wrist	Loves To Grow <u>P</u> ristine Bonsais!	P
Utopio	heart	With <u>Fear T</u> owards None!	F
Victron	cheek	His <u>CheeR</u> Kills At Concerts!	R
Wanda Psych	foot	Projects herself <u>oN</u> other surfaces!	N
X Marker	forehead	His <u>ForTe</u> : <u>Head</u> butts!	T
Yuckee	neck	Shoots a Fine, <u>I</u> cky Goo	I
Zoose	hip	He's An Endorphi <u>N</u> Pirate!	N

Weakness poster



Finale

Process

- Each of the 25 judges has something in common with one* of the superheroes.
- A judge's category is a hint about how their commonality works.
 - E.g. Kind Folk = categories. ("kind" means "category")
 - E.g. Similar Starts = starts of names
- For most judges, the commonality will have to do with all 3 properties written on the back of the card.
 - e.g. **Daisy Marigold**, who is in **Kind Folk**, has a name that is 2 flowers. One of the superheroes has a flower alter ego, flower constellation, and flower weakness..
 - Answer: **Grunk Hunk**
 - aka WARF **ROSE**
 - from DESERT **LILY**
 - weakness **IRIS**
- Eliminate all matches, and one superhero will remain: **Cuddle Lover!**

Finale answer key

Category	Judge	Rule	Hero	Full Name	Constellation	Weakness
KIND FOLK	Daisy Marigold	Flowers	Grunk Hunk	Warf Rose	DESERT LILY	iris
	Birch Chestnut	Trees	Hermia, Hell Princess	Pez Teak	IRON ELM	palm
	Fig Cherry	Fruit	Night Wunder	Hugh Date	SEA LIME	navel
	Ace Diamond	Playing cards	Utopio	Jack Ten	CASINO	heart
	Cardinal Blood	Red things	Victron	Beet Shio	LOBSTER	cheek
	Kid Mare	Animals	Fello Mello	Doe Tane	VIXEN	calf
SIMILAR STARTS	<u>A</u> l <u>A</u> lvin <u>A</u> aronson	Starts w/ A	Early Byrd	Anne Jurry	ANGELIX	arm
	<u>MC</u> <u>XI</u> <u>DIX</u>	Roman numeral	Laissez Frere	Vi Dom	CLIMB ON	liver
	<u>You</u> landa <u>Shea</u> <u>Itz</u>	Starts w/ pronoun	Quirx	Herb Loon	THEYA	heel
	<u>Pastor</u> <u>Tom</u> <u>Underhill</u>	Starts w/ preposition	X Marker	Atlan Lish	UPBEAT	forehead
SIMILAR ENDS	Rast Frost	Ends in -R_ST	Troog	Thor Wrest	DISTRUST	wrist
	Mister Miller	Ends in -ER	Ruthless Dude	Curly Cumber	SNOOKER	shoulder
VOWELS	Osgood Colombo	Only O vowels	Wanda Psych	O Conn	MORROW	foot
	Renee Esten	Only E vowels	Yuckee	Ver Lent	TEMPLE	neck
	Charlotte Uzyni	All vowels, once	Agent Ticktock	Can Tonne	DUDLY	rib
	Shigeru Zaborowski Huxtable	All vowels, twice, in this order	Impresso	Phil Perkut	APOLLONIUS	ankle
SIMILAR WORDS	Doctor Lucy Mimi "Trochee" Powers	A 2-syllable wds, accent on first	Boozi	Vinda Minos	WESTERN BEING	armpit
	Sir Cal Van Der Wal III	Words are all 3 letters long	Zoose	Ban Cur	ODD ONE OUT	hip
RHYMING	Bea McGee	Rhyme w/ -ee	Miss Bitsy	Mi Dree	EAU-DE-VIE	knee
	Joe Barstow	Rhyme w/ -oh	Pinkee	Mare Mio	YO HO HO	elbow
INSIDERS	King Ringo Kringle	Contains "ing"	Spargel Tarzan	Hugh Ning	SINGULAR	finger
	Samuel Duey Guest	Contains "ue"	Deepness	Rue Quest	BLUEWHITE	tongue
INITIALS	Baron Eddy Lee Leopold Young	First letters spell a word	Oopa Doopa	Bax Uckle	THE TIMELESS OLDIE	nose
HEADLESS	rick abe looper	Prepend with 'B'	J'Attaque	Oss Bon	LOCKAGE	ear
	argo hess roquet	Prepend with 'C'	Kilroy	Hin Plex	OSMIC	hair