TAKE PART IN AN HOUR OF CODE THIS DECEMBER 9 TO 15, 2019!

Use these bonus ELA resources from Scholastic to enhance CS First's free video-based coding activity, "Code Your Hero." Students will explore the word "hero" via our mini-lesson, then program a story about a hero using the coding language Scratch. (You don't need any coding experience to teach this activity—we promise.) Wrap up the lesson by having students create a certificate to give to a hero in their life! For more info, go to: **g.co/csfirst/cyh-scholastic-teachers**.

MINI-LESSON: WHAT IS A HERO?

Challenge students to expand their understanding of the term "hero."

OBJECTIVE
Students will demonstrate understanding of the nuanced meaning of the word "hero" and code an animated scene with their hero.

STANDARDS
Common Core ELA
- L.4-8.5 Demonstrate understanding of nuances in word meaning
- W.4-8.3 Write narratives

TIME
Approx. 75 minutes with additional time for writing

MATERIALS
- *Who's Your Hero?* activity sheet
- Computers with internet access (students can work in pairs if needed)
- CS First hero coding activity at **g.co/csfirst/CYH-scholastic**

INTRO: 15 MINUTES

1 Hook students on the concept of heroes by having them close their eyes and imagine someone who is a hero. With their eyes still closed, have them raise their hand if the hero they are imagining has superpowers or wears a cape. Make a silent note of how many hands were raised.

2 Lead a discussion about the term "hero." Ask for volunteers to name the hero they imagined, and collect a list on the board (possible answers might include superhero characters, professional athletes, family members, historical changemakers, civic leaders, etc.)

3 Explain that the term "hero" can refer to anybody who has influenced them or inspired them. It can be a famous person or fictional character, but a hero can also be an everyday person in their lives (e.g., grandparent, neighbor, friend, teacher, coach, sibling).

4 Pair up students to brainstorm a list of qualities that a hero might have (e.g., keeps going when times are tough, kind, patient, helps people, supportive, etc.). Then have each pair share their lists with the class. Wrap up the discussion by emphasizing that a person does not have to be famous, have special powers, or wear a cape to be a hero.

CODING: 60 MINUTES

5 Introduce the coding activity at **g.co/csfirst/cyh-scholastic-teachers**. Explain to the class they will now learn how to code by programming a story that stars a hero.

6 Optional/flexible: Distribute the Who's Your Hero? activity sheet to help students brainstorm a character, setting, and conflict for their animated scene. (See alternate use of this sheet in the next step.)

WRITING: 30–90 MINUTES

7 Optional: Challenge students to write a short story or poem focusing on their animated scene. Distribute the Who's Your Hero? activity sheet for brainstorming. Remind students to demonstrate a nuanced view of what the word "hero" means.

GET MORE RESOURCES FROM CS FIRST

Check out the CS First site at **g.co/csfirst/cyh-scholastic-teachers** and sign up for additional coding activities including free resources such as lesson plans, solution sheets, and certificates.

NOW, LET'S CODE—IT'S EASY TO START!

Your students will use a coding language called Scratch—developed especially for kids—to complete CS First's Code Your Hero activity. Here's what you need to know.

```
when this sprite clicked
change  whirl ▾  effect by  -50
wait  0.1  seconds
change  whirl ▾  effect by  50
wait  0.1  seconds
```

- **Scratch is great for beginners.** It allows students to build animated stories by dragging and dropping simple blocks of preprogrammed code, and helps kids grasp basic computer science concepts.

- **It's built right into CS First's coding activities.** When your students click the starter project link on the CS First site, Scratch opens automatically in a separate tab. Students can then toggle back and forth between the video instructions and their coding project.

To get started, go to the Code Your Hero activity on the CS First site at **g.co/csfirst/cyh-scholastic-teachers**.