

Stinky Squad activities
By Matt Porter

For the book written by DC Green

Stinky Character Profile

You are going to create a character profile on one of the Stinkys. If you cannot find certain information in the text use the knowledge you have of the character to make a reasonable guess. Your profile should include the following details about your chosen character -

- Age
- Physical description
- Hobbies
- Friends
- Superpowers
- Family
- School subjects they like/dislike

Answer the following questions about the character -

Would you be friends with them?

What are their thoughts on school?

Had their life been easy or hard up til the zombie takeover?

What are their thoughts on the Orange people being locked up?

What type of personality traits would they look for in a best friend?

Emergency Evacuation Plan

During a fight over a bedroom at their Headquarters, Zitron glues Stench to the floor. In return, Stench unleashes one of his toxic farts. The fart makes the buttons drop from Zitron's shirt, his eyelashes disintegrate and his nose hairs drop out.

Imagine Stench's fart on a larger scale threatening a city. Your job, as Head of Fart Defences, is to brief the government on your plan. You must decide whether to evacuate the city or launch an offensive on the threatening flatulence. In your brief include maps outlining the destruction the fart will cause, diagrams of the expected injuries the population will suffer and the time til impact.

Short, Sharp and Stinky

Faces stretched like silly putty.

Bodies compressed into seats.

Flames snuffed.

Oxygen vaporized.

No one could breathe.

No one could budge.

All this action occurs on page 112 of *Stinky Squad*. Short, descriptive sentences give the reader a genuine sense of what is happening. Every word contributes to the meaning of the passage. No words are wasted.

Have a go at writing a similar series of short, sharp sentences describing a scene. You can use any topic for your sentences. It doesn't have to be something bad happening. If you need some ideas you could write about - The Big Bang, a natural disaster, the finish of a sporting event, a whale breaching from the ocean, a racing car skidding around a corner or an athlete competing at the Extreme Games. Use your imagination!

Expressively Stinky Writing 1

Using expression in your writing entertains readers and adds detail to your story. For example, when the Stinkys march past a brain processing factory the text states, 'It smelt worse than Stench's reekiest fart boosted with extra chilli and a side order of rancid fish-heads. Every non-zombie gagged and wished they'd been born without nostrils.' Details like in the above passage sound better than, 'It smelt really bad.'

Have three different goes at writing a similar passage. In your first sentence, state how bad something smelt. In the second state how it made everyone feel.

Expressively Stinky Writing 2

You can use expression to describe more than smells. Expression and detail can be used for your other four senses as well. Read through Stinky Squad and find passages that describe the characters' other senses. You will find sections that describe what the characters see, taste, feel and hear as well as smell. By adding these descriptions, the author takes you into the characters' world. You feel empathy for the characters' situation as you have a greater understanding of what they're going through. Have a go at writing a small passage about the other four senses - touch, hearing, sight and taste.

Here is another passage as an example -

'Before Spinner could reply, the loudest sound since the 'Bleeding Brain' rock concert encore on Bondie Beach echoed, deep and disturbing, inside his head.'

In the first sentence of each of your passages, state how bad something smelt/felt/tasted/looked. In the second, state how it made the non-zombies feel.

Zombie Teachers!

Oh no! You've always expected it, but now it's official. Teachers are zombies! Principal Flabb and Miss Tidley crave student brains in the Stinky Squad. If all your teachers were zombies what would they teach? What would you cook in Home Economics? What games would you play in sport? In the space below, write the weekly timetable for your classes taught by zombie teachers. Include descriptions of each lesson, what will be learnt, the homework assigned, etc.

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Stinky Headquarters

The Stinky Squadders set up their headquarters in the Waratah Towers Penthouse Suite. Eventually, the penthouse is trashed and it is no longer a headquarters befitting a team of superheroes. Your job is to design the Stinkys a new Headquarters. Your design should have features that enable the Stinkys to develop their superhero skills. For example, you may add a spinning machine to help Spinner practice his projectile vomiting. Remember: the Stinkys are teenagers, so make their HQ as exciting as possible! Draw your design in the space below. Include notes to explain the features.

Stinky Leader

The fourth item of the Stinky Squad's meeting is to elect a team leader. Spinner and Zitron both put their cases forward on why they should lead. If you were a member of the Stinky Squad, what would you say to your fellow team members to get them to vote you in as leader? Write a speech outlining why you should lead the Stinky Squad. You can give yourself a superpower to make it an even playing field.

Mental Picture

The opening paragraphs of page 46 describe Constipation Kid exploding into the lounge room and skidding face first along the carpet. Water gushes from cracked pipes and toilet paper rains down. Through the detail in the passage you can imagine the scene clearly in your mind. Make up your own scene and draw it.



Now write a passage describing what has happened in your scene. Use your picture to help you add extra detail.

Goodbye Constipation Kid

Constipation Kid meets an untimely demise in the Stinky Squad. Instead of continuing on their mission one man down, pretend the Stinkys advertised for a new squad member. Your job is to write a newspaper ad for the Stinkys to place in another un-zombified town. Your ad must be 50 words long. No more. No less.

Superhero Food

The Stinkys eat Zomboid Dave's food products to power them up throughout their missions. Today, you are in charge of creating new foods to help the Stinkys. You must design one product for each member of the squad. Bear in mind the superhero's individual powers when creating the food to ensure your product maximises their powers.

Super Threads

The Stinky Squad get their superhero clothes from the Underwear Outside Super Cozzie Shop. Today, you are going to design a new range of superhero costumes. Sketch your designs and include notes explaining the material used and design features. You can give your collection a theme and a name. You can also add reasons for specific features such as, 'I haven't used any capes as they are so last season!'

Stinky Tension

The chapters in Stinky Squad always finish with tension. Something is always happening to make you want to read on to find out how it unfolds. Read page 103 as an example. Towards the end of this page, the Stinkys find themselves being pursued by a bus load of zombies. The chapter ends with Zitron screaming down the phone.

Have a go at writing a passage with tension and leave the reader hanging, dying to know what happens next.

Power Up

Zomboid Dave (Howard John) has three powers -

1. The ability to throw his voice.
2. Super strength.
3. The ability to come back from the politically dead.

If you were given three powers what would you choose?

Why?

What would you do with your powers?

What effect would this have on other people? Your town? Other towns?
Australia? The world?

Would anyone try and stop you using your powers?

How would they do this?

The questions you have answered have given you a great outline for a story.
Use the information above as a springboard and write a story.

Stinky Battle

Towards the end of the novel the Stinkys battle til death with Zomboid Dave, the Gruesomes, the Elites and the legion of brain-munching zombies. Imagine you are perched high in the grandstand of the arena watching all the action. Describe it blow by blow as if you are a commentator explaining the battle to your radio listeners. Often when commentators describe events they build suspense to add excitement to the call. Instead of saying, 'Pepper sneezed the zombies away.' A commentator may say 'Pepper's reaching for her tin. She's not going to, is she? She couldn't! Yes, I think she is!! She's going to unleash a sneeze!!!' Spinner does a similar 'commentary of doom' at the start of page 18.

Practise reading your commentary in an animated voice.

Stinky World

As well as being a hilarious read, *Stinky Squad* includes several lessons everyone can learn from. The storyline contains several problems/issues that occur in Australia and around the world. What do you think some of these problems/issues are? List them (include examples from the text) and discuss them with a classmate.

Discuss and list some ways that the problems/issues raised in the book could be helped/solved in the real world.

Is there anything you and your classmates could do to help solve these problems? If so write it down and share it with your class.

Stinky Dreams

Z-girl spends a lot of time sleeping throughout the text. What do you think she dreams about? Write a short story detailing one of Z-girl's dreams. Use evidence from the text to create your dream story. Does she dream about the past, the future or present events that are happening around her? You can also choose to present the dream through drawings.

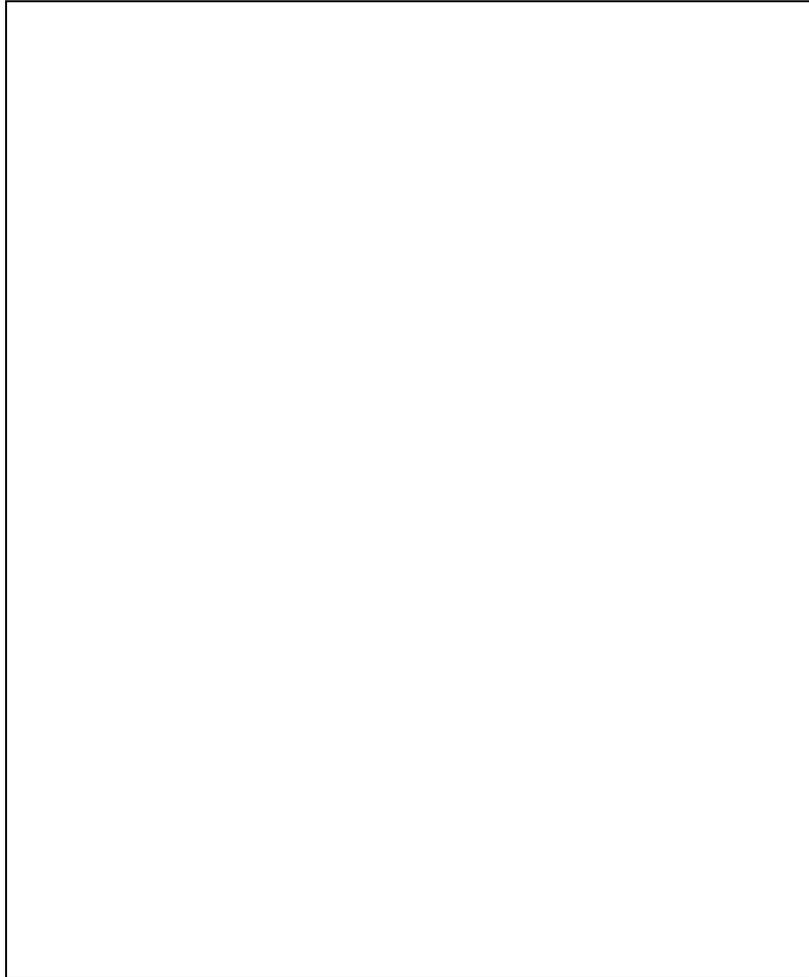
Once you have created a dream for Z-girl, do the same for another member of the Stinky Squad. Record what place in the book the dream is occurring.

Stinky Diary

Choose a character from the Stinky Squad and select five key events they are involved in. Re-read the sections detailing the key events and closely follow your character's involvement. Now comes the fun part. Using your insight, imagine you are your chosen character. Write a diary entry for each key event detailing what you thought, why you did what you did and how you felt/feel about the event. Include any other information/thoughts/feelings that you see fit. Each entry must be approximately 75 words long.

Stinky Front Cover

Design a new front cover for the Stinky Squad. Remember that it needs to be appealing to readers and also convey what the text is about. It should include the title, author and other information such as a short phrase like the one on the real cover, 'The world's grossest super-heroes!'



Write a 100 word justification on why you designed the front cover the way you did.

Stinky Problem

Choose a character from the text. Re-read a section where they have/mention a significant problem. The problem could have occurred before the text such as Stench and Z-girl's detention or Constipation Kid's bullying at school. Or the problem may occur during the text, such as President Boof planning on blowing up Oztrailer. Write a letter, from the point of view of the character, explaining your problem to the relevant person/authority. State your point of view and why and how you think things should change.

After you have written the first letter write another. This one should be the letter you think the character would receive in reply.

Stinky Character Tree

In the middle of a blank page draw a shape. In the middle of the shape write the name of one of Stinky Squad's main characters, good or evil. On another part of the page write another character's name and draw a shape around it. Connect both shapes by a line. Along the line write the central character's feelings/relationship with the other character. Include evidence from the book to back up your opinion. Write other character's names in shapes and repeat the process. Eventually you will have a character tree outlining your central character's relationship/feelings with the other characters in the book. If the characters feelings/relationship change during the course of the story include both the before and after.

Stinky Character Collage

You will need several magazines and newspapers to complete this activity. Once again, choose a character from Stinky Squad. Take a blank piece of paper and stick articles, pictures or words from the newspapers and magazines that relate to your character on the page. You may choose single words that describe your character as well as articles and pictures that relate to them. Try to fill the whole page. Be prepared to justify why you stuck each item on your collage.

Stinky Newspaper Article

Choose a significant, action-packed event from Stinky Squad. Pretend you are a newspaper reporting the event. Draft then publish a front page explaining all the details of the event. Your front page must have a headline, article and photo/drawing. The article must address the who, what, why, where and when of the event.

WHO - was involved?

WHAT - happened?

WHY - did it happen?

WHERE - did it happen?

WHEN - did it happen?

Stinky Point of View

The Stinky Squad is written in the third person. The story is described by an outsider not involved in the story. Imagine the Stinky Squad was written from the perspective of one of the characters. Re-read one of the last chapters detailing the action-packed finale in the arena. Now select a character that is involved in everything that occurs in that chapter. Re-write the chapter from your character's point of view. You can include their feelings and thoughts as well as describing the action as they see it.

Stinky Memories

While reading the Stinky Squad did you ever think, 'This reminds me of when such and such happened to me?' If so, here's your chance to expand your thoughts. What section/event/phrase from the book triggered your memory?

What did it remind you of and why?

Backwards Time

Here's an activity for everyone who loves drawing. People who enjoy making time go backwards will also enjoy this one. Take several scraps of paper of the same size and staple them together along one edge. On the back piece of paper draw a simple scene. Flick one page forward and draw the same scene with one or two of the characters moved slightly forward. Flick forward to the third piece and do the same. Continue until you have drawn on each page. You have now created a flip book. Hold the non-stapled side in your hand. Gradually release the pages and watch the action. It will appear as if your characters are moving back in time, just like Z-girl from the Stinky Squad.

Stinky World

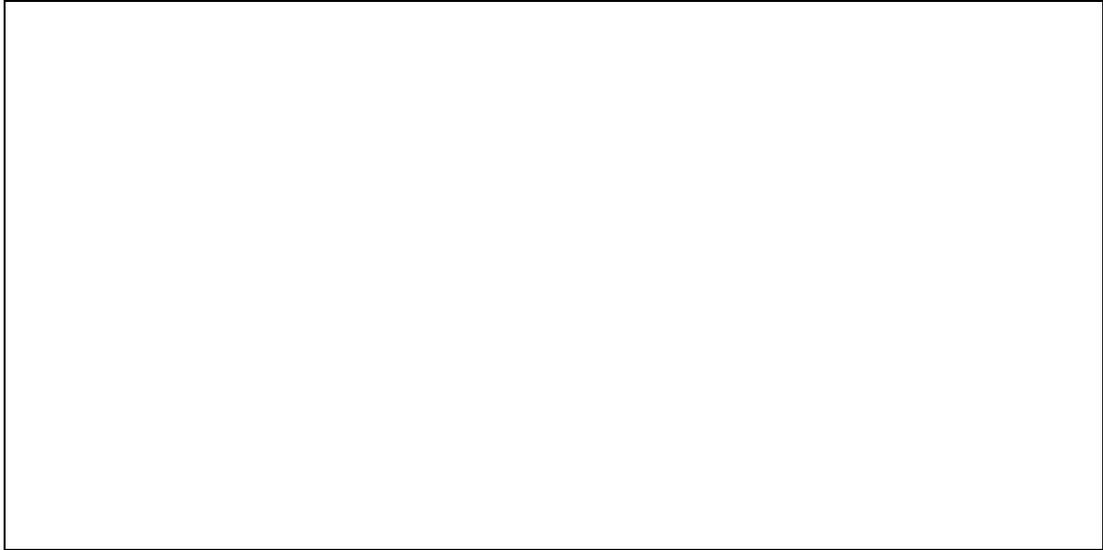
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Is there anything you and your classmates could do to help solve these problems? If so write it down and share it with your class.

Stinky Battle

Create your own member of the Stinky Squad and draw them.



List ten powers your superhero possesses -

- 1-100 _____
- 101-200 _____
- 201-300 _____
- 301-400 _____
- 401-500 _____
- 501-600 _____
- 601-700 _____
- 701-800 _____
- 801-900 _____
- 901-1000 _____

Now you're ready to battle! Choose someone to challenge. Take a deck of cards and set aside the picture cards. You are left with all the 1's (Aces) through to 10's. Both players flip three cards and set them down in the order they were flipped. Multiply the first two cards together then multiply your answer by the third card. The person with the highest score wins that round. The winner announces the power they used to win (take the winning number and read the power from the number range it falls within). The first person to win a round using each of their powers is the winner.

A Stinky Journey

The characters in the text grow as people throughout their adventure. Zitron in particular does a lot of growing up. Create a timeline showing Zitron's personal journey and how his thoughts, opinions and behaviour towards others change. Include specific examples from the text to back up your judgements. At the end of the timeline, compare Zitron's thoughts towards other people/races to those he held at the beginning of the text. What do you think made him change his opinions?

Fight a Stinky

Bad news - you have been forced to battle it out with one of the Stinky Squad members. The good news? You can choose which one you battle out of Spinner, Zitron, Stench, Z-Girl, Constipation Kid and Pepper.

Rate the Stinkys in order from 1 to 6 from the person you would choose to battle most down to the person you would least like to battle.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Write reasons for the order you ranked the Stinkys. Rank the baddies from the text in order from your preferred battle opponent down to your least preferred.

Stinky Ideas

Fill in the table with appropriate words for each column.

A superpower	A country	An event	Kitchen appliance

This table can now generate heaps of story ideas. Simply pick one word from each column so you have a group of four words. Use these words as a base for an idea for a story. Then pick another group of four words and come up with another story idea. Continue to do this. Soon you will have heaps of story ideas. Choose your best one and develop it.