

Superman is the only survivor of the planet Krypton. His father, Jor-El, discovered that a nuclear chain reaction was building inside Krypton that would soon shatter the entire world. Jor-El put his son Kal-El in a spaceship and launched the starcraft toward Earth just before the planet Krypton exploded.

Kal-El landed safely on earth in the middle of a field in Smallville, Kansas. He was found by Jonathan and Martha Kent, who lived on a farm nearby. At this time the baby had no super powers. The Kents named the infant Clark and raised him as their own son.

As Clark grew older, he began developing superhuman abilities. When Clark was eighteen, his adopted father Jonathan took him to the field where his starcraft still lay hidden and explained how he and Martha had found him. Clark resolved to use his powers from then on only for the good of mankind.

Clark and his foster parents devised a new costumed secret identity he would adopt when using his abilities in public. They called his new persona "Superman," the name given him by Lois Lane, a reporter for the newspaper *Metropolis Daily Planet*. Shortly afterward, Clark obtained a job as a reporter for the *Daily Planet* by turning in his first detailed story about Superman.

Superman lives by the moral values he learned from his foster parents. Superman is an idealist, devoted to promoting "truth, justice, and the American way," and has proved over and over that he is a true hero, capable of whatever bravery and self-sacrifice is necessary to right a wrong or save a life.

He possesses tremendous strength. His body is virtually indestructible. Superman's sharp senses enable him to hear sounds too faint to be detected by the normal human ear. His "telescopic vision" enables him to see distant objects far beyond the range of normal human sight, and his "microscopic vision"

allows him to observe an object in tiny, microscopic detail. Superman's so called "x-ray vision" enables him to see clearly through solid objects. Superman can move, react, and think at superhuman speeds. Also, he can defy gravity and fly.

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