

Peter Parker - His Life and History

Peter Parker was only a young boy when his parents died in a plane crash. He immediately moved in with his father's older brother and wife. Ben and Mary Parker were an elderly couple with no children of their own, and they raised Peter as if he were their son. They rarely spoke about Peter's real parents, so Peter became convinced that his parents had left him because of something he had done. Afraid of being abandoned, Peter worked hard to win his uncle's approval - though he didn't have to worry. Ben and Mary truly loved their nephew and would have done anything to please him.

High School

Peter was an honor student, and his teachers always thought very highly of him. He always came prepared for class, and completed all of his assignments. The other students, however, had little time for a know-it-all like Peter. The girls thought he was too quiet, and the boys considered him a wimp. Before he gained his spider powers, Peter had considerably less than average strength for a boy of his age. Clumsy and uncoordinated, he also had no athletic ability. He had a fear of heights - even getting a book from the top shelf in the library was terrifying for him.

Peter was shy, and some of his classmates misunderstood his silence for snobbery. He had trouble making friends, but he never stopped trying. He often invited other students to join him at science exhibits or the movies. But they usually responded with ridicule and teasing, and they almost never asked him to join them.

It was at one of those science exhibits that Peter became Spider-Man. He was bitten by a radioactive spider. As a result, Peter gains the agility and strength of a spider.

Throughout his career as Spider-Man, Peter has always been torn between his sense of duty and his anger at the responsibilities he has as a superhero. These feelings have left the teenager confused about his role. It has even driven him to the brink of despair, once causing him to throw away his costume and renounce his alter ego. Nevertheless, his dedication to using his powers responsibly has always led to Peter putting on the mask again in the hope that some day the world will learn to appreciate Spider-Man.

Spider-Man's Powers

His Spider-Sense

Spider-Man has many incredible abilities, but his most amazing power must be his spider-sense. This strange tingling sensation, which originates in the back of his skull, warns him of danger. The danger could be something immediate, like a gun being aimed at him or a punch being thrown at the back of his head. Or it could be something subtle, like a slippery floor or a sandwich that contains tainted meat. While his spider-sense cannot tell Spider-Man the exact nature of a particular threat, it always lets him know when and which way to move in order to avoid the danger.

Since his spider-sense instinctively reacts to trouble, Spider-Man depends on it most when he is in a fight, weaving his way through a hail of bullets without a scratch. Over the years he has come to realize that his reflexes work a lot faster than his mind.

Strength and Agility

Shortly after he was bitten by the radioactive spider that gave him his amazing powers, Peter Parker accidentally crushed a steel pipe as if it were made of paper. He was astonished to discover that he now had superhuman strength. In one, spider-powered spring, he has leapt the height of three stories, or the width of a highway.

Even more impressive than his spider-like strength is Spider-Man's amazing speed and agility. He leaps from rooftops, summersaults over flagpoles, tumbles off water towers, and balances on top of light poles as he routinely travels across the city in his own unique manner.