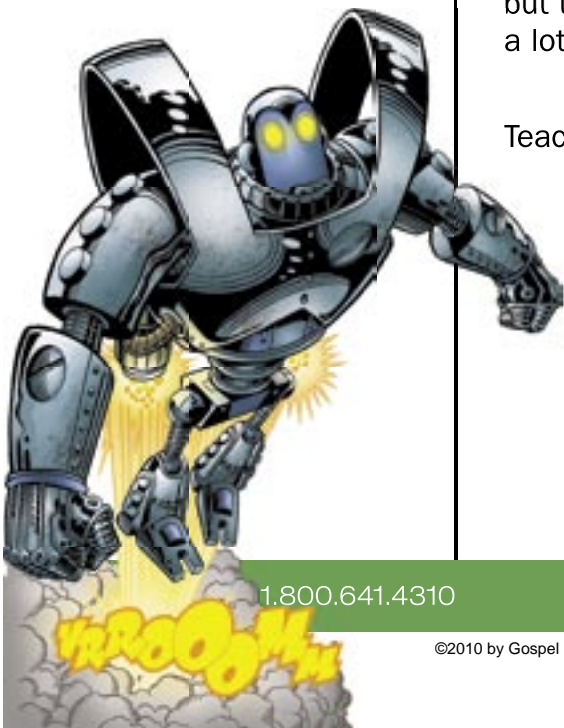


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Superhero

Using the Power of Words for Good

Most kids want to be a superhero. The dream of flying with a cape billowing behind you captured many of us as children. But did you know that in each of us lies a superhero? Our words are powerful. In a sentence, you can encourage others or casually ruin someone's day. We truly have the choice to be a superhero or a villain.

Help your students realize their words carry the power of life and death (Proverbs 18:21). It can be difficult to understand how words spoken in a moment of frustration or anger can affect those we speak them to. We may not necessarily “mean” what we say in that moment, but words carry a lasting effect. We will “hear” those things in our heads for days to come.

Think about the last time someone paid you a compliment. How did it change your mood? Was your outlook for the rest of the day altered? What about when someone was cross? How did it change the rest of your day?

This doesn't mean we don't speak the truth. Sometimes the truth hurts, but these words need to be spoken in love. Words spoken in kindness go a lot farther than words spoken crossly or in anger.

Teach your students to choose their words carefully.

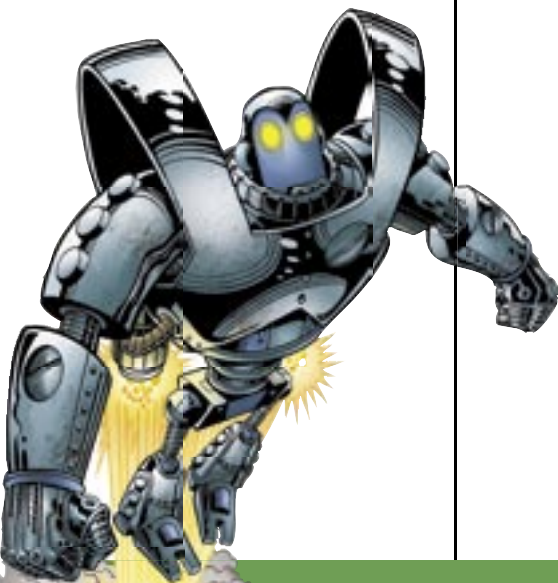
The saying, “If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all” is a helpful reminder of how powerful our words can be.



Holsom Comics Discussion Questions

After kids have read [Welcome to Holsom. Issue 14](#), begin a discussion about wisely using words by asking these questions:

- How does the lieutenant use her words in the beginning of this issue? *(She lies about her findings and backs up JD.)*
- How does Jordan use her words with her friends and Tabby? *(She tries to change her friends' minds about Tabby, she apologizes to Tabby, and tries to begin a friendship.)*
- How does Jake's words come back to haunt him in this issue? *(The sheriff doesn't believe him, because he's constantly lied.)*
- How does the sheriff respond to Jake? Is the sheriff a superhero or a villain? Why? *(He's a superhero. He told Jake the truth and showed Jake kindness.)*
- How do the cousins *(Ralph and Ruben)* use their words toward each other? *(They're quite harsh to each other.)*
- How does Constance Vile respond to the cousins? *(She calls them names, is rude, etc.)* To Otto? *(She uses nice words [flattery], but doesn't mean it.)*



I'm a Superhero

Give your kids the opportunity to practice using words for the “power of good.” Let them role play how they would respond to each of the following scenarios. Feel free to create your own.

1. Your younger brother (or sister) just broke your X-Box (or bike).
2. You didn't make the football team (or play), but your friend did.
3. Your mom makes you clean your room instead of letting you hang out with your friends.
4. Your father forgot about the family gathering and insists you go with the family, rather than the state football championship. You've been planning that trip with your friends for months.
5. Your coach passes you up for captain and chooses someone you think isn't as good as you are.

