Anyone Can Wear The Mask

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Stan Lee said that one of the greatest things about his famous character, Spider-Man, is that his suit completely covers his body, head to toe.

Growing up as a small and insecure child, I can’t count the number of times that I’ve wanted to be strong enough to be able to pick up heavy things, have the bravery to stand up against bullies, or even the strength to not give up in times of stress. I wanted to help people. I wanted to be the one you look for when you’re in need of saving, but with the fact I was just a poor and scared little Mexican boy, it seemed hopeless; until I met Spider-Man.

The superhero that everybody loves and adores. The one that courageously jumps off skyscrapers at a million miles an hour and saves the pretty girl as thousands of people cheer his name. I, like every other kid, wanted to be him.

Stan Lee admits that whilst accidental, the design detail that Spider-Man’s suit fully covers his skin is truly a symbol of greatness. The fact that you can’t see Spider-Man’s skin color gives the minds of every child, teenager, and even adult to imagine themselves doing the amazing acts in which the webslinger does.

The absence of a solidified skin color on a superhero suit vastly broadens the scope of significance that it could bring. Anyone could be behind that mask. Black, white, hispanic, or asian. Anyone. Without a visible skin tone, anyone could see themselves being as strong, agile, or courageous as Spider-Man. They could see themselves scaling skyscrapers and fighting bad guys or just helping a mistreated person on the street. That suit lets *anybody* be a hero.

Being a hero isn’t a matter of race, but a matter of belief. You can’t change the body you were born into, but you *can* believe in the right fight. In the case of Spider-Man, he fights for good. He fights for all of the kids that get bullied, all of the people who get mugged, all of the people that can’t do what he can.

It’s as the saying goes, *“With great power comes great responsibility.”*

With his newfound super abilities, Peter Parker put a responsibility on himself to help people. People that aren’t as physically strong as him; the people he once was. The nerd who got picked on by the jocks and didn’t have the confidence to talk to his crush. But when he puts on the Spider-Man suit he becomes the person he wish he had in his life. He becomes hope. When people getting bullied, mugged, or mistreated know about Spider-Man, they embody what he stands for, making themselves better people. When we see him fight the bad guys with his crazy acrobats and insane strength, he reminds us that *we* can do that too. His relatability coupled with the fact that his skin remains a mystery, makes him the most inspiring superhero of all time. Because it makes him one of us.

Although Spider-Man isn’t a *real* person, he’s definitely a life changing symbol. He symbolizes that any of us can be like him. *Anyone can wear the mask.*

By understanding that, I had officially become my favorite superhero. Spider-Man motivated me to keep fighting then, and continues to do it now.

I won’t pretend to be fearless in the face of the unknown; the knowledge that I’ll be away at college soon is enough to turn me into that scared Mexican boy. But knowing that I can wear the mask and *be* the hero that I’ve looked up to for my whole life, gives me hope.

In a world that is so diverse, Spider-Man acts as a source of familiarity that all of us could use. It is the responsibility of helping us that he out on himself that makes him what we should all strive to become. A noble, brave, and good-hearted individual. Traits that any one of us can have, whether our origins are from across the world or right next door. He is truly much more than just a comic book character that entertains children, he’s a reminder that we could all contribute to making this world a better place.

Spider-Man’s suit doesn’t make his skin color a mystery, but rather an opportunity. An opportunity that allows *anyone* to be a hero, no matter the background.