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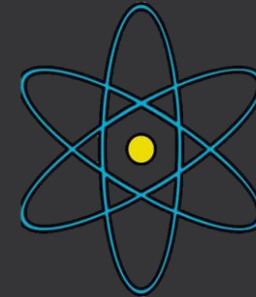
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# Black Genius



"Powerful minds can do big things"



## Ashley Antone



This zine looks at the portrayal of the "genius" superhero. I will be analyzing 3 black superhero women and how they are viewed in comics. Moon Girl, Bumblebee, and Ironheart use their advanced knowledge to aid them in being the best superhero they can be. These characters breakdown stereotypes that have occurred over decades. They are symbols of strength and intelligence in society.



## Questions to consider:

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How are superheroes changing to defy stereotypes?

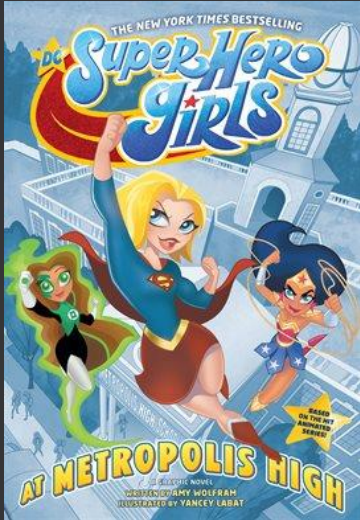
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Does this change the way you view women in STEM?

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# DC Super Hero Girls 2019



Teenage versions of DC Comics superheroines both attend high school and fight crime to protect the citizens of Metropolis.

# Diversity in Comics

Black women were not always viewed as being the intelligent and powerful characters seen in today's comics. Superhero characters have been historically male. It is important to have a diverse group of characters that represent multiple races and ethnicities. As a child it can be helpful to read about characters with a similar background to yourself. Representing all people is a push in the right direction towards equality.

# Character Bios

Moon Girl, also known as her street name Lunella Lafayette, is a 9-year-old super genius. This 4<sup>th</sup> grader shares a link to a dinosaur, making her inhuman. Her abilities include: Super intellect and consciousness transferal. She uses her superior intelligence to build a variety of gadgets to help her in battle. At only 9 years old, her potential is still unknown. She will get smarter as she gets older and learns from her experiences.



MOON GIRL

# The future of women in comics



# Super Genius

Having a young black superhero is groundbreaking in comics. Comics give the opportunity to showcase strong women and represent them in a positive light.



# BUMBLEBEE

Bumblebee, also known as her street name Karen Beecher-Duncan, is a scientist. She creates a super suit and has the power to shrink to insect size. Using solar power she is capable of flying.



# IRONHEART

Ironheart, also known as her street name Riri Williams, is a skilled inventor and engineer. At age 15 she is attending MIT on a scholarship. She creates a suit by reverse engineering the one she finds. Eventually she creates her own by using parts she acquires.



An introduction to Riri Williams! I love that she is smarter than Tony Stark and isn't afraid to tell him.

My 8-year-old daughter loves this book! Nice to see different races and a female superhero!

# Fan Comments

Both my 6-year-old super-hero obsessed daughter and 9-year-old son enjoyed it. It is great to see a superhero my daughter can relate to....this book led to some interesting conversations about people being misunderstood and how to work together.

Absolutely loved this book and my 7-year-old daughter was able to read it as well with a little assistance on a couple of the words. We both loved the storyline and the scientific base of the story with a strong female lead.

## Who is smarter, Iron Man or Moon Girl?

### Both Inventors



### Both Inquisitive

### Both Intelligent



Iron Man (Tony Stark) is known by everyone as having superior intelligence. While he is one of the smartest humans in the world, he is only the fourth smartest superhero in the Marvel Universe. He does not have any supernatural powers. It is his top .01% IQ that gives him the ability to engineer his Iron Man suit. His intelligence however is outshined by Moon Girl. This 9-year old's superior intelligence makes her the smartest superhero in the marvel universe.



# How are these genius women role models for young girls?



Bumblebee is defying gender norms by participating in an activity that is typically male dominated. The boy is shocked by the amazing robot Karen can make. She is teaching girls to not be afraid to join clubs that might be considered "boys clubs." This comic shows how women can do anything that men can and sometimes better.

## Well Known Superheroes

- Spider-Man
- Iron Man
- Thor
- The Hulk
- Captain America
- Wolverine
- Black Panther
- Captain Marvel

As you can see, most well known superheroes have been male. The creators of these female comics are trying to change that. Their goal is to positively represent women in comics.

# Power and Ability

Moon Girl-Super intellect and consciousness transferal

Bumblebee- Shrunk to insect-like size. Her solar-powered suit enables her to fly (via bee-like wings), fire sonic force blasts, and unleash electrical 'stings'.

Ironheart- Skilled inventor and Engineer Super Genius-level Intellect



She uses her science knowledge as a power to help her. In this cartoon panel Bumblebee is using her knowledge of conductive surfaces to help her. Encouraging the use of science to young girls is important because it is typically viewed as a male dominated area.





From the death of her father and various hardships, Riri Williams overcomes a lot. Her intelligence caused her to go inside her mind and become an introvert. Despite the difficulties she faces, Riri gets a scholarship to M.I.T. This is inspiring because it teaches young girls that you can overcome the difficulties in your life.

## Moon Girl



Brandon Montclare and Amy Reeder

-The first appearance of Moon Girl was in 2015.



# Creators

## Bumblebee



Bob Rozakis



-First appearance of Bumblebee was in 1977.

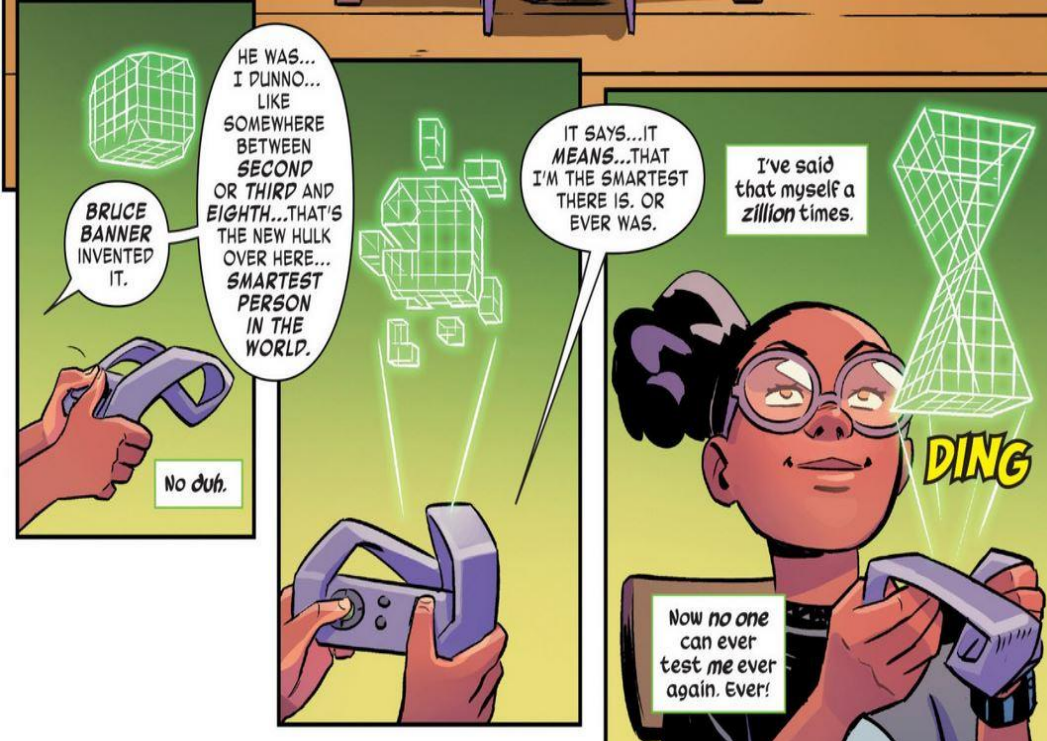
## Ironheart



Brian Michael Bendis  
and Mike Deodato



-First appearance of Ironheart was in 2016.



Luella is unlike the typical 9-year-old. Being born inhuman, she feels different than other children. This character is relatable for children who feel like an outcast among their peers. She displays bravery that is beyond her years. Using her abilities she can take down her opponents with the gadgets she creates.



# Great minds collide

In Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur (2015) #15, Moon Girl and Ironheart come together. Ironheart answers Moon Girl's call for help when she is in trouble. Together they are able to use their knowledge of science to be powerful young superheroes.



# Gifted young superheroes



# Teamwork