

# Heroes

Age

6-10

Duration

60 minutes

Group size

8-30

## Overview

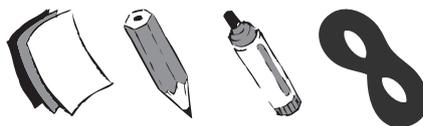
The group explores the social construction of masculinity through role play and looking at fairy tales.

## Objective

- To reflect upon the social construction of masculinity

## Materials

- Flipchart paper
- Small pieces of paper
- Markers and pens
- Clothes for dressing up (optional)



## Preparation

- Draw an outline of a person on a piece of flipchart paper.

## Step-by-step instructions

1. Divide the participants into 3 or 4 smaller groups and ask them to think of fairy tales in which the main character is male.
2. In their small groups, they should pick their favourite story to act out. Ask them to prepare a short role play to present their story to the others. You could provide some old clothes so that they can prepare costumes. Then all groups present their short plays.
3. After all groups have presented their plays, ask everyone to shout out characteristics of the men in the plays. Write them all on the flipchart around the outline of the person.
4. Then ask everyone to come to the flipchart and draw a circle around the characteristics that they like.

## Debriefing

- Why do you like the characteristics that you have marked? Why don't you like others?
- Do boys and men in real life have much in common with the fairy tale heroes?
- How do people expect boys and men to act? Why?
- What happens if they act differently from this?
- Would you like this to change? Can we do something to change what people expect from boys?

## Tips for facilitators

This activity can really open participants' eyes, but can also lead to reinforcing stereotypes if the debriefing is not well facilitated, so make sure you give enough time for a full debriefing.

The group can come up with their own fairy tale based on the outcome of their discussion.