

[Read and download] Superman Versus the Ku Klux Klan

Superman Versus the Ku Klux Klan

Rick Bowers

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*

DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#4192751 in Books 2012-01-01 Formats: Audiobook, CD Original language: English PDF # 3 Running time: 12600 seconds Binding: Audio CD | File size: 61.Mb

Rick Bowers : Superman Versus the Ku Klux Klan before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Superman Versus the Ku Klux Klan:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very Informative and an Enjoyable Read - Perhaps "PG" or "PG 13" as Far as a Children's Read By FCD117I liked this book a lot. The reading level is clearly at a youth level, but not childlike. I read it both for my own sake and as a grandparent. I learned a lot of history type information about the creators of Superman as well as the history of the KKK. It dawned on me I did not really know a lot about the actual history of the KKK. In regard to resisting the KKK, I had heard of Stetson Kennedy. It now seems my knowledge of him was slightly inaccurate and exaggerated. However I am quite sure he did a lot of good. I feel discussing a matter like the KKK without any racial terminology would be difficult. It is possible that certain terminology SHOULD be used so the issues can be clearly understood. Nonetheless I personally would not want a child to read this without parental input. My own children are now grown. I can still vividly recall one of my children watching a major network news show when a discussion of the "N - word" came on and the actual word was used. My child was in early grade school. She turned to me and asked me about the specific word. It was clear to me she had NEVER heard the word anywhere and that made me happy. That contrasted with my own experience as a child in the 1950's. Clearly the word was not being used at school or on the playground. But it was still a sobering experience for me and I was glad I was there to try to answer questions. I remember President Obama saying he thinks every generation gets better about this subject and I agree with him about that. Additionally there is a brief passage about a sub group in the KKK that engaged in a specific and gruesome type of physical torture. Parents should be aware of that. I refer to a brief narrative

about corkscrews. There was also a passing discussion about Wonder Woman. According to this work, Wonder Woman, in addition to entertainment, spoke to females about domestic violence. I did not know that and it never dawned on me that Wonder Woman could be used to facilitate such discussion. I appreciate knowing that. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An interesting segment of history. By Heidi Grangel I found this a very readable, fascinating account of the creation of Superman and how this fictional superhero was used to fight the Ku Klux Klan. I've heard the story of Superman's creation before but not in as complete a fashion as is explained here. It's an interesting story about two Jewish teenagers growing up during the Great Depression who desperately wanted to join the comics industry. But neither could ever imagine their creation becoming the phenomenon it did. Unfortunately for them, they turned the copyright over to DC Comics (normal procedure at the time) and as a result didn't receive the benefits they should have. But Superman has throughout his history provided not only entertainment but the idea that good can defeat evil, even the real thing. The Ku Klux Klan may not have started out as an organization of evil but it certainly became one. What I didn't know was that it petered out after their extreme acts of violence got out of control. Reading about the deliberate reincarnation of the organization was a bit sickening, but ironically it seems that the people responsible for its recreation were more interested in money than ideology. Unfortunately, many of those who joined the organization did fully buy into the hate and fear that the organization encouraged and often acted on it, violently. Seeing these two stories come full circle when the Superman radio show decided to have Superman face an organization that clearly represented the KKK. This book represents the impact that even a fictional character can have on the history of a nation. The power of propaganda for good or evil can easily be seen in this story, a story that happens to be true. A great example of the kind of history book that children will want to pick up and read. There is however a lot of text here, more photos and extras would have been nice. But the story is compelling enough to make up for that, but reluctant readers will be put off by the amount of text. A great read though for more advanced readers. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Delightful Short Pop-Culture History By James While this book deals in a swift, readable, delightful style with this one very meaningful intersection of contemporary history and popular culture, it also tells us a lot about the history of the Ku Klux Klan and the character of Superman--why both came into being, how they evolved over time, and why both are still relevant today. And it also makes you love and appreciate the Man of Steel even more.

This book tells a group of intertwining stories that culminate in the historic 1947 collision of the Superman Radio Show and the Ku Klux Klan. It is the story of the two Cleveland teenagers who invented Superman as a defender of the little guy and the New York wheeler-dealers who made him a major media force. It is the story of the Ku Klux Klan's development from a club to a huge money-making machine powered by the powers of fear and hate and of the folklorist who--along with many other activists-- took on the Klan by wielding the power of words. Above all, it tells the story of Superman himself--a modern mythical hero and an embodiment of the cultural reality of his times--from the Great Depression to the present. National Geographic supports K-12 educators with ELA Common Core Resources. Visit www.natgeoed.org/commoncore for more information.

About the Author Rick Bowers worked as a newspaper reporter and editor for more than 15 years, reporting for the Patriot Ledger of Quincy, Massachusetts, the Miami Herald, and USA Today. His articles have been published in many of the most prestigious publications in the country, including the Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Philadelphia Inquirer, and TIME. Over the past decade Bowers has envisioned and directed innovative multimedia projects, telling powerful, socially relevant stories through print, the web, TV, radio, music, and drama. Working with AARP, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and the Library of Congress, he directed Voices of Civil Rights, a multimedia project that gathered thousands of first-hand accounts of the Civil Rights Movement to form the world's largest archive of testimonials from the era. The initiative included a History Channel documentary that won both Emmy and Peabody Awards. The website won the prestigious Webby Award. Bowers is the Director of Creative Initiatives at AARP, where he continues to develop far-reaching multimedia programs. He lives in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., with his wife and two daughters. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Jerry Siegel was different from most of the other kids in Glenville. While they were playing ball in the street, shooting hoops at the community center, or shopping on 105th Street, Jerry was holed up in the attic with his precious zines. He also loved to take in the movies at the Crown Theater, just a couple blocks from his house, or at the red-carpeted and balconied Uptown Theatre farther up 105th. Scrunched in his seat with a sack of popcorn in his lap and his eyes fixed on the screen, he marveled as the dashing actor Douglas Fairbanks donned a black cape and mask to become the leaping, lunging, sword-wielding Zorro. Jerry admired Fairbanks and all the other leading men--strong, fearless, valiant he-man characters who took care of the bad guys and took care of the gorgeous women too. Jerry worshipped Clark Gable and Kent Taylor, whose names he would later combine to form Clark Kent. Jerry usually sat in darkened theaters alone as he absorbed stories, tracked dialogue, and marveled at the characters. After the movies he would walk to the newsstands on St. Claire Avenue to pick up a pulp-fiction novel or a zine. Soaking in every line of narrative and dialogue, he would read the books and magazines cover to cover then read them again.

Turning to his secondhand typewriter, he would dash off letters to the editors, critiquing the stories and suggesting themes for future editions. He would scour the classified sections for the names and addresses of other science fiction fans and send them letters in which he shared his ideas for stories, plots, and characters. For kids like Jerry, science fiction provided a community network of fans bound together by a common passion. One of Jerry's favorite books was Philip Wylie's *Gladiator*. Initially published in 1930, it was the first science fiction novel to introduce a character with superhuman powers. Jerry moved through the swollen river of words like an Olympian swimmer, devouring the description of the protagonist, Hugo Danner, whose bones and skin were so dense that he was more like steel than flesh, with the strength to hurl giant boulders, the speed to outrun trains, and the leaping ability of a grasshopper. Danner's life is a tortured pursuit of the question of whether to use his powers for good or evil. That made Jerry think about how hard it was to choose right over wrong. Then there was that unforgettable image of the flying man the one he had seen on the cover of *Amazing Stories*. Jerry would hang on to that image for the rest of his life. The flying man, clad in a tight red outfit and wearing a leather pilot's helmet, soared through the sunny sky and smiled down on a futuristic village filled with technological marvels. From the ground, a pretty, smiling girl waved a handkerchief at the airborne man and marveled at his fantastic abilities. In this edition of *Amazing Stories* Jerry saw a thrilling new world of scientific advances and social harmony a perfect green and sunny utopia to be ushered in by creative geniuses with more brains than brawn, more natural imagination than school-injected facts, more good ideas than good looks. Jerry wanted to help create that utopia. Luckily, he had a partner in his quest.