



## Public School Superhero

By James Patterson, Chris Tebbetts

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Kenny Wright is a kid with a secret identity. In his mind, he's Stainlezz Steel, super-powered defender of the weak. In reality, he's a chess club devotee known as a "Grandma's Boy," a label that makes him an easy target for bullies. Kenny wants to bring a little more Steel to the real world, but the question is: can he recognize his own true strength before peer pressure forces him to make the worst choice of his life?

Featuring more than 150 pieces of line art and comic-style sequences, James Patterson's newest illustrated novel is a genuinely funny yet poignant look at middle school in a challenging urban setting, where a kid's life can depend on the everyday decisions he makes.

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## Public School Superhero By James Patterson, Chris Tebbetts Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–6—By day, Kenny Wright is an average middle school kid, living in Washington, DC. But he has three things against him: he loves his grandmother, earning him the nickname "Grandma's Boy;" he's smart, because Grandma makes him study; and he has an affinity for chess. These facts could make life rough for any kid, but at inner-city Union Middle School, it makes him a prime target for bullying. Enter his alter-ego, Stainlezz Steel, a superhero who performs feats of valor from thwarting a robbery by ruthless thugs to rescuing cats, generally keeping the city streets and his school safe for the weak and nerdy. Union Middle School faces some tough situations as well: budget cuts, teacher and principal turnover, and low-performing students. Trying to stay out of trouble seems to get Kenny in deeper and his new principal isn't having any of it. Can Stainlezz Steel save the day or will Kenny find a way to save it on his own? Packed with fast-paced, tween-speak, *Public School Superhero* will entertain and enlighten. Kenny is relatable and his relationship with his grandmother is touching. Kenny is African American and his classmates include kids from a rich and realistic diversity of racial and ethnic backgrounds, adding to the overall appeal of this novel. Readers will also enjoy the multiple pages of funny, comic book-style illustrations packed with superhero stunts and preteen angst. VERDICT Definitely buy this one.—Carol Connor, Cincinnati Public Schools, OH

Review

#### Praise for *Public School Superhero*:

"The authors never get too preachy for their own good.... Told with the humorous style characteristic of Patterson when he's in preteen mode, the novel fits right in with *I Funny*, *Middle School*, and the like. Adding to the book's charm [are] comic-filled pages that help further illustrate Kenny's inner workings as well as present just plain fun superhero stories. A smart and kind story topped with just the right amount of social justice."?Kirkus Reviews

"Packed with fast-paced tween-speak, *Public School Superhero* will entertain and enlighten.... Readers will also enjoy the multiple pages of funny, comic book-style illustrations packed with superhero stunts and preteen angst.... Definitely buy this one."?School Library Journal

"With admirers of all ages, don't be surprised if everyone wants to get their hands on [Patterson's] latest."?Booklist

#### Praise for *I Funny*:

A #1 *New York Times* Bestseller

"....Poignant.... Readers learn about [Jamie's] devastating loss and recovery from a tragic event....The affecting ending, which reveals a more vulnerable Jamie behind the guise of his humor, celebrates Jamie's resilient spirit."?Kirkus Reviews

"In all, a brimming bucket of bada-bing!"?Booklist

"The broad humor that runs throughout this heavily illustrated story... masks personal pain, demonstrating resiliency in the face of tragedy."?Publishers Weekly

### **Praise for *Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life*:**

\* "As Patterson artfully weaves a deeper and more thought-provoking tale of childhood coping mechanisms and everyday school and family realities, readers are drawn into a deeper understanding of and compassion for the main characters." **?School Library Journal, starred review**

"Readers will discover the best kind of child: one that is intelligent, artistic, and brave.... A world perfectly described through a 12-year-old's point of view...a satisfying and progressive tale with real sweetness." **?Kirkus Reviews**

"A keen appreciation of kids' insecurities and an even more astute understanding of what might propel boy readers through a book.... a perfectly pitched novel."

**?Los Angeles Times**

"Cleverly delves into the events that make middle school so awkward: cranky bus drivers, tardy slips, bathroom passes and lots of rules.... Hopefully, this isn't the last we hear from Rafe Khatchadorian."

**?The Associated Press**

"It's a chatty, funny, engaging book, one that often addresses the reader directly. It's filled with energetic cartoons... that will appeal to your little rebel, depicting teachers as dungeon-keepers, matadors and flying dragons. Patterson... knows how to structure a plot and builds in some surprising--even touching--twists.... Rafe is the bad boy with a heart of gold." **?The New York Times**

"The book's... dynamic artwork and message that 'normal is boring' should go a long way toward assuring kids who don't fit the mold that there's a place for them, too." **?Publishers Weekly**

"Incredibly detailed and imaginative illustrations . . . add depth and humor. . . . an enjoyable story that even the most reluctant readers should enjoy." **?Library Media Connection**

"There is substance as well as appeal here.... Patterson deftly manages the pace of revelations that take readers deeper into Rafe's fragile trust.... Readers ready for something else in the same vein but more substantive than Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* or Peirce's *Big Nate* should be introduced to Rafe."

**?Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**

### **About the Author**

James Patterson has had more *New York Times* bestsellers than any other writer, ever, according to *Guinness World Records*. Since his first novel won the Edgar Award in 1977 James Patterson's books have sold more than 300 million copies. He is the author of the Alex Cross novels, the most popular detective series of the past twenty-five years, including *Kiss the Girls* and *Along Came a Spider*. He writes full-time and lives in Florida with his family.

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Ian Ashlock:**

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open as well as read a book entitled Public

School Superhero? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have additional opinion?

**Dan Williams:**

The reserve untitled Public School Superhero is the e-book that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to you actually. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of research when write the book, so the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of Public School Superhero from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

**Bethany Christiansen:**

As a college student exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher requested them to go to the library or make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just small students that has reading's heart and soul or real their pastime. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading critically. Any students feel that studying is not important, boring and can't see colorful images on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this time, many ways to get whatever you want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this Public School Superhero can make you feel more interested to read.

**Olive Griffin:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got students? We believe that that query was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. So you know that little person similar to reading or as reading become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the point. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update about something by book. Amount types of books that can you take to be your object. One of them are these claims Public School Superhero.

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