



# Supersonic

In this coming-of-age film, a deaf teenager reunites with his long lost father and learns his father has superpowers. He has to decide whether he will use them for good or for evil.

**Recommended for ages 8+**

**Themes:** family; disability; coming of age; fantasy

**Director(s):** Samuel Dore | **30 min** | **Live Action** | **2015** | **Country:** United Kingdom | **Language:** Spoken English and British Sign Language



## SET THE STAGE | THOUGHT-STARTERS

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Samuel Dore is not only a filmmaker but also a graphic designer, photographer and illustrator. His award-winning films connect with audiences within and beyond Deaf Cinema and demonstrate that a disability does not need to define the work.

### WORDS TO KNOW

- **Symbol:** A thing that represents or stands for something else, especially a material object representing something abstract.
- **Supersonic:** A speed that is greater than the speed of sound.

For more film terms, refer to the PCFF Film Glossary ([pcffri.org/FilmHub](http://pcffri.org/FilmHub)).

## TALK ABOUT IT | DISCUSSION

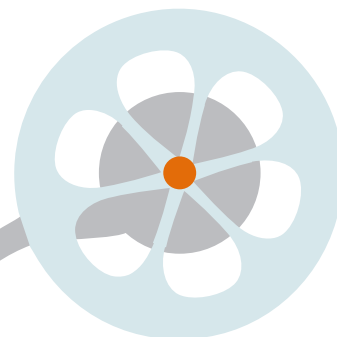
- What are the characteristics of a hero? Who is your favorite hero in fiction? In real life? Why?
- Is the mechanic a good guy or a bad guy? Why or why not?
- Why does Isaac drop out of college? Why does he say he'll end up working in a supermarket no matter what?
- Is Isaac's father a hero? Why or why not? What did Isaac's father have to give up because of his superpower? Do most heroes have to give something up to make the world a better place?
- What choice would you have made if you were Isaac's father?
- What would you do with your superpower if you were Isaac?
- What does Isaac's superpower symbolize?
- People in the deaf community argue that being deaf isn't a disability; it's just another way of experiencing the world. What's the difference between a disability and a superpower or super-ability? Can they be one in the same in some ways?
- Can you guess the mood of what is being said even without reading the subtitles? How does sign language communicate emotion using facial expressions and gestures?
- Do Isaac and his dad look like most superheroes in the movies or in comic books? Why or why not?



Clues  
and  
Cues

Pay attention while watching

- How is music used to create mood?
- Do you notice any moments in the film when hearing people treat deaf people differently?



## GET CREATIVE | EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



For Activity Reel details, downloadable storyboard template and more, visit the the Film Hub website: [www.pcffri.org/FilmHub](http://www.pcffri.org/FilmHub)

### • Writing Prompt

If you could have any superpower, what would it be? How would you use it? Would you use it to make the world a better place or would you be tempted to use it for your own personal gain? (If you're having trouble deciding on a superpower, you can write about flight or invisibility.)

### • Imagine a Superhero

**Materials:** Paper and pencil

Isaac's father made him a book about Supersonic. Imagine your own superhero and create a short comic book about them or plan a storyboard. What special powers does your superhero have? How did your superhero get those powers? Did your superhero have to give up something to be a hero?

### • Make a Scene with Sound (or without Sound)

**Materials:** Audio recorder or smart phone, computer with free audio editing software

When you eliminate one sense, the other senses get stronger. Close your eyes or use a blindfold. What sounds do you hear right now? Notice the sounds of everyday objects you usually tune out, like the hum of fluorescent lights or the sound of a fridge turning on and off. Get an audio recording device, put on a pair of headphones and get as close as you can to the source of those sounds with an external microphone or the internal microphone on your phone. Then, using free audio editing software like Audacity, edit those sounds together to recreate the auditory world of your classroom, kitchen, bedroom, cafeteria, or any other site you choose. If you don't have editing software, just play the sounds you have recorded as a stream of sound from your computer.

### • Make Your Own Special Effects

**Materials:** You can either do this without any equipment or use a camera and video editing software

In the movie *Supersonic*, the filmmaker uses simple video editing to create the illusion that Isaac is moving incredibly fast. How could you create special effects either through illusion or video editing? Could you make it look like someone was flying? Or walking through walls? Or walking on the ceiling? Try different techniques using a camera, or simply make a storyboard of the scenes you could make.

## MAKE CONNECTIONS | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources complement the film and inspire further discussion or programming.

### BOOKS

#### • X-Men

by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby

The X-men comic book series tell the story of a special school for people with special abilities. But like *Supersonic*, the line between disability and superability is blurred. These comics celebrate difference.

### FILMS

#### • Through Ellen's Ears (2013)

This sensitive documentary tells the story of a deaf Dutch middle school girl trying to fit into hearing society.

#### • Meeting Superman (2015)

When Neo wakes up one morning, she has no clue this is the day she will be meeting Superman.

#### • Antboy (2013)

Twelve-year-old Pelle leads a dreadfully dull life in his small Danish town until a bite from a very special ant endows him with the incredible powers of...an ANT!

• **X-Men** movies. Like *Supersonic*, this popular series blurs the line between disability and superability.

• Indicates PCFF festival selection

## BEYOND THE FILM | RELATED INTERNET LINKS

#### • Interview with director Samuel Dore:

[www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk/samuel-dore](http://www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk/samuel-dore) -

#### • Samuel Dore's blog while shooting *Supersonic*:

[www.bslzone.co.uk/latest/director-sam-dore-writes-about-supersonic-rehearsals/](http://www.bslzone.co.uk/latest/director-sam-dore-writes-about-supersonic-rehearsals/)

#### • Interview with Samuel Dore about being a deaf filmmaker:

[www.limpingchicken.com/2015/01/28/im-always-looking-for-a-hook-meet-award-winning-deaf-filmmaker-samuel-dore/](http://www.limpingchicken.com/2015/01/28/im-always-looking-for-a-hook-meet-award-winning-deaf-filmmaker-samuel-dore/)