

## “Defining a Hero”

by  
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**What** Heroes don't wear capes. True heroes love and protect, knowing the risks and sacrifices that come along with their duty. Use this script as a Readers Theater or memorized performance to acknowledge the selfless service of veterans, fallen soldiers, and first responders.

**Themes:** Heroes, Love, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, First Responders

**Who** Reader 1- older than Reader 2  
Reader 2

**When** Present

**Wear (Props)** Use matching black folders if you are reading instead of performing the script memorized.

**Why** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; John 15:13; Philippians **Reader 2**:3-4; Romans 5:8

**How** This script is best performed memorized, but if you do read it in a “reader’s theatre” style, be as familiar with it as possible so you can look up and out and engage with your audience. Use matching folders if you decide to read instead of memorizing. Be careful that Reader 1 is knowledgeable but not a “know-it-all.” Make sure he communicates with the warmth of a good mentor. Reader 2 can start out light but should move into more seriousness as the script progresses.

For more ideas on how to perform this script, watch [How to Perform a Reader's Theatre at SkitGuys.com](#).

**Time** Approximately 3 minutes

*Readers in place before lights up. Lights up*

**Reader 1:** How do we define "a hero"?

**Reader 2:** Superpowers! And a mask...ooh, a cape! Oh, wait. No cape. Capes are dangerous.

**Reader 1:** Uh, no.

**Reader 2:** Ok. Well, then a cool name, like "Master Defender" or "The Ultimate Vindicator."

**Reader 1:** I think we're off track here.

**Reader 2:** Really? You said, "A hero."

**Reader 1:** Yes, but I'm talking about a real person—not a superhero out of a comic book.

**Reader 2:** Maybe, someone with unusual strength?

**Reader 1:** No, but...

**Reader 2:** Or someone who has no fear no matter what comes his way!

**Reader 1:** Not quite, but I think you're getting warmer.

**Reader 2:** So, what is a hero?

**Reader 1:** I think a hero is one who loves.

**Reader 2:** What? Like roses and kisses and hugs?

**Reader 1:** Seriously? You may be watching a few too many movies. I'm talking about real love.

**Reader 2:** Real love.

**Reader 1:** Yes! Think about it. Love protects. It hopes. Love perseveres. It puts others first. It doesn't delight in evil.

**Reader 2:** Love protects.

**Reader 1:** Exactly. Regardless of how scary the situation is, a hero defends people anyway. Why is that?

**Reader 2:** Courage?

**Reader 1:** Courage...compelled by love.

**Reader 2:** What if the person doesn’t deserve protection?

**Reader 1:** Love protects and hopes anyway without keeping a record of wrong.

**Reader 2:** But what if the person isn’t grateful for that protection?

**Reader 1:** Love is not self-seeking. True heroes don’t serve for what they get in return.

**Reader 2:** But wouldn’t heroes get discouraged?

**Reader 1:** They can. But love hopes and always perseveres.

**Reader 2:** What if those being protected never even know the cost?

**Reader 1:** Again, love seeks the good of others above his own. Love sacrifices.

**Reader 2:** But what if the cost is high...really high?

**Reader 1:** “No one has greater love than this—that one lays down his life for his friends” (John 15:13 NET).

**Reader 2:** But, can a hero really...well, die?

**Reader 1:** Yes, they can. These heroes are people, just like everyone else. They’re imperfect. They deal with fear and discouragement. They get it wrong sometimes.

**Reader 2:** Like me.

**Reader 1:** But regardless, they’ve chosen to love in an extraordinary way. Without even realizing it, many of these human heroes have demonstrated a spiritual truth.

**Reader 2:** Sacrificial love?

**Reader 1:** Exactly. Romans 5:8 (NET) says, “But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Unlike human heroes, Jesus—God’s Son—was absolutely perfect and blameless. And he laid down his life for us so that we could experience freedom from sin and its penalty and enslavement. But then, he did what no human hero—no matter how amazing he or she is—can do on his own; He rose from the grave to reign for eternity and to intercede for us. He rescued us!

**Reader 2:** I want all the human heroes to know what God has done for them.

**Reader 1:** Me too.

**Reader 2:** And I wish I could say, "Thank you," to each and every one.

**Reader 1:** So do I. For now, we can remember those who sacrificed. We can thank God for them.

**Reader 2:** And we can pray for those still serving.

**Reader 1:** And we can honor them by emulating that kind of selfless love.

*Lights out.*

*OPTIONAL ENDINGS:*

***Ending 1***

**Reader 2:** Lord, thank You for those heroes in our lives who have protected, sacrificed, and loved.

**Reader 1:** And God, may You remember them with great favor.

***Ending 2***

**Reader 2:** So, while heroes may not wear capes, sometimes they may wear a uniform.

**Reader 1:** Sometimes.

**Reader 2:** I've always thought of heroes as someone whose name is well known.

**Reader 1:** They can be. But often, they dutifully serve—unknown, unrecognized. But today...

***For Memorial Day on the last Monday in May***

...on Memorial Day, we set aside a special time to remember those who have given their lives to protect and defend others. Most have never looked us in the eye. Many have never walked on the same soil as we. We'll never shake their hands. We'll never hug their necks. And yet, they sacrificed anyway. To those who have given their lives for the sake of others, we say, "Thank you."

*Perhaps, invite those who have lost loved ones during military service to stand. Possibly, pass out poppies to each.*

And to you who have lost loved ones in the pursuit of justice and protection, we commend you and thank you. God bless.

*Invite a designated person—perhaps one of your readers—to pray a prayer of thanksgiving and remembrance and a prayer for those grieving.*

***For Recognition of Emergency First Responders usually around September 11<sup>th</sup>***

...we have heroes walking among us—fire fighters, EMT's, and police officers. *(Invite first responders to stand)* Today, we thank you for devoting your careers to protecting, defending, and healing others. It is no small service. We offer you our gratitude, knowing it will never be enough. And we pray to our heavenly Father for you as you rally around your community.

*Invite a designated person—perhaps one of your readers—to pray over them.*

***For Veteran's Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>***

...on Veteran's Day, we have heroes walking among us. *(Invite those who have served or are serving in the military to stand)*. Today, we thank you for devoting yourselves to protecting and defending. It is no small service. We offer you our gratitude, knowing it will never be enough. And we pray for protection over those of you who continue to selflessly serve.

*Invite a designated person—perhaps one of your readers—to pray over them.*