**INTRODUCTION TO REGULAR EXPRESSIONS**

**Review**

Do you feel those regular expression superpowers coursing through your body? Do you just want to scream ah+ really loud? Awesome! You are now ready to take these skills and use them out in the wild. Before beginning your adventures, let’s review what we’ve learned.

* *Regular expressions* are special sequences of characters that describe a pattern of text that is to be matched
* We can use *literals* to match the exact characters that we desire
* *Alternation*, using the pipe symbol |, allows us to match the text preceding or following the |
* *Character sets*, denoted by a pair of brackets [], let us match one character from a series of characters
* *Wildcards*, represented by the period or dot ., will match any single character (letter, number, symbol or whitespace)
* *Ranges* allow us to specify a range of characters in which we can make a match
* *Shorthand character classes* like \w, \d and \s represent the ranges representing word characters, digit characters, and whitespace characters, respectively
* *Groupings*, denoted with parentheses (), group parts of a regular expression together, and allows us to limit alternation to part of a regex
* *Fixed quantifiers*, represented with curly braces {}, let us indicate the exact quantity or a range of quantity of a character we wish to match
* *Optional quantifiers*, indicated by the question mark ?, allow us to indicate a character in a regex is optional, or can appear either 0 times or 1 time
* The *Kleene star*, denoted with the asterisk \*, is a quantifier that matches the preceding character 0 or more times
* The *Kleene plus*, denoted by the plus +, matches the preceding character 1 or more times
* The *anchor* symbols hat ^ and dollar sign $ are used to match text at the start and end of a string, respectively