

# CAPE & COWLS

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**BASED ON:** John Harper's Lasers and Feelings, [onesevendesign.com/lasers\\_and\\_feelings\\_rpg.pdf](http://onesevendesign.com/lasers_and_feelings_rpg.pdf)  
**THANKS:** Graham Starfelt, Auden Reiter, and rednightmare  
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**MORE INFO:** For character sheets and more information, visit [brianshourd.com/capes](http://brianshourd.com/capes)

THE WORLD IS IN PERIL and your team is the only thing that stands between evil and innocence. Everything rests on your shoulders. Are you up to the challenge?

## SETUP

### PLAYERS: CREATE YOUR SUPERHERO

For each of the following characteristics, pick one from the list and mark it on your character sheet. When you are done, fill in some details in order to have a complete character with a backstory, personality, goals, a theme, etc.

**POWER:** Flight, Magic, Speed, Psionics, Gadgets, Strength, Acrobatics, Shapeshifting

**STYLE:** Controller, Defender, Sneaker, Brawler, Thinker, Blaster, Leader, Healer

**ORIGIN:** Alien, Mutant, Demigod, Mystical, Survivor, Construct, Paranormal, Super-science

**MOTIVATION:** Freedom, Revenge, Religion, Fortune, Justice, Glory, Love, or create your own

**NAME:** Pick a really awesome superhero name.

**NUMBER:** Choose a number, from 2 to 5. A high number means you are a cowl, and good at: detective work, calm rationality, plots and plans (think Batman). A low number means you are a cape, and good at: intuition, diplomacy, wild and passionate action (think Superman).

**EMBLEM:** Something that fits your name and powers. Draw it on your character sheet.

### PLAYERS: CREATE THE TEAM

Once everyone has created their character, collaboratively create your superhero team. Choose a name, a bane, and a boon.

**TEAM NAME:** What name shall evildoers curse when their plans are foiled?

**BANE:** Outlawed, Infighting, Underfunded, Bad Reputation

**BOON:** Government-backed, Good Press, Well Funded, Tight-knit

### GM: CREATE A SUPERHERO ADVENTURE

Roll randomly or choose from the options below. Don't tell the players - let it come out during play. While they are busy creating their team, come up with a relevant and action-packed opening scene to throw at them.

**A THREAT...** 1. Electrometus: Mage of Magnetism, 2. The Ancients of Um'tach, 3. Northern Bear Tamers, 4. Alien Brain Worms, 5. The Mole People, 6. Berserk Robots

**WANTS TO...** 1. Blow up, 2. Bond with, 3. Steal / Capture, 4. Pacify / Occupy, 5. Protect / Empower, 6. Build / Synthesize

**THE...** 1. Doomsday Machine, 2. World's Satellites, 3. Alien Artifact, 4. Ancient Ruin, 5. Team's Base, 6. President

**WHICH WILL...** 1. Start a war, 2. Reverse time, 3. Make them rich, 4. Enslave humanity, 5. Destroy the world, 6. Destroy the heroes

## PLAY THE GAME

### ROLLING THE DICE

Whenever your character tries to do something risky, roll 1d6 to find out how it goes. Roll +1d if you're prepared and +1d if you're an expert. The GM tells you how many dice to roll, based on your character, your action, and the situation. The GM also has final say on whether you are acting as a cape or as a cowl. Roll your dice and compare each die result to your number.



**COWL (ROLL LOW):** If you're using your cowl (plans, reason, detecting), you want to roll under your number. Rolling under your number is a success.



**CAPE (ROLL HIGH):** If you're using your cape (rapport, passion, intuition), you want to roll over your number. Rolling over your number is a success.

**FLASH OF INSIGHT:** If you roll your number exactly, you have a flash of insight. You get to ask the GM a question that they'll answer honestly. Examples: What are they really feeling? Who's behind this? How could I get them to do X? What's the best way to do Y? What's really going on here? You can change your action if you want to, then roll again.

### INTERPRETING RESULTS

**0:** If none of your dice succeed, it goes wrong. The GM says how things get worse somehow.

**1:** If one die succeeds, you barely manage it. The GM inflicts a complication, harm, or cost.

**2:** If two dice succeed, you do it well. Good job!

**3:** If three dice succeed, you get a critical success! The GM tells you some extra effect you get.

**HELPING:** If you want to help someone else who's rolling, say how you try to help and make a roll. If you succeed, give them +1d.

### GM: RUN THE GAME

Play to find out how they defeat the threat. Introduce the threat by showing evidence of its recent badness. Before a threat does something to the characters, show signs that it's about to happen, then ask them what they do. "Electrometus raises his hands, crackling with electricity. What do you do?" "The horrific worm is poised on the guardian's shoulder. What do you do?"

Let the players use their team's boon to their advantage sometimes. Introduce complications because of their bane. Call for a roll when the situation is uncertain. Don't pre-plan outcomes, and use failures to push the action forward. The situation always changes after a roll, for good or ill.

Ask questions and build on the answers. "Have any of you encountered a Bear Tamer before? Where? What happened?"