

# KIDS' page

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## THE SILVER AGE: History of comics part II

by Captain Comic

Come together fellow comic junkies, Captain Comic is about to take you on a journey through space and time, through the **FOURTH DIMENSION**.

Back, back to the end of an era and the beginning of a revolution. The silver age of comics is one of the most influential eras in comic history. Near the end of the Golden age, comics were taking a turn for the worse. Many titles were dying off due to low interest and sales. Comics had begun to get away from

the "superhero" and into other things like science and horror. E.C. (Educational Comics later Entertaining Comics) began publication of a series of well-written and drawn titles in 1950 that were very popular at the time. Crypt of Terror, Tales from the Crypt, Weird Science, and the Vault of Horror were just some of the titles published.

This all came to an abrupt end when in 1954 Fredric Wertham published a book titled "Seduction of

the Innocent". This book waged all out war on comics, believing them to be responsible for America's corrupted youth. So after a lengthy investigation by the U.S. Senate, they created the Comics Code Authority which allowed them to censor and screen comics. This marked the end of the Golden age.

But it didn't end there, the end of one age is the beginning of another and so in 1954 DC began a revival of their Golden age superheroes starting with "The Flash" in Showcase

No. 4. This is considered to be the first comic in the Silver age. In 1961 Stan Lee and Marvel Comics followed suit with their first Silver age comic magazine. "The Fantastic Four" featured Mr. Fantastic, The Invisible Girl, The Human Torch, and The Thing and inaugurated a new line of Marvel Comics with a contemporary style.

Then in 1962 in a high school lab experiment a nerdy kid named Peter Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider, later to become your friendly neighbourhood Spider-man. At first the "Spider-man" concept met with some concern about its plausibility as a superhero but as you all know they had nothing to worry about. As well in 1962, Marvel introduced the world to The Hulk and Thor. The X-Men didn't appear until 1963 and met with success that would be revived in the late 1980's and early 1990's. These books about super-men, their powers and their lives went over well because most of them were normal people that weren't billionaires. Take Spider-man for

instance, he was a lower middle class geek that no one really liked. Suddenly he found himself with great powers, something every kid dreamed of and could relate to. So there you have it, comics that real people could relate to, have fun with and long to become in their imagination.

The Silver age is what today's comics are based on. Many titles that are in print today came from the Silver age, some were even made into T.V. shows such as Spider-man, The Hulk, and Doctor Strange. It's impact on the comic industry has lasted through the ages and the rest is history.

If any of you Comic Junkies out there have any questions or you would like to write a letter to Captain Comic feel free to do so. Send inquiries to:

CAPTAIN COMIC  
 FOURTH DIMENSION  
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 L7G 2C9

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**COMIC TRIVIA: What did Spider-man first decide to use his powers for?**

Drop off your written answers at: Fourth Dimension, 78 Mill St., Georgetown and you could win "Ghost Rider #15 (Glow the dark cover).

Answer to last week's question: *DETECTIVE COMICS.*  
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