

PICTURE IT!

A CELEBRATION OF
COMICS, COMIC BOOKS,
AND GRAPHIC NOVELS

TEEN READ MONTH

THE WORLD OF COSPLAY

DRESS YOU UP:

Cosplay, short for “costume play” or *kosupure*, is a type of performance art. The term “cosplay” was coined by Nobuyuki Takahashi after he attended the 1984 Los Angeles Science Fiction WorldCon and saw fans in costumes.

Persons dress up as their favorite manga, cartoon, anime, sci-fi or fantasy character. Inspiration for cosplay also includes characters from comic books, graphic novels, video games and movies. It’s not just limited to characters; fans have dressed up as inanimate objects as well. Taking a page from William Shakespeare’s time, genders can switch roles— males can be females and females can be male characters. Your only limitation is your imagination.

COS-PLAY:

The term “cosplay” is a portmanteau of the English words “costume” and “play.”

- * What other portmanteau’s can you create? www.lexiconcept.com
- * Who is your favorite pop culture character? What attributes do you admire about him/her? How would you make the costume for that character?

YOU LOOK MARVELOUS:

When making your costume, the accepted norm is to adhere as strictly as possible to what the character normally wears. Costumes can be purchased or handcrafted.

- * Take a doll and dress it up in your favorite character’s costume, or have a cosplay day at your school or local library, or sketch your costume.
- * Have a contest for best interpretation of a character in costume.
- * Have a costume sketch contest.
- * Write a skit. Dress up as the characters and act out a scene from a comic or graphic novel.
- * Set up a photo shooting area and take pictures. Post the pictures in the classroom. Attach to the pictures a short description of the character, why you chose this particular character. List attributes of the character that you also possess, and how the character is different from you.

LEARN MORE:

RESEARCH ONLINE:

- * Cosplay Magic: www.cosplaymagic.com
- * Cosplay Lab: www.cosplaylab.com
- * Flickr, “library cosplay:” www.flickr.com/search/?w=all&q=library+cosplay&m=text
- * Wikihow on making cosplay costumes: www.wikihow.com/Make-Cosplay-Costumes
- * Lakewood Public Library Anime Club: www.lkwdpl.org/anime/cosplay.html

READ ABOUT IN A BOOK OR A MAGAZINE:

- * Dorfman, Elena and Carlo McCormick. *Fandomania: Characters & Cosplay*. NY: Aperture Foundation, Inc., 2007. Print.
- * Dunlop, Rob and Peter Lumby. *Cosplay Fever*. London: Ablaze, 2010. Print.
- * Kurotaki, Jan. *How to Cosplay*. vols. 1 – 4. London: ADV Manga, 2007. Print.
- * Winge, Theresa. “Costuming the Imagination: Origins of Anime and Manga Cosplay.” *Mechademia: Emerging Worlds of Anime and Manga*. Vol. 1. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, 2006. 65–76. Print.

OTAKU: GEEKING OUT FOR EVERYONE TO SEE:

- * Cosplay; an organized gallery of cosplay: cosplay.com
- * ComicCon 2010 Cosplay Gallery: www.tested.com/news/the-comic-con-2010-cosplay-gallery-850-amazing-costumes/594



- * Cosplayers dressed as the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles at the Anime Expo 2011, held at the Los Angeles Convention Center in California.

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