What role do heroes play in our lives? For most people a hero is a representation of a goal for becoming better or as greater as he/she. That aim symbolizes one's desire to be as successful, smart and even rich as his/her hero. It becomes your picture of great person. However, as all people are different, they have different perspectives on who can be a hero for one. Gary Engle’s and Jenny Lyn Barder’s articles represent a picture of what they think can be a hero for them and probably for the generation or even the whole nation. However, their articles give different perspectives on this theme.

Gary Engle’s essay based on analysis of Superman as a hero. Here, he tries to understand “What makes Superman so darned American” (Engle 1), why people of America, throughout years and appearing of many other personages, are dedicated to his persona. At the beginning of the essay he states, “…only Superman achieves truly mythic stature, interweaving a pattern of believes, literary conventions, and cultural tradition of American people” (Engle 2), and to understand why the myth of Superman became so popular in American society, he breaks his analysis on some parts.

The first that author points out that most of the Americans, except the Indians, feel their origins elsewhere that this is the country of immigrants. As the story of Superman suggests that he is an orphan and came to the earth from another planet. So he is as “alien” as most people of America. The author makes a statement as most Americans are immigrants they “have looked for ways of coming to terms with the immigrant experience” (Engle 3). So in Superman he sees representation of immigrant experience.
The writer says that historically Americans were in “constant physical movement” (Engle 3) and this movement was a goal for Americans to success and satisfaction of their needs. So he saw in superman ability to fly the symbol of that. He writes, “Superman’s ability to fly does more than place him in tradition of mythic figures ... it makes him an exemplar in the American dream” (Engle 3). Here, Engle suggest that the figure of superman becomes closer to people of America by his representation of social and psychological movement and forsaking the past to succeed in the future. Another thing that makes superman closer to Americans is that his story characterizes assimilation. Engle states, “The shape shifting between Clark Kent and Superman addresses in dramatic terms the theme of cultural assimilation” (Engle 4). The myth of superman shows to people the process of assimilation that is not a shame, but a pride.

Jenny Lyn Barder makes another point in seeing of heroes. So, in the first part of her essay she explains what a Role Hero is in her point of view. She states that all these heroes from magazines and movies are fake, not real, ones. They do not symbolize any pride and power. The people who are playing them are the same people as we are with the same weaknesses and probably are not better. Such, people won’t live in our imagination long. She writes, “Role models are more like compact cars, less glam and roomy but easier to handle. They take up fewer parking spaces in the imagination” (Barder 1). Instead of this characters she represent an idea of another heroes, rear people that live with us. She thinks that we have to be in pride of our fathers, mothers and neighbors, people that we know better.

Jenny Barder and Gary Engle make a theme of their essays representation of a hero. However, they make different points in their articles about that. Engle find in
Superman, a comics hero, a symbol of American dream and characteristics. On the other hand, Barder makes point that we have to seek heroes in people that we know, in our parents.