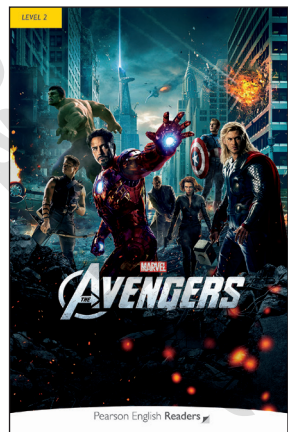


Marvel's The Avengers

Based on the Screenplay by Joss Whedon

Story by Zak Penn and Joss Whedon



About the writers and the Marvel Cinematic Universe

The story for the Marvel movie *The Avengers* (2012) was written by Zak Penn and Joss Whedon. The screenwriter and director, Whedon, is also a producer, comic book writer, and composer. He has created several popular television series including *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* (2013). He was co-writer of the blockbuster movie *Toy Story* (1995), and he wrote and directed the Marvel movie *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (2015). Whedon is also known as the creator of the T.V. series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Zak Penn is a writer, actor, director, and producer. He wrote the screenplay for *The Incredible Hulk* (2008) and co-wrote *X-Men: The Last Stand* (2006).

The Marvel Cinematic Universe is an American media franchise that is centered on a series of super hero movies produced by Marvel Studios. The characters originally appeared in comic books published by Marvel.

These characters now also appear in short films and feature films, television series, and digital series. The shared universe was created using common plot elements, settings, cast, and characters. This new approach to storytelling has inspired other movie studios to try to create similar shared universes.

Summary

The Other orders Loki to go to Earth to get the powerful Tesseract back from S.H.I.E.L.D. Nick Fury, the director of S.H.I.E.L.D., calls in the Avengers to defeat Loki and the army of Chitauri fighters helping him. Loki gets the Tesseract but plans first to use it to take control of Earth. Loki is the adopted brother of Thor, who protects the Earth. After a great battle, with many deaths, the

Avengers win and Thor takes Loki and the Tesseract back home to Asgard.

Chapter 1: The Other wants to get the Tesseract back from S.H.I.E.L.D. so he can use its powers to conquer many other worlds. Before taking it to the Other, Loki's plan is to open the portal through space from the Tesseract, to let the Chitauri fighters enter Earth. After conquering Earth, only then will Loki take the Tesseract back to the Other.

Chapter 2: The Tesseract, which is stored under the S.H.I.E.L.D. building, turns on and will not turn off. Agents Fury and Phil Coulson go to Dr. Erik Selvig for an explanation, but he cannot understand what is happening. Agent Clint Barton (Hawkeye) explains that the Tesseract is a portal to the other end of space. Suddenly there is an explosion and Loki appears with his scepter, which he uses to control the minds of Barton and Selvig. They become fighters working for Loki. Barton gets the Tesseract away from Fury, who contacts Agent Hill for help but Loki destroys part of the S.H.I.E.L.D. building and gets away.

Chapter 3: Natasha Romanoff (Black Widow) and Bruce Banner (Hulk) are called back to the United States to get the Tesseract back from Loki. Fury asks Steve Rogers (Captain America) to help them. Loki goes to Stuttgart, Germany, to get iridium, which will add more power to the Tesseract, but agents on the S.H.I.E.L.D. spaceship locate him. As Loki is stealing the iridium, Captain America and Black Widow manage to capture him after a fight and after Iron Man (Tony Stark) arrives. As they are transporting Loki in the spaceship, Thor appears and questions his brother about the Tesseract. Captain America and Iron Man convince Thor to hand over Loki to the Avengers. They put Loki inside a glass box on their spaceship.

Chapter 4: Banner tells Stark that he thinks Loki plans to take over the Stark Building. Stark thinks it's strange that S.H.I.E.L.D. didn't go to him for energy, so he has been trying to break into their computers to find out why. Loki reveals to Natasha his plans for Barton to kill her and to turn Banner into Hulk. Stark learns that S.H.I.E.L.D. wants to use the Tesseract to make missiles, which makes the Avengers angry. Just after locating the Tesseract there is an explosion on their spaceship. Banner turns into Hulk and fights the others. Thor finds Loki, who tries to kill him but Thor manages to survive. Rogers and Stark save the

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spaceship. Fury admits S.H.I.E.L.D.'s plan to build nuclear missiles with the Tesseract.

Chapter 5: Hulk returns to his human self and Hawkeye regains control of his mind from Loki. Stark and Rogers are unhappy working for Fury but they have no choice. Fury spies on the Avengers. Iron Man tries to stop Selvig who has installed the Tesseract on top of the Stark Building. Stark tells Loki he can't win and shoots him. The Chitauri spaceships fly through the portal to Earth and attack. They fight fiercely but the Avengers kill many of them.

Chapter 6: Black Widow takes control of a Chitauri spaceship and flies it to the Stark Building. S.H.I.E.L.D. instructs Fury to use his nuclear missiles on Manhattan in order to save the world. Fury refuses, hoping the Avengers can defeat the enemy. Selvig, now himself again, reveals that they can turn off the Tesseract and close the portal with Loki's scepter. S.H.I.E.L.D. sends a plane with a nuclear missile to Manhattan. Fury calls Iron Man, who catches the missile in his arms and takes it into the portal. Iron Man is feared dead after an explosion but he falls out of the portal just before it closes and is caught by Hulk.

Chapter 7: Thor takes Loki and the Tesseract with him back to Asgard. Fury agrees with Agent Hill that the Avengers are dangerous but he says they will return because S.H.I.E.L.D. cannot win their battles without them.

Background and themes

Selflessness: The Avengers put themselves in great danger in order to fight for what is right. Ask students: *Can you think of any dangerous jobs? Would you like to have a dangerous job? Why (not)?*

Sibling rivalry: Loki is jealous of his older step-brother, Thor, because their father gave the rule of their country, Asgard, to Thor. To get his revenge, Loki decides to invade Earth, which Thor protects, and take control of it. Ask students: *What other stories do you know about two brothers fighting because they want the same thing?*

Anger: Getting angry causes Bruce Banner to turn into Hulk. He wants to avoid this but is unable to control his anger. When he turns into Hulk, he destroys everything that gets in his way. Ask students: *Do you, or someone you know, sometimes get very angry? What do you, or they, do then? How do you, or they, feel after that?*

Honesty: Nick Fury is dishonest with the Avengers about S.H.I.E.L.D.'s plan to use the Tesseract for nuclear missiles. Stark tells Rogers he doesn't like working for Fury and that Fury and Loki aren't very different. Ask students: *How important is honesty when you are part of a team?*

Power: The Avengers believe that their powers should be used responsibly to do good in the world. Ask students: *What are the good things and bad things about power?*

Discussion activities

Before reading

- 1 Guess:** Ask students to look at the cover and answer these questions: *Where are the Avengers? How do they feel? Do you know their names?*
- 2 Research and artwork:** Ask students to find out about the Tesseract: *What is the Tesseract? If you do not know, look for it on the Marvel Cinematic Universe website. Draw the Tesseract.*

After reading

Who's Who?

- 3 Pair work:** Ask students to read Who's Who? and then to choose a character but not to tell their partner which character they have chosen. In pairs, they ask and answer yes / no questions to guess each other's character. For example: *Are you a man? Were you a bad man?*

Introduction

- 4 Discuss:** Talk about Nick Fury, S.H.I.E.L.D., and the Avengers. Ask students to answer these questions: *What does Nick Fury think about the Avengers? Will they help him?*

Chapters 1–2

After reading

- 5 Role play:** After reading Chapter 1, put students in pairs. Student A is Loki. Student B is the Other. Reading from the text, they can role play the conversation.
- 6 Discuss:** Put students in groups and ask them to discuss these questions: *What do you know about the Tesseract? Why does S.H.I.E.L.D. want it? Why does the Other want it?*

Chapters 3–4

While reading

- 7 Role play:** After Natasha finds Banner at the start of

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Chapter 3, ask students to read from the text and role play the conversation between these two characters. Student A is Natasha and Student B is Dr. Banner.

After reading

- 8 **Discuss:** What is Loki's plan for Dr. Selvig, the iridium, the Stark Building, Agent Barton, Bruce Banner, and Thor?
- 9 **Guess:** What happens next? Discuss what will happen to Hulk and Thor.

Chapter 5

While reading

- 10 **Check:** Check whether students' pre-reading predictions about Hulk and Thor were correct.
- 11 **Role play:** Ask students to choose one of the following and act it out:
the conversation between Thor and Loki about the Chitauri, or
the conversation between Captain America and the two policemen.

After reading

- 12 **Discuss:** Ask students to talk about the Avengers' fight against Loki and the Chitauri: *What did the people on the streets of Manhattan see and hear? What did they do? What did Captain America tell the policemen to do? What did Bruce Banner do?*

Chapters 6–7

While reading

- 13 **Discuss:** Ask students to think about how much danger the Avengers put themselves in. Ask: *When did Captain America feel afraid for the first time? What was he afraid of? How did the people in the bank feel? How did Iron Man save Manhattan?*

After reading

- 14 **Discuss:** Write these words on the board: *S.H.I.E.L.D., Nick Fury, Loki, Iron Man*. Discuss with the whole class how each felt about the Avengers at the beginning and at the end of the story.