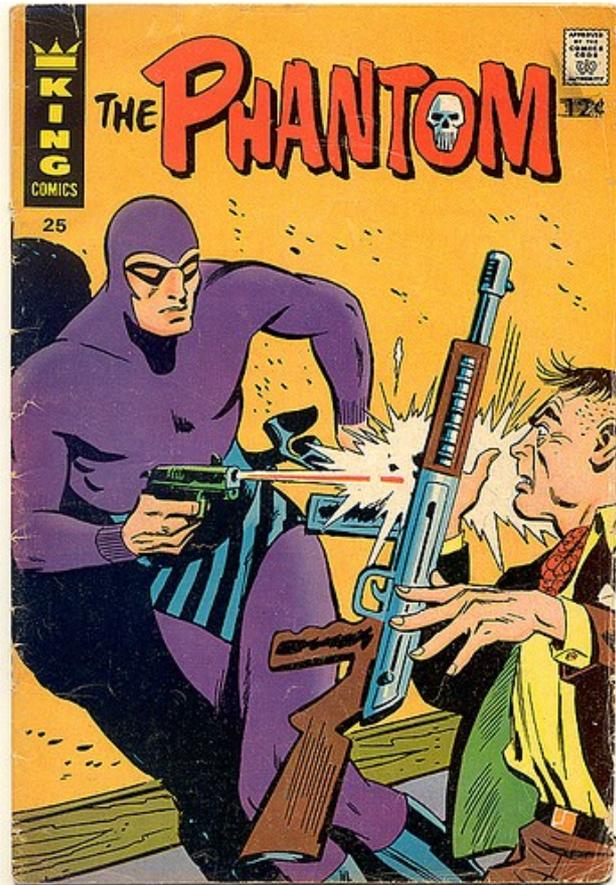


THE PHANTOM,

“Four hundred years ago a merchant ship was attacked by the dread Singh pirates of Bengal!” begins one of the greatest comic strip tales of the twentieth century. The sole survivor of that attack swore “to devote my life to the destruction of all forms of piracy, greed, and cruelty. My sons, and my sons’ sons shall follow me!”

With these ringing words, *The Phantom* began his amazing career of crime-fighting in 1936.



The Phantom was the first crime-fighter to wear the skin-tight body suit that is now the basic uniform. His is purple. The black mask makes it impossible for the pupils of his eyes to be seen.

Apart from members of his own family, no one is allowed to see the Phantom's unmasked face.

The strip began with Lee Falk, creator of *Mandrake the Magician*, who went on to write it until his death in 1999. Other writers have continued since then. The Phantom has also been made into a serial, a television show and several movies.

The Phantom is different from most comic heroes. He cannot fly and he has no X-ray vision or hi-tech gadgets to help him out. His only special quality is his immortality, as the role of Phantom is passed down through generations. (The comic is set in the time of the 21st Phantom.)

His main weapons are two matching Colt .45 pistols and a ring which plants his trade-mark skull print on the jaws of the enemies he has punched out. He is only mildly violent and doesn't seem to have actually *killed* anybody during his long career.

When not on duty as “*The Ghost Who Walks*,” he also enjoys a more complete private life than most of his rivals. Living as Mr Kit Walker and

happily married to Diana Palmer, he is the father of Kit and Heloise, who plan to follow him in his chosen path. They all reside together in the Skull Cave, recently upgraded as a tree house. His friends include his horse Hero, his pet wolf Devil, the Presidents of two African Republics and a group of local pygmies.

An extremely moral person, the Phantom neither smokes nor drinks and is very culturally sensitive. In countries like New Guinea, where the comic has reached cult status, the Phantom is used as a good example in public service programs, such as those promoting safe-sex practices.

1. Use the correct prefix to turn each of the following words from the passage into its *antonym* (word of opposite meaning.)

* *sensitive*

* *moral*

* *complete*

* *safe*

* *destruction*

2. Use the Dictionary to find the four main parts of these verbs from the passage.

**Present
Tense**

**Past
Tense**

**Past
Participle**

**Present
Participle**

	<i>swore</i>		
<i>wear</i>			
<i>fly</i>			
	<i>went</i>		
			<i>ringing</i>

3. In each group of five words from the passage, one of the shaded sounds is different from the other four. Pick out the odd sound.

- * **which**, **reached**, **tech**, **merchant**, **punched**
- * **Republics**, **drinks**, **X-ray**, **sex**, **example**
- * **allowed**, **follow**, **now**, **down**, **out**.....
- * **when**, **which**, **where**, **who**, **went**
- * **ship**, **television**, **special**, **generations**, **Magician**.....

4. Find *homophones* (words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings) in the passage for the following words:

- * *cereal* * *threw*
- * *scene* * *hoarse*
- * *maid* * *aloud*
- * *seam* * *won*.....
- * *knew*..... * *where*

5. *Ghost* is only one of the many words that name frightening supernatural beings, such as *ghoul*, *demon*, *zombie*, *wandjina*. Which of the above words are derived from the following languages:

[Aboriginal – Ngarinyin]	
[Arabic]	
[Middle English]	
[West African –Kongo]	
[Greek]	

6. Turn these plurals from the passage into their singular forms.

- * *heroes* * *enemies*
- * *pygmies* * *movies*.....
- * *countries*

Answers to **The Phantom**.

1. insensitive, immoral, incomplete, unsafe, construction.
2. swear, swore, sworn, swearing.
wear, wore, worn, wearing.
fly, flew, flown flying.
go, went, gone, going.
ring, rang, rung, ringing.
3. tech, example, follow, who, television.
4. serial, through,
seen, horse,
made, allowed,
seem, one,
New, wear.
5. wandjina
ghoul
ghost
zombie
demon
6. hero, enemy,
pygmy, movie,
country.

Next Week: we look at one of the most dramatic and tragic incidents of the Second World War.

