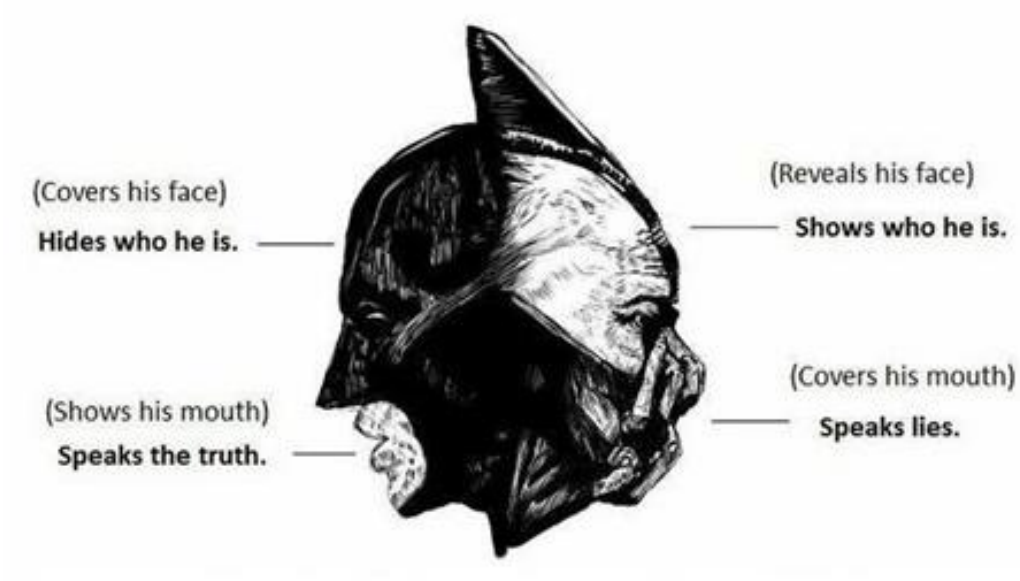
#BlackSuperheroesMatter
The Revolutionary Power of Black Panther

What is a “superhero”

- “Superhero is a person who does heroic deeds and has the ability to do them in a way that a normal person couldn’t” (Stan Lee).
- Myth – helps inspire/fairy tales
- Metaphors
- Social/political issues



History of Black Panther

- Created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby
- First superhero of African descent in mainstream American comics
- Appeared in Fantastic Four #52 in July 1966
- Name predates the October 1966 founding of the Black Panther Party
- Tried to go by “Black Leopard” for awhile in 1970s
- Got its own series in 1973, *Jungle Action*
- First black writer didn’t come until the 1990s
- *Marvel* Comics has always taken a political stance; often specifically trying to address a race issue.
- Has made numerous appearances in various television shows, animated films and video games

Film synopsis

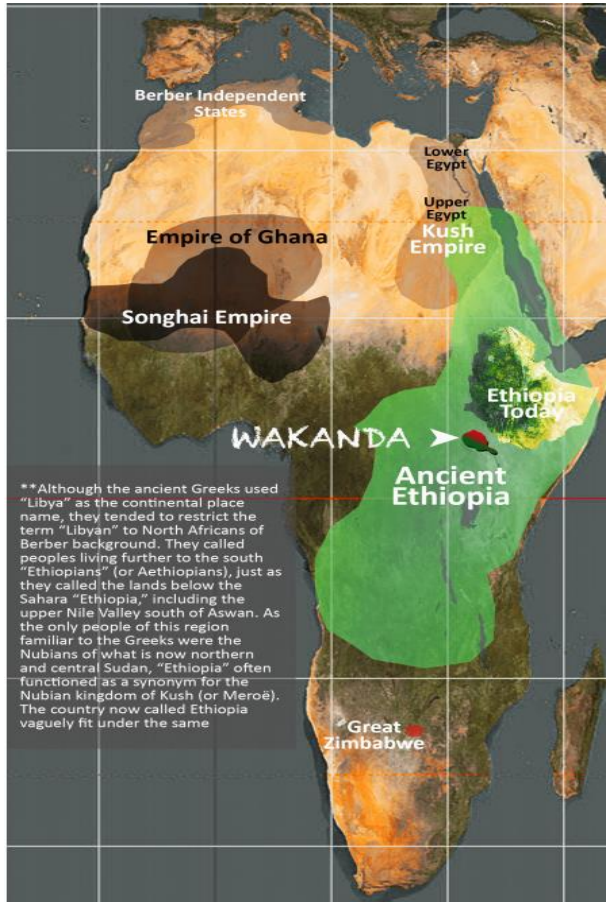
After the death of his father, T'Challa returns home to the African nation of Wakanda to take his rightful place as king. When a powerful enemy suddenly reappears, T'Challa's mettle as king -- and as Black Panther -- gets tested when he's drawn into a conflict that puts the fate of Wakanda and the entire world at risk. Faced with treachery and danger, the young king must rally his allies and release the full power of Black Panther to defeat his foes and secure the safety of his people.

Who is the Black Panther?

- The Black Panther is the royal leader of Wakanda.
- The Black Panther, T’Challa is empowered by the Panther’s spirit.
- Dora Milaje is the royal guard of Wakanda.
- Erik Killmonger, nemesis of Black Panther.

The “Real” Wakanda

- Wakanda in the comic/movie
- Ethiopian Empire
  - Ethiopia is the only African nation to never have been colonized by Europe
  - Ethiopia is the home of the Biblical Garden of Eden
  - Ethiopia is the birthplace of humanity
  - Ethiopia is the cultural center of one of the oldest forms of Christianity in the world
- The Origin of Wakanda



Stereotypes

- Common Cinematic Stereotypes of African-Americans
  - “Magical Negro”
    - African American with special powers who solely help white characters with problems
  - Best Friend
    - Play nurturing, rational caretakers of white lead characters
  - Thug
    - Criminals, Drug Dealers, Pimps, etc.
  - “The Brash Woman”
    - Sassy, maintain drama, comic relief
  - Civil Servant
    - Domestic workers, movies capitalizing off of slavery
  - Dylan Marron’s “Every Single Word”

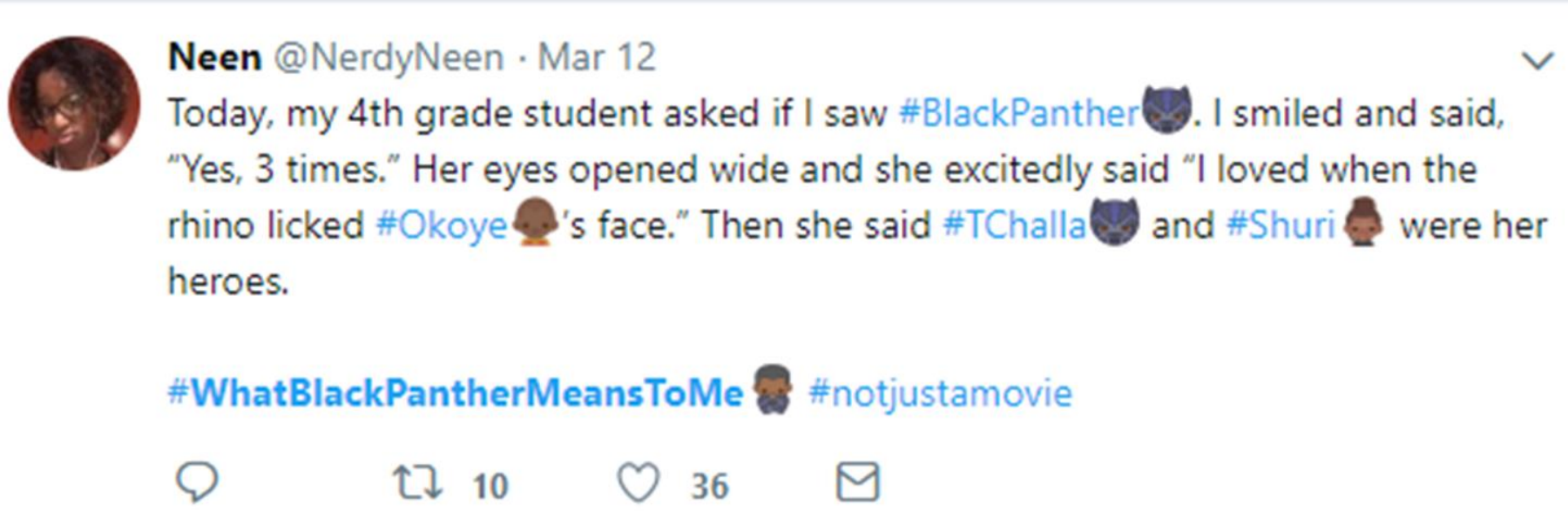
How Black Panther breaks stereotypes

- African-Americans were shown in refreshing light
  - Warriors, Royalty, Engineers, Superheroes
- Proper Representation
  - Wardrobe, Culture, PRIDE, Language
- Role Reversal
  - White actors played minor characters
  - Martin Freeman
- African-Americans were basically treated how white characters are always treated in movies

How Black Panther breaks stereotypes

Role models Black Panther offers - Superheroes

For the first time black kids have a superhero they can identify with a superhero that looks like them.



Hero example

Voice of the people

Voice of the people

MICKAYLA @trapmommick · Feb 18

I cried...I was a kid again staring at a screen seeing people who looked like me in positions of power...fierce & unapologetic...THIS movie did something that no other has...it gave hope & hope is a dangerously wonderful thing ✊ #BlackPantherMovie #WhatBlackPantherMeansToMe 🖤

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Kayla Marie @Maria_Giesela · Feb 18

#WhatBlackPantherMeansToMe 🖤

This smile! – at Regal Cinemas Atlantic Station 18 IMAX & RPX

Miguelito Brownie @MiguelitoBrowne · Feb 17

To see a black film is one thing. But to see a black superhero on the big screen.. to see a black superhero pay homage to our ancestry and speak the truth to what this world needs, means the world to me... #WhatBlackPantherMeansToMe 🖤

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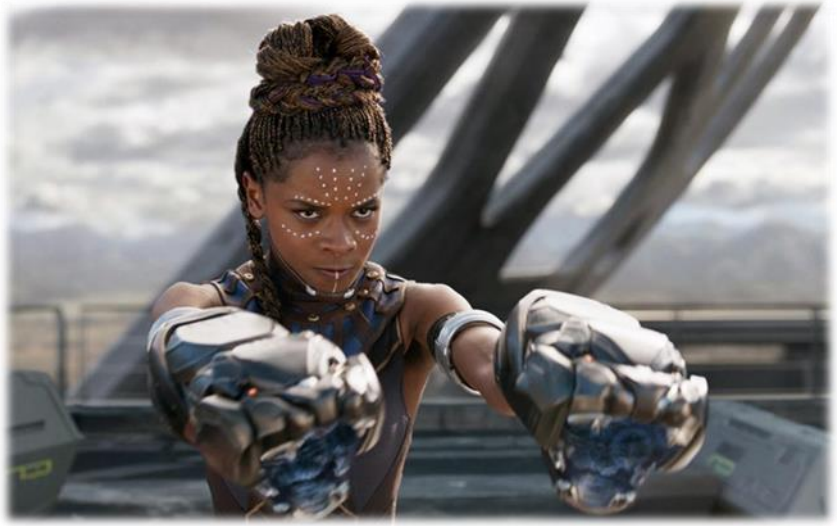
The importance of heroes in a broken society

Super heroes shine through the darkness and they challenge the societal norms, giving us something to strive for.



How do we help young black students to see themselves with the potential to say, "If they can do it, why not me?"

Role models black panther offers – Female can be black scientists and heroes

Video example

Voice of the people

BlackRose @blackstarr412 · Feb 19

Seeing Chocolate sisters on screen in leading roles portraying women with heart,wisdom, & confidence speaks to our remarkable achievements. As a child of the 70s, films would show numerous Black people in marginalized or demeaning roles.
#WhatBlackPantherMeansToMe

Denea Joseph @DeneaRandeen · Feb 19

The symbolism of the Dora Milaje (based on real-life Dahomey Ahosi warriors) isn't lost on me as Black women continue to be the warriors within daily life, leading our communities and nations around the globe in the way that we should go. #WhatBlackPantherMeansToMe

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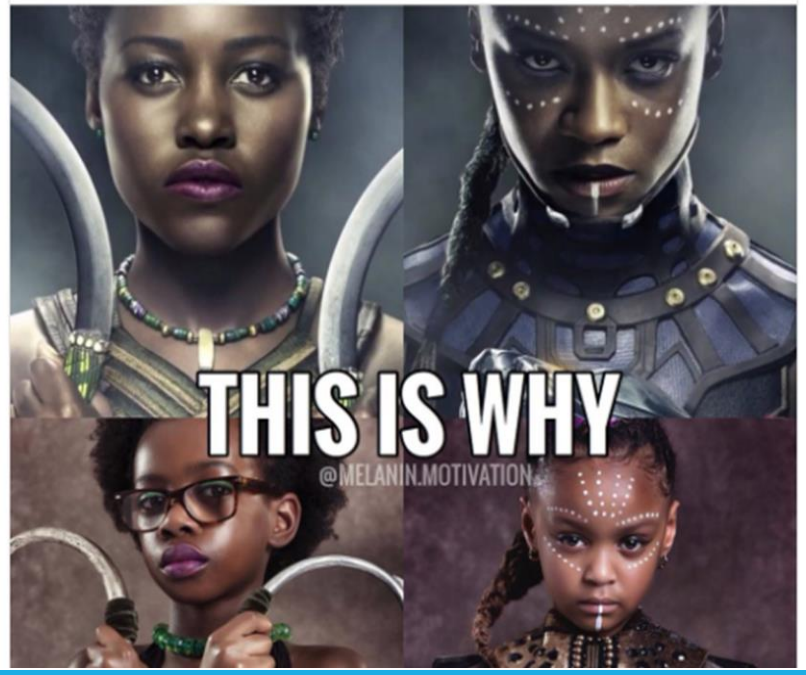
Voice of the people

Julius Buzzard @juliusbuzzard · Feb 23

A world where black girls can see themselves in movies where they are not the prostitute, bystander, slave, princess, or damsel.
#WhatBlackPantherMeansToMe

darkskinwomen



Nathalie Emmanuel @missnemmanuel · Feb 18

I feel so emotional right now... I needed to see that film.... I needed to see THAT film.... I needed to see those characters... and the women... THE BADASS WOMEN #BlackPanther #WakandaForever
#WhatBlackPantherMeansToMe

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shiny charmeleon @de_Milo33 · Feb 18

For the first time in over a year, my Facebook isn't overflowing with toxicity. Logged in and saw nothing but pictures of proud ppl adorned in African attire, & discussing concepts that the film explored. No way you can downplay this films significance. #WhatBlackPantherMeansToMe

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Voice of the people

Sarafina T'Charlier @s_charlier · Feb 19

#WhatBlackPantherMeansToMe 🏿 unabashedly celebrating my blackness for the world to see, and feeling like the royalty this movie portrayed me to be. #WakandaForever 🏿

Naa Dodua Otoo @SharonDoduaOtoo · Feb 19

At the beginning of the movie I was announcing that I was going to shave my head.
By the end I was already revering my silver locks of the future.
I saw all of me - my heritage, my diaspora and my potential - on screen.

Thank you to all involved.

#WhatBlackPantherMeansToMe 🏿

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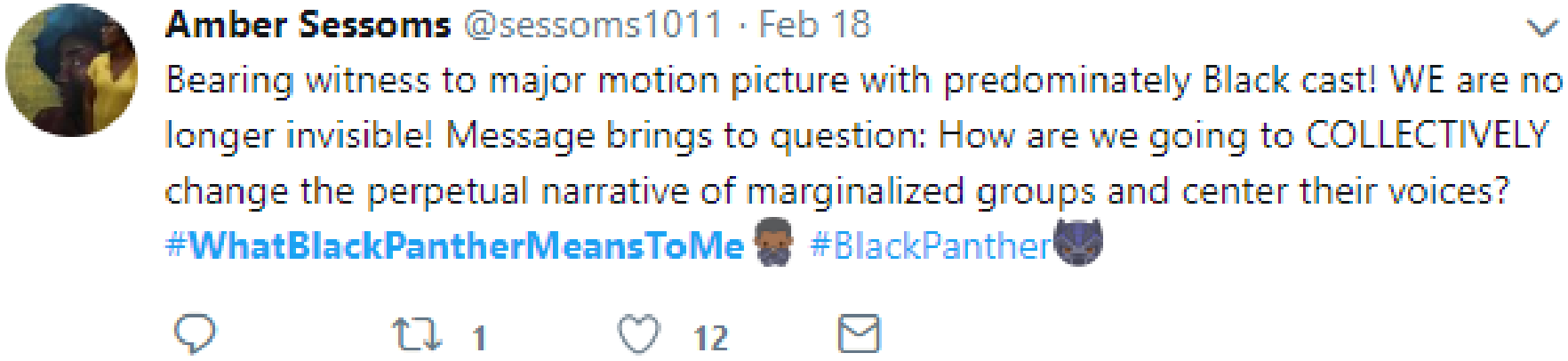
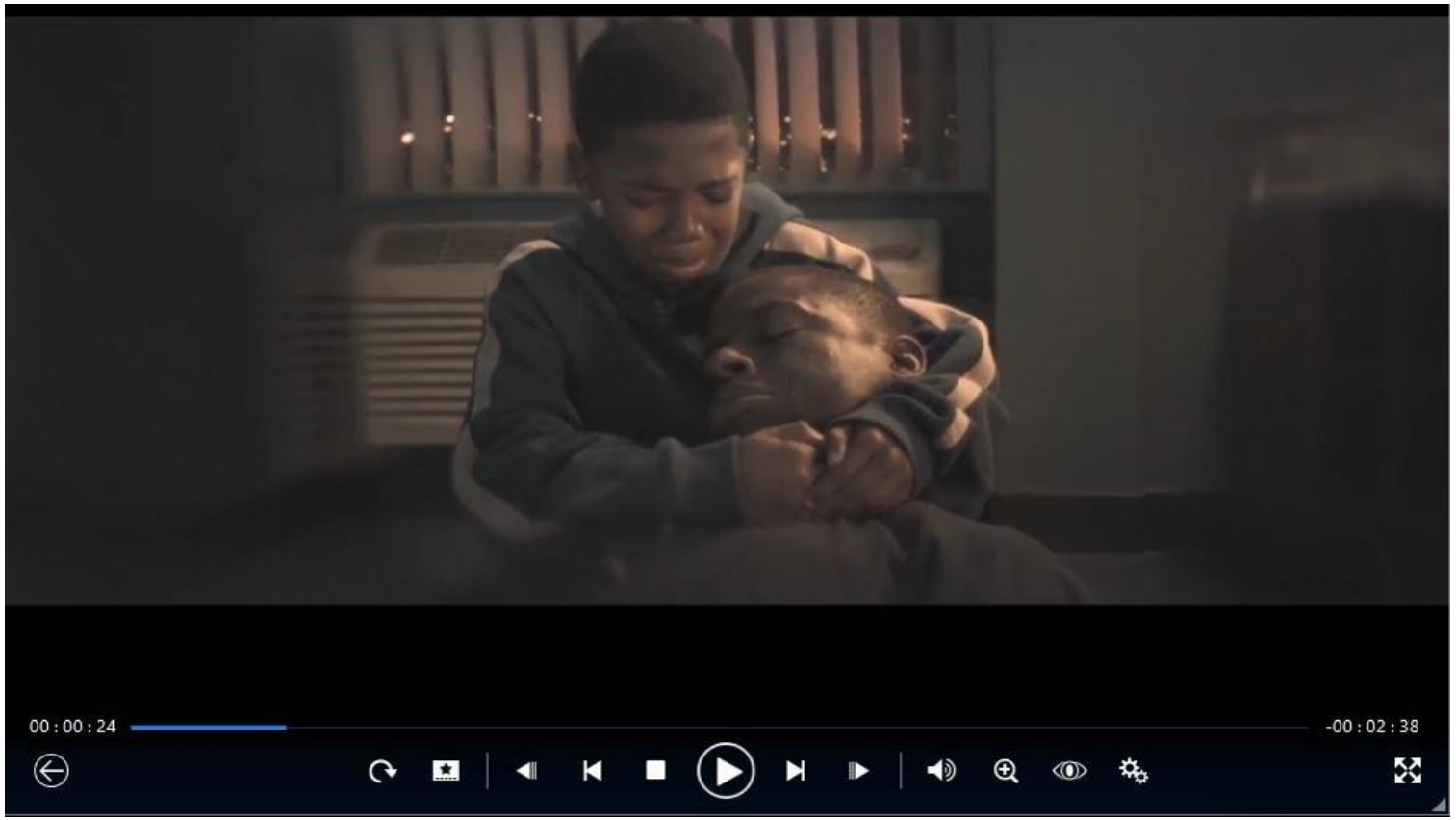
Show this thread

Keeping it going



What can we do to help encourage black female students to embrace careers in technology?

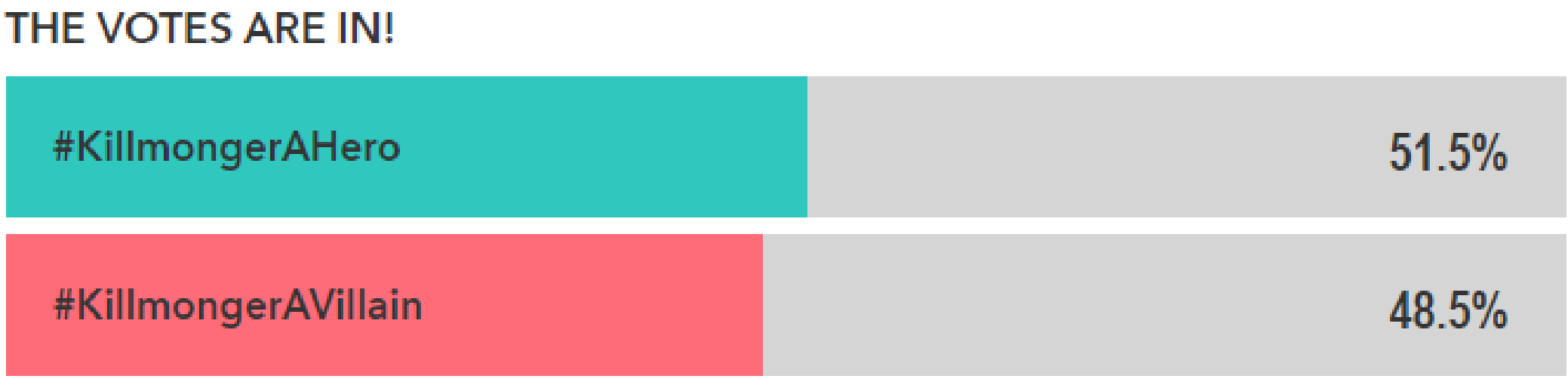
Hero vs. Villain



Erik Killmonger

- He has a right to be angry. His father was murdered by his own people and he was raised under a white supremacist system.
- His anger fueled his hatred of life. He did not mind taking life, because he did not value life. His goal was not liberation or freedom, but rather domination and revenge.
- He called out the black elite who preached assimilation as a way to overcome the trauma of racism. Money does not make you safe or fix the pain.
- Black Panther uses T'Challa and Killmonger to show two opposite spectrums of the response the racism. One a strong country that ignores the plight of other people of the same race and the other of trying to get revenge and dominate those who oppressed their race.

Is Killmonger a Hero or a Villain?



Survey from the Tylt, which is the first project from Advance Digital's in-house incubator Alpha Group, is trying to capture as much of, and as inclusively as it can, the online conversations around heated, timely topics such as this one.

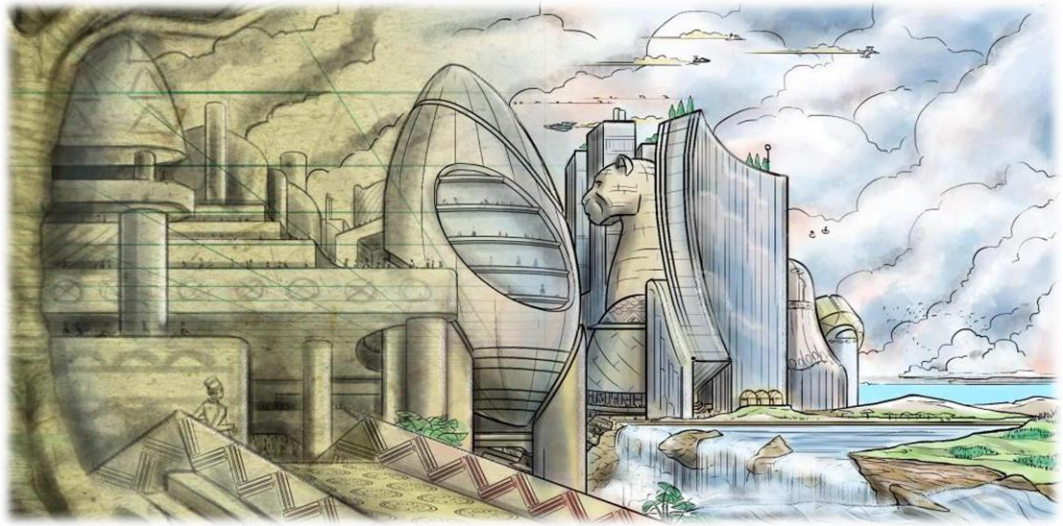
Hero vs. Villian

- Chadwick Boseman states that the Black Panther does not necessarily have a villain and a hero, that it looked at both sides and did not let anyone off the hook.
- Thinking about this quote, no one is 100% hero or are they 100% villain. We are a sum of circumstances and decisions made by us and for us over generations.

How do we use this knowledge as we address conversations about diversity and race on our campus and in our world?

Afrofuturism

- A movement in literature, music, art, etc., featuring futuristic or science fiction themes which incorporate elements of black history and culture.
- Steeped in African history and black identity.
- Many aspects of it focus on African-Americans being in the position of power or having no Anglo/European influence.



Afrofuturism
Wakanda

Afrofuturism
Vibranium

Afrofuturism
Black Panther soundtrack

Afrofuturism
Erik Killmonger

The end

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