

# **2019 Girl Power Contest Winners!**

## **Elementary School Category:**

**Winner:** Franny Battista

**Town:** Sandy Spring

If I had a superpower it would be teleportation. I would use my superpower to open people's eyes to see that things are still unfair for women all around the world. Not too long ago women couldn't vote. Luckily, the law has been changed so now we can. Since the law has been changed a lot of people think that everything is totally equal all around the world. But that is not true. In other country's most girls can't go to school. Yes, it is still happening. I want to change this. Let's travel with teleportation. Hang on! Let's go to Saudi Arabia. Here women have very and I mean very unequal rights. Women here get paid less then men and this country is not alone in this issue. Oh look! Today is payday for the citizens in Saudi Arabia. It seems as though the women are getting paid less money then the men. Saudi women receive 56% less money at work then the Saudi men. Imagine working just as hard as men and being just as qualified for the task but your paycheck seems to behold a smaller number. If we can get more people to understand what this feels like we might be able to change this unfairness. Time to go back to our home country. Next stop, The United States of America. Here there are less women then men who work in the STEM field. The majority of the field is made up of men. In this case women are not given as many opportunities as the men. Oh look! There is a women walking up to the front office it seems to be her first day of work there. She seems to be the only women there. She feels as though she is a totally different creature and does not fit in there. We are trying to change how she feels, how all women feel. We have made so many improvements and steps towards equality thanks to the strong men and women that have come before us. But we still have so far to go. I am proud to be a girl in this world and although I may not have teleportation, I know that I still can make a big impact in this world. And it all that proves that just one super power, belief, and dreams can truly change the world.

**Winner:** Abigail Feinberg

**Town:** Chevy Chase

### **Woman And Girls: A Superpower To Help Voices Be Heard**

**By: Abigail Feinberg**

The superpower that I choose was, the power to make sure people would listen, in short the power of silence. Woman and girls are always struggling to be heard, on my morning news team girls are not even thought about to do the weekly sports report.

There have been 12 people on the moon, all male, 45 united states presidents, all male. Why? Because no one would listen to the people fighting for woman, no one would stop and think about why a woman had never been on the moon. Woman (and girls) are constantly underestimated because of gender. The power of silence would help to in short make other people be quiet and listen. People would stop and think when they were voting for a new

president of there club or organization. Kids would stop and think about letting the girls take part in the recess basketball game and doing things “boys” were supposed to do.

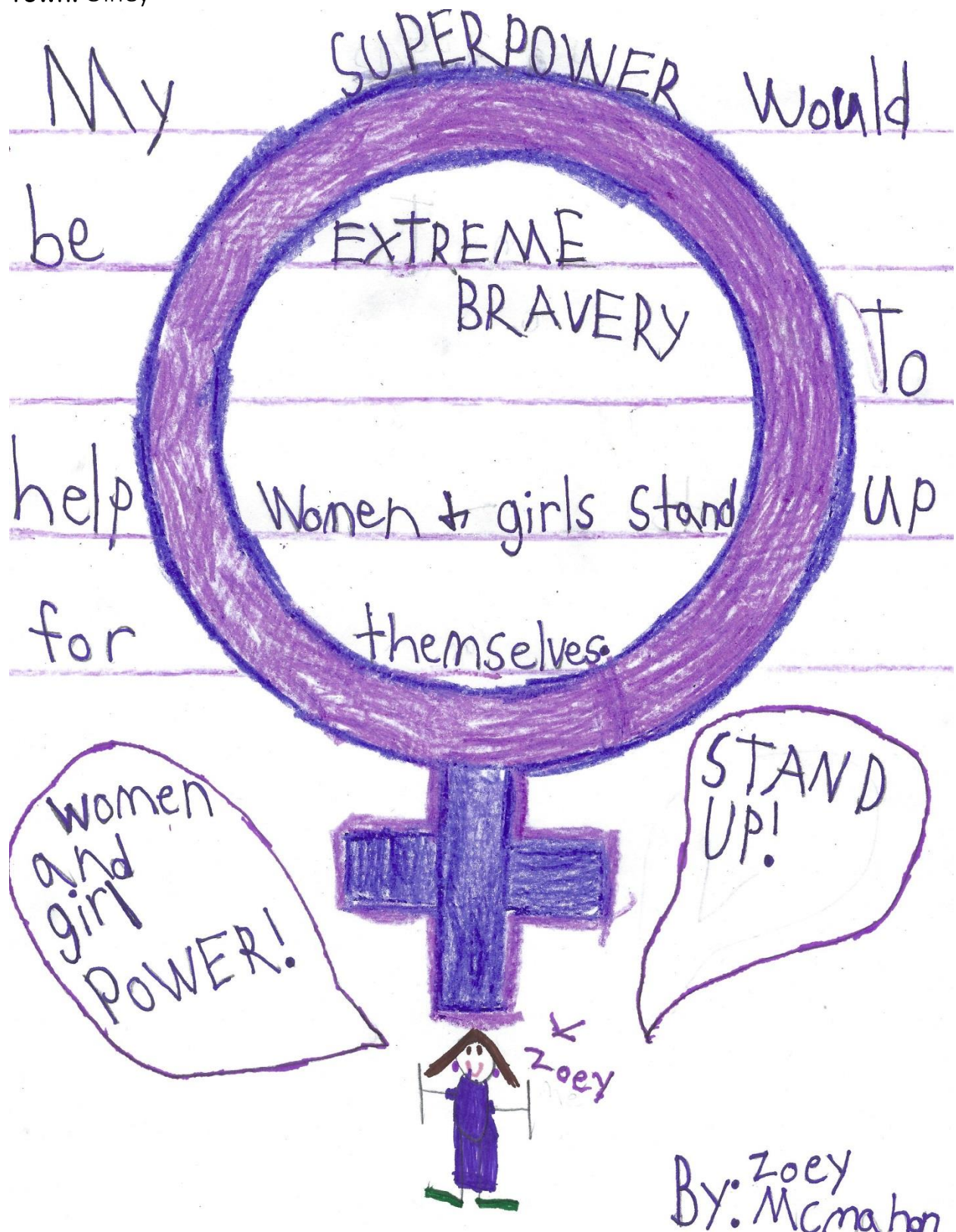
If there was a group of students. Let's say 10, and 4 are girls. They are electing someone to be in charge of their group. There are 2 “candidates” Sally and Billy. Sally says that she will change things and has a strong platform. The boys are not listening. Then Billy says that he will try to fix problems. Sally should win, but the boys don't care about platform, all they think about is that a boy is running. This happens in a lot of problems. Boys vote for boys, girls for girls.

Just think about one of the most inspiring people, Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson. She was underrated, she never was seen as anything but a woman and an african american. But when John glenn was sent to space, who was asked to check the numbers that the computer made, her. Because he knew that she was smart he ignored her race, and gender.

One other person I want to bring up is Jerrie Cobb. She is not what we call well known but she was an aviation pioneer, she was incredible. She was selected for the Mercury 13 mission. Then the public found out she was a woman and NASA was forced to shut down the program. Because she was a woman. That just echos around in my head. That is the case in history. “Because she was a woman”, or now “because she IS a woman” with the power of listening Jerrie Cobb could have gone on that mission. But she was a woman. In short listening is powerful. That is the superpower that would help us, we are so much more than woman. We are doctors, firefighters, lawyers, presidents, government officials, powerhouses and mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, nieces. We just need a boost. Something to let people see us. This is why people should listen.



Honorable Mention: Zoey McMahon  
Town: Olney



**Middle School Category:**

**Winner:** Yoksha Murugananatham

**Town:** Clarksburg

**Poem- Women and Girls:**

All through history our place was the worst  
They always told us we had no worth  
The men were in charge, of the Earth  
Our only purpose was to get married or give birth

So to help society see  
What we truly believe  
And what we were meant to be  
I take a stand, using a superpower within me

My superpower is my voice  
And that is the best choice  
So then we all can rejoice  
Celebrating our steps, making some noise

Standing up on a stage  
Speaking clear without any rage  
Bringing awareness without blame  
Teaching others that we are the same

I'm a leader, to bring change  
To not quite discriminate  
To not speak of any hate  
Rather use my voice to set things straight

Perhaps we start with equal pay  
Why are women left in dismay?  
Earning less than they deserve-they start to drift away  
After it continues to happen every single day

The voice has the strongest ring  
Every word carries a meaning  
Ones that hurt, but really bring  
The world to this cause, let's fix this thing

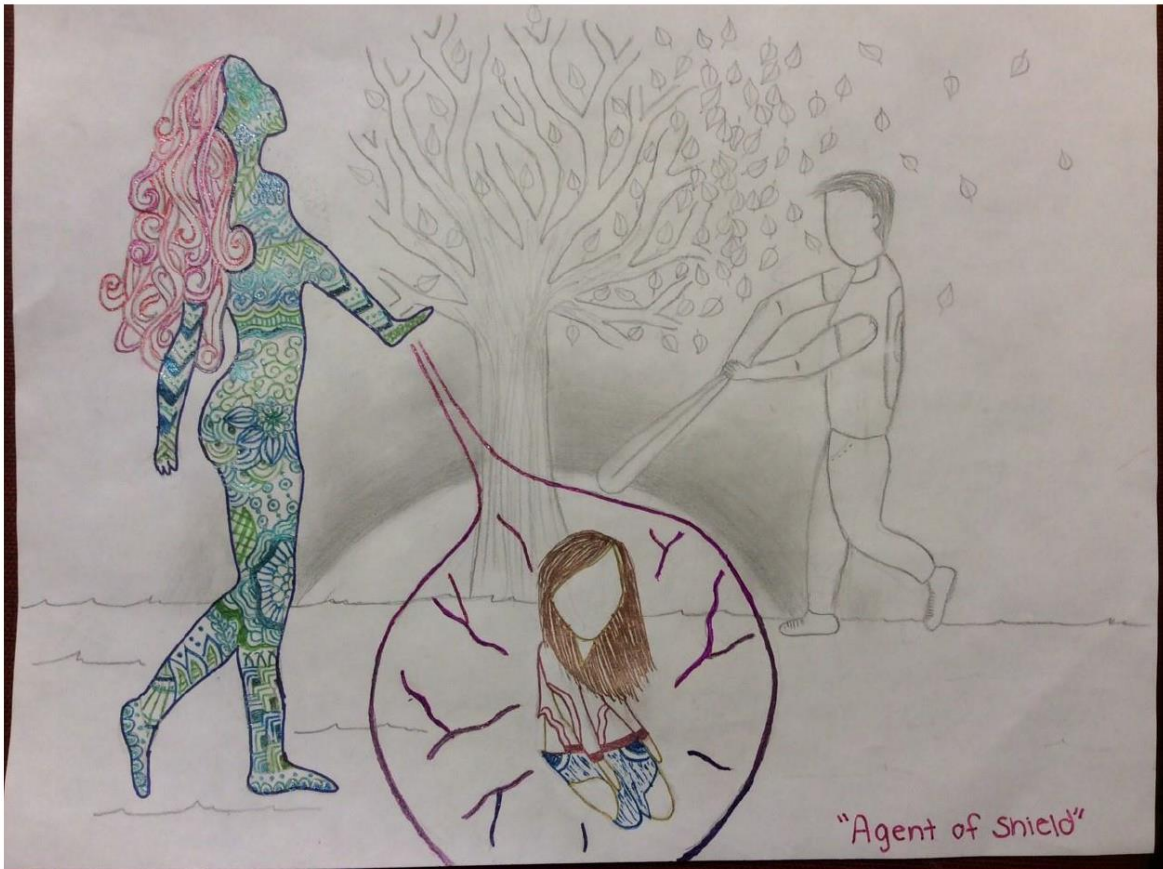
My superpower is my voice  
To make sure you know that you have a choice

And we will try and we will rejoice  
But nothing can change without that little noise

Let it be a whisper, let it be a shout  
Let the world know you're trying to get it out  
One little word is the beginning of a sprout  
Growing and changing, you're on the right route

**Honorable Mention:** Purva Jani

**Town:** Germantown



**High School Category:**

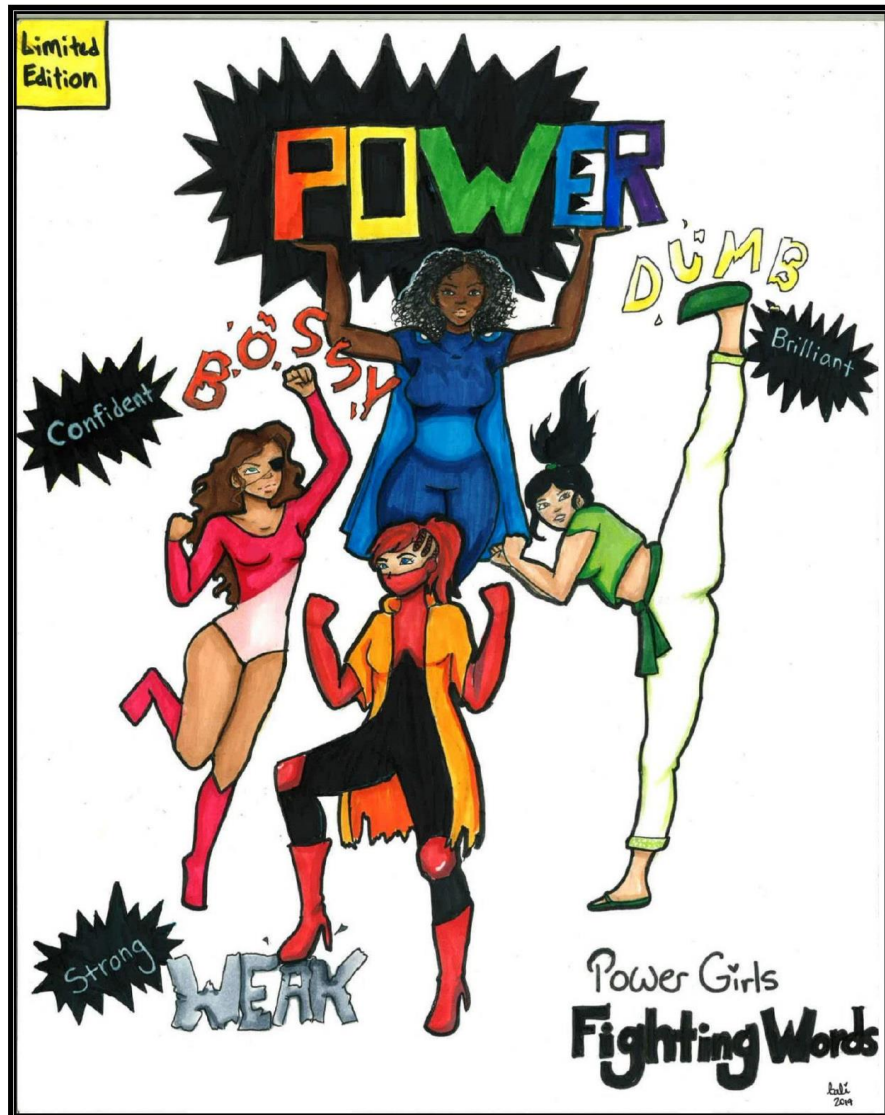
**Winner:** Carmie Hsiao

**Town:** Poolesville

**Shopping for Solutions**

First of all, I'd like a power  
To make a store for superpowers  
Then I'd go shopping for  
A power to stop discrimination or  
To arrive on time to a destination, or  
To close the wage gap, or  
To never need a road map, or  
To let women be pastors, or  
To make bathroom lines go faster, or  
To let girls be gamers, or  
To feel safe talking to strangers, or  
To let people live and love freely, or  
To summon a key-finding genie, or  
To stop war with peace talks, or  
To find matching socks, or  
To bring down dictators, or  
To always have tips for waiters, or  
To tear down society's class walls, or  
To mute wolf whistles and catcalls, or  
To preserve nature's landscape, or  
To separate two pieces of tape, or  
To make a personal space bubble, or  
To stay out of trouble, or  
To teach moral sense, or  
To spare some extra cents  
But last of all, a great world-changing power  
To make equality mundane and fairness common sense  
And the solutions to all the problems so ordinary  
We wouldn't need a miracle or a hail mary

Honorable Mention: Mbali Speights  
Town: Silver Spring



## **Adult Category:**

**Winner:** Lisa Eley

**Town:** Gaithersburg

I'd travel to Wakanda, the home of the Black Panther superhero T'Challa, and take a spirit journey into the "ancestral plane" to seek an ancestor whose light was never little, Fannie Lou Hamer. I'd ask T'Challa's sister, Shuri, to use her genius-level intellect to infuse the Wakandan plant that gave T'Challa his superpowers with the grit and faith that made Fannie Lou Hamer a champion freedom fighter. I'd ingest this Hamer Herb to achieve the power to protect every woman and girl from sexual assault and domestic violence: Fannie Lou Hamer, I'm sorry that your oppressors beat you to within an inch of your life. Then they further humiliated you by violating your sacred places. I weep for you. She told me not to cry. "It is time now to let them know what they owe us, and they owe us a great deal!" With my superpowers, women and girls will never have to fear being sexually or physically assaulted, or sex-trafficked again. I'd ingest this Hamer Herb to achieve the power to make extraordinary leaders from ordinary people: Fannie Lou Hamer, thank you for being a leader for democracy and civil rights. "When I liberate others, I liberate myself. One day I know the struggle will change!" With my superpowers, I will create change through leadership. I'd ingest this Hamer Herb to achieve the power to strengthen health care for reproductive rights and older women: Fannie Lou Hamer, I'm sorry that your oppressors took away your right to bear children without your consent. I weep for you. She told me not to cry because she was a mother to many. "To support whatever is right, and to bring in justice where we've had so much injustice!" With my superpowers, I will provide affordable and premium healthcare to women of all generations. I'd ingest this Hamer Herb to achieve the power to include rights for current and former incarcerated women: Fannie Lou Hamer, I'm sorry that your oppressors jailed you for daring to use public facilities like any other human being. "Nobody's free until everybody's free!" With my superpowers, I will instill in women that their potential for greatness is not limited to a 6 x 8 foot enclosure. I'd ingest this Hamer Herb to achieve the power to eradicate bullying in schools and in the workplace: Fannie Lou Hamer, thank you for standing up to bullies. "You don't have to like everybody, but you have to love

everybody!” With my superpowers, I will make schools and jobs safe for girls and women. Fannie Lou Hamer, your physical and emotional health left you before your work was done. “I am sick and tired of being sick and tired!” Finally, I’d ingest the last of the Hamer Herb to have the power to make America remember your light Fannie Lou Hamer because in your words, “it’s time for America to get right!”

**Honorable Mention:** Mariam Yaldram

**Town:** Germantown

