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DISCUSSION GUIDE



COVERS
THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN,
BLACK PANTHER, AND
CAPTAIN AMERICA!

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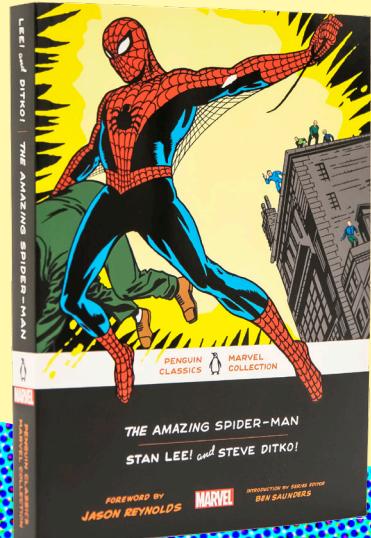
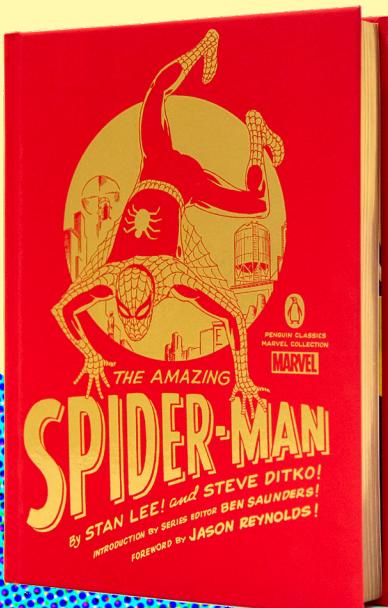
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THE PENGUIN CLASSICS MARVEL COLLECTION

presents the origin stories, seminal tales, and characters of the Marvel Universe to explore Marvel's transformative and timeless influence on an entire genre of fantasy.

For decades, Marvel has published groundbreaking visual narratives that sustain attention on multiple levels: as explorations of the relationship between power and responsibility; as metaphors for the experience of difference and otherness; as meditations on the pain of adolescence and the fluid nature of identity; as examinations of the meaning, and limits, of patriotism; as ironic juxtapositions of the cosmic and the quotidian; as resources for the understanding of political and social history; and as high watermarks in the artistic tradition of American cartooning. For the first time, these classic stories of some of the most iconic super heroes in the history of American comics are Penguin Classics.



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

THESE EDITIONS collect “Spider-Man!” from *Amazing Fantasy* #15 (1962); *The Amazing Spider-Man* #1-4, #9, #10, #13, #14, #17-19 (1963-1964); “Goodbye to Linda Brown” from *Strange Tales* #97 (1962); “How Stan Lee and Steve Ditko Create Spider-Man!” from *The Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #1 (1964).

This anthology, available in both deluxe hardcover and iconic black spine paperback formats, contains twelve key stories from the first two years of Spider-Man’s publication history (from 1962 to 1964). These influential adventures not only transformed the super hero fantasy into an allegory for the pain of adolescence but also brought a new ethical complexity to the genre—by insisting that with great power there must also come great responsibility.

**FOREWORD BY
JASON REYNOLDS**



A foreword by #1 New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds and scholarly introductions and apparatus by Ben Saunders offer further insight into the enduring significance of *The Amazing Spider-Man* and classic Marvel comics.

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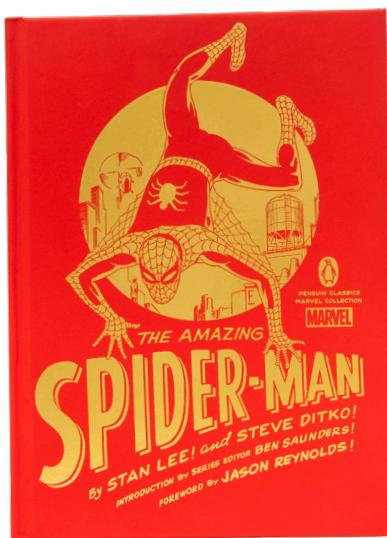
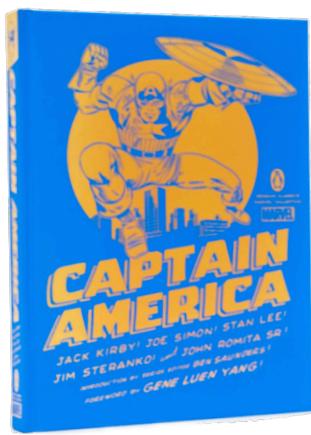
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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS BY BEN SAUNDERS



1. The most famous line in Spider-Man's origin story is that "with great power there must also come great responsibility." But is this a lesson Peter only needs to learn once—or do we see Stan Lee and Steve Ditko returning to this theme in later stories as well?
2. In what ways is Spider-Man's origin different from that of other super heroes?
3. Peter's traumatic loss of Uncle Ben is what finally forces him to pick up the mantle of the hero, but he continues to be plagued by doubts about his actions and motivations. Look for examples of Peter expressing ambivalence or rejecting the heroic role throughout this collection. What do these moments reveal about his character and personality, and about the challenge of heroism in general?
4. In what ways can we read Peter Parker's early adventures as allegories for the pain of adolescence?
5. Spider-Man is noted for his compelling rogues' gallery. Why do you think Lee and Ditko's villains have proved so lastingly popular with readers?
6. What kinds of "real-world" fears and threats do villains such as Doctor Octopus, the Sandman, the Green Goblin, and Mysterio potentially represent or emblemize?
7. Steve Ditko's artistic style is highly idiosyncratic—it's almost impossible to mistake his work for that of anyone else. Only Ditko looks like Ditko, but it can be surprisingly difficult to describe his technique. What adjectives can you come up with to capture Ditko's drawing style, his approach to figures, his use of posture, his line work, his slightly skewed perspectives, etc.? How does Ditko's style help create the world of Spider-Man?



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