

# 20 Things YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT SPIDER-MAN

In 2008, an anonymous donor **donated** the original artwork for Amazing Fantasy #15 (by Steve Ditko) to the Library of Congress.

**4** **The appeal of Spider-Man? He was a teenage superhero. At that time, superheroes were exclusively adults. Most teenagers, like Captain America's Bucky or Batman's Robin, were relegated to the role of sidekick.**

**8** **Franklin Roosevelt**, in a 1945 speech about America's role in a post-war world, wrote the phrase, "Great power involves great responsibility." However, he died the following day and never delivered the speech.

*Peter Parker made ends meet by working as a freelance photographer for **The Daily Bugle**, and is paid for photos of Spider-Man. Peter would often witness criminals committing a crime, set up his camera, then defeat the criminals and sell the photos to the Bugle.*

Spider-Man debuted in the final issue of the science-fiction-fantasy comic book anthology Amazing Fantasy #15 in 1962. Sales of the issue spiked, compelling Marvel to create a Spider-Man comic.



In March of 2011, Amazing Fantasy #15 sold for **\$1.1 million**.

**5** Another appeal of Spider-Man was he was like a real person with real-world problems. He did not have the perfect life of millionaire Bruce Wayne (Batman) or the perfect ethics of Captain America and Superman. He was poor, had constant relationship problems, and was constantly filled with guilt and self-doubt.

**6** After first being bitten by a radioactive spider and gaining his powers, Peter Parker was **not interested** in being a hero. He used his powers to gain television fame, and was only interested in "looking out for number 1 [himself]."

After failing to help stop a thief in a television studio, Peter Parker inadvertently aids in the death of his Uncle Ben, as the thief later breaks into the Parker home and shoots his uncle. Peter Parker is forever wracked by grief and guilt, and vows to use his powers for good. The iconic phrase associated with Spider-Man's is, "**With great power comes great responsibility.**"



**10** **IRONICALLY, THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE DAILY BUGLE, J. JONAH JAMESON, HAD A PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST SPIDER-MAN, OFTEN LABELLING HIM AS A MENACE, CRIMINAL, AND VIGILANTE AND CALLING FOR HIS ARREST.**

The comic book world was shocked in May of 1994 when Spider-Man appeared in a new costume: all black with a large, white spider on his chest. Spider-Man went on to wear this costume for 4 years.

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In March 1999, Columbia Pictures traded their rights to 007 movies to MGM for rights to Spider-Man.

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Spider-Man is the flagship character for Marvel Comics, creators of other titles such as the X-Men, Iron Man, the Avengers, the Hulk, and the Fantastic Four.



In 1990, James Cameron, a lifelong Spider-Man fan, wrote a script for a Spider-Man movie, and was later slated to direct it. However, due to over 10 years of legal wrangling over movie rights, Cameron abandoned any hope of doing the movie. His next 2 films instead? Titanic and Avatar, the two highest-grossing films of all time, making over \$5 billion.

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The biggest (and much-maligned) difference between the comic book and the original 3 Tobey Maguire movie: web-shooters. In the comic book, Spider-Man shoots his webbing out of wrist-mounted mechanical devices that eject web fluid. In the movie, his webbing is organic; it comes out of his body at his wrists.

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At its height, Spider-Man had 4 separate comic series running simultaneously: The Amazing Spider-Man, The Spectacular Spider-Man, Web of Spider-Man, and Spider-Man.

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A new artist, Todd McFarlane, took over drawing duties for The Amazing Spider-Man in issue #298. His artwork helped propel the comic from #9 in sales to #1, and Marvel gave him a new Spider-Man series of his own, simply titled, Spider-Man.

In 1990, Artist/Writer Todd McFarlane's Spider-Man #1 sold over 2.5 million copies, making it the best-selling comic book of all time.

An anagram for SPIDERMAN: "P.S. I'm a nerd."



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The average price for McFarlane's first 3 issues of The Amazing Spider-Man: \$155. The price of the issue just before his arrival? \$8.

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