



AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Alex Falase-Koya's debut novel *Marv and the Mega Robot* was inspired by his struggles to find superheroes in fiction who look like him. He has also co-authored *The Breakfast Club Adventures* with Marcus Rashford. Alex lives in London with his girlfriend and two cats.

Paula Bowles is an award-winning children's book illustrator based in Weston-Super-Mare. As well as illustrating other people's books, she has written and illustrated books of her own including *Tiny Crab is a Tidy Crab*.

WEBSITES

For details of other titles in the series <https://global.oup.com/education/content/children/authors/alex-falase-koya/?region=uk>
<https://paulabowles.co.uk/>

LINKS

Alex's video for World Book Day 2024. (5.54 mins) In the second half he talks about some of his favourite books.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9ZEKRL8w>

Short animation about carnivorous plants

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPCr4U1VL30>



MARV AND THE KILLER PLANTS

Younger Readers Shortlist 2024

INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth title in a first **chapter book series** about Marv, the boy **superhero**, who has a super-suit powered by kindness and imagination and a robot sidekick called Pixel.

Exited about entering a **garden design competition** at school, Marv visits his local botanical garden to get some ideas, where he bumps into one of his classmates Eva. When Eva wins the competition, Marv accuses her of cheating and copying his design.

But with the arrival of **supervillain** Violet Vine, Marv has to don his superhero suit and concentrate on stopping her from taking over the school with her vines and deadly **Venus flytraps**. Having banished Violet, Marv realises his mistake and makes it up with Eva, and they decide to work on the new garden together.

As part of your introduction to the books, share the author's opening message about the importance and impact of nurturing a garden.

ACTIVITIES

Read Make a collection of gardening magazines, guides and catalogues for children to browse and dip into when researching for their own garden design.

Write or illustrate Suggest your child or children draw a design for a new garden area for their own home or school.

Create Challenge your child or children to create a superhero of their own. [superhero-challenge-1-2-combined.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](#)

NOW READ ON

Marv and the Ultimate Superpower World Book Day 2024 by Alex Falase-Koya & Paula Bowles (OUP, 2024) 5 action-packed superhero adventures celebrating the ultimate superpower – kindness!

The Secret World of Plants by Ben Hoare (DK Children, 2022) 7-9+

A Superhero Mermaid Dragon Adventure by Sarah Coyle & Adam Walker-Parker (Farshore, 2023) Latest in the Pick A Story series.