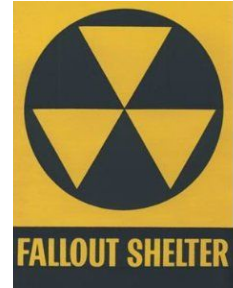


## Atomic Age Pop Culture Project

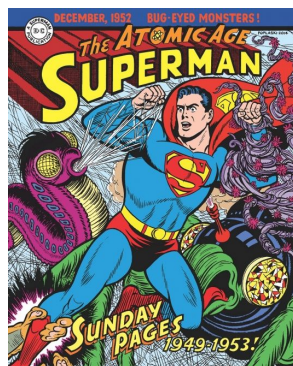
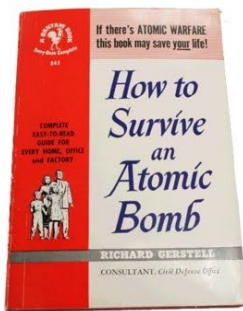
Point Value: 50 points

The 1950s were a time of great fear – fear of communism and fear of the nuclear bomb. At the urging of state and local government officials, thousands of Americans wore dog tags, practiced air raid drills, and built bomb shelters in their homes to protect themselves from possible nuclear attack. While these measures may seem ineffective and even insane to us now, at the time, they were all that people could do to prepare themselves physically and psychologically for a potential nuclear attack.



At the same time, the '50s were also seemingly a peaceful, harmonious time complete with happy suburban families and free from angst or turmoil. What we now know is that this was for many, a method of coping with the madness and change happening all around them.

**In the spirit of the absolute madness of the 1950s and the atomic age, you are going to make your own piece of atomic age “art.”**



Your task: You may do one of the following:

- Make a short (2-4 minute) atomic film. This could be an education film which instructs people on what to do or expect in the event of a nuclear attack OR it could be an atomic scare film more in the spirit of films like “Invasion of the Body Snatchers.” Be as creative as you’d like.
- Make a series of public service announcements indicating to Americans what precautions they should take to prepare for nuclear attack and guard against national security threats. These PSAs could be in print or audio form.
- Design and create a comic book which parallels some of the atomic age fears in its storyline/characters.
- In the spirit of some of the atomic songs we will listen to in class, write and record your own anti-bomb shelter, anti-nuclear war, or pop song about the bomb.
- In the spirit of Dr. Seuss’ The Butter Battle Book, write and illustrate a satirical book about life during the Cold War.
- Create your own tribute to suburban middle class life. (Pen a children’s book, design an ad campaign targeting the ideal audience, or record a commercial for a new tv show.)
- Another option of your choosing – please talk to me first if you have another idea you’d like to present.

All of these options require effort, time, and some degree of creativity on your part. You may work alone or in a group of up to 4 people. The finished products will be displayed/shared with the class so brace yourself for a day of crazy atomic age culture.