

# Lizard Lad: A Superhero

## Who Is Lizard Lad?

As a teenager, Simon Slither kept to himself and stayed as far out of trouble as possible. When he turned fourteen, his parents bought him his first skateboard: a Repskillian 360 ProBoard. It was a work of art: neon-green wheels flashed underneath a glistening black board, along the full length of which an elegant hand-painted lizard stretched from nose to tail. From that moment on, Simon was hooked, and spent all of his time at the local skate park in the East End of England's capital. Never more content than when he was perfecting his frontside 180 heel flip, he remained a happy teenager, until, one devastating day, his parents were killed in a car accident. Simon began living with his grandparents, and started to spend even more time at the skate part.



## Big Superhero Facts

- Lizard Lad eats flies, beetles and even cockroaches! He catches them from the air or any surface with his sticky tongue.
- He is extremely lazy, and sleeps constantly unless fighting crime.
- Lizard Lad's den is under a colossal rock in his grandparents' back garden, where he has built a hideaway lair.

## Transformation

One evening, Simon was working on his 360 hard flip as the sky began to darken. Squinting up at the faintly green, eerie flashes that were threading their way towards the horizon, Simon lifted his hood as the first few drops of rain grazed his face and he set off for home. As he rounded the last corner, a thin tongue of electric-green lightning licked at the wheels of his beloved skateboard. A sharp tingle crawled up through Simon's feet, up into his legs and along his arms, making his fingers itch. He raced inside, and when he woke the next morning and saw a scaly, long-tailed figure in the mirror, his life had changed forever.

### Superpowers

Lizard Lad has an incredibly long, sticky tongue and an indestructible tail with enough force behind it to swipe a train off its tracks! Like many reptiles in the animal kingdom, Lizard Lad's tail has the ability to detach from his body and grow back to its full length – great for escaping the clutches of his enemies. With his webbed feet, he can stick like glue to any surface – useful in hundreds of situations. His flying skateboard, Repskillian, reacts only to his commands and can be called upon for a quick getaway or in hot pursuit, though the painted reptile which once ran along its length has mysteriously disappeared. Lizard Lad uses his long tongue, agile feet and robust tail to catch criminals and to fight his arch-enemy, Freddie Falcon.

### Friends

Lizard Lad has offered to move out of his grandparents' home, as his new appearance, diet and lifestyle have heavily impacted their lives and the guilt he feels is terrible; however, they have obstinately refused to let him leave. The loving couple have adapted to their grandson's new way of life admirably and will continue to adore him no matter what challenges he brings to their door, all to protect him from living alone. Simon's grandad helps as much as he can - whenever he's not having a nap or playing chess

### Enemies

Lizard Lad's biggest adversary is Freddie Falcon, a formidable foe with powerful wings and a beak as sharp as a dagger. This terrifying villain is determined to forge a divide between those with superpowers and those without, to create a new community of superhumans. He has attempted on many occasions to drive a rift between Lizard Lad and his grandparents, not to mention the rest of the human world; however, Simon refuses to abandon the people who have cared for him and his resistance has only made the Falcon even more determined to force his hand.



# Questions

1. Why do you think the author has used bullet points on page 1?

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2. Create a better subtitle for the paragraph called 'Transformation'. Why is yours better?

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3. Explain in your own words how Simon become Lizard Lad.

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4. Find a word in the text that means 'strong and thick'.

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5. What age could Lizard Lad be?

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6. Who was the scaly figure looking back at him?

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7. What type of person do you think Lizard Lad is? Copy the words and phrases which tell you this.

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8. Write a description of what you think Freddie Falcon looks like, using the best imagery you can think of.

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