Abstract

The superhero is a uniquely American creation which has persisted since its formation to the modern day. As societal expectations of storytelling have changed, so too has the comic book adapted to tell more diverse and political stories. Yet because of the tropes and norms upon which comic books are built, as well as the sensationalism which pervade the medium, progressive stories tend to struggle to reach audiences the same way classic comic book stories have. This analysis compares two attempts by comic book writers to tell similar stories of diverse, intersectional characters, using the Marvel Comics characters Dust and Ms. Marvel as parallels. With one story more successful than the other, the analysis examines which storytelling strategies succeed in telling these modern tales and which ones do not.