

I AM NOT ED SHEERAN

**A ZINE ABOUT GINGER IDENTITY
BY RUSS KAZMIERCZAK, JR.**



Introduction:

As the world grows more sensitive toward the challenges of people of color, our perspective ever evolves to realize that “color” isn’t exclusive to skin. Gingers, or redheads, or strawberry blondes have suffered social injustices, too.

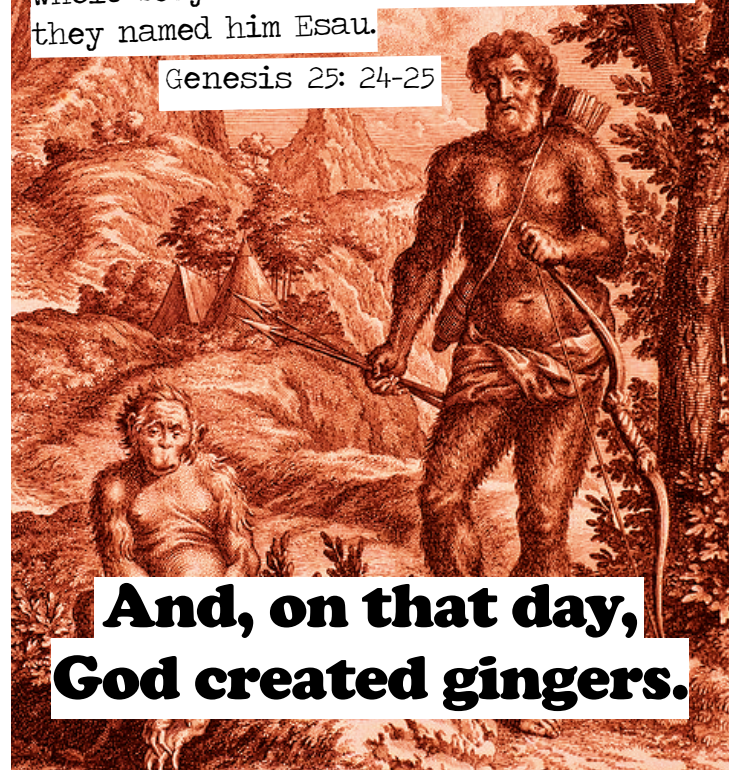
This zine is the instructor’s edition of an educational pamphlet that includes activities, games, and informative pictographs exploring ginger history and stereotypes. The answers for the activity pages have been provided. Classroom sets of this zine are available via the publisher, at karaokefanboyexpress@gmail.com. Quantity breaks apply.

Hopefully, this zine encourages discussion about the ginger paradigm, and shines a light on the plight of redheaded peoples everywhere. Not too *bright* a light, of course. Those gingers burn easy.

When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb.

The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment, so they named him Esau.

Genesis 25: 24-25



**And, on that day,
God created gingers.**

Circle one of the following:

Gingers

- A. are fair skinned
- B. usually have freckles
- C. have no souls
- D. all of the above

The answer is D. In addition to their red hair, gingers are often characterized as fair skinned and freckly. Also, according to the 136th episode of South Park, gingers suffer from a disease called "gingeritis," rendering them "sick," "gross," and "soulless."

Match the actor with the **redheaded** comic book character they've been cast to play on film!



JIMMY OLSEN



MARY JANE WATSON



CYCLONE



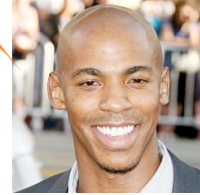
KID FLASH



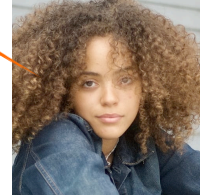
KEYNAN LYONS



ZENDAYA



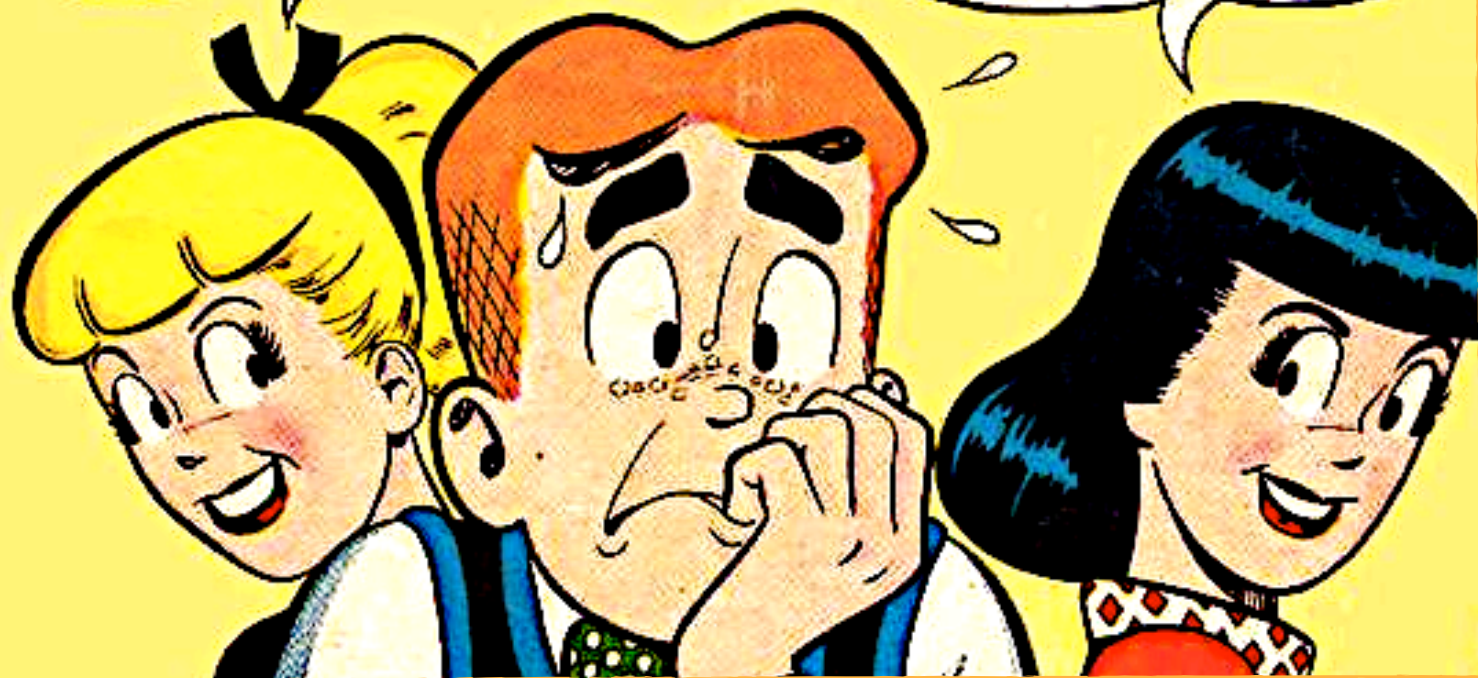
MEEK MILL



QUINESA SWINDELL

ARCHIE, TELL US WHO YOU
THINK ARE MORE ATTRACTIVE!
--BLONDES-----?

--OR BRUNETTES?



A Day in the Ginger Life!

Think you got what it takes to live that ginger life?
Play this mini-board game to find out!

Game Play Directions:

1. Cut out the game pieces below and select which famous ginger you'll be!



2. Flip a coin to advance on the game board. Heads = 1 space, tails = two spaces.

3. The first person to reach the final square on the game board wins!

4. Remember what you learned!

The CW renewed
Riverdale for
another season!

Advance 2 spaces!

Somebody just
asked if that's your
real hair color.

Flip again.

You've found the
perfect tree to
shade your fair skin
from the sun.

Stay put!

NPR just reported
that gingers may
be extinct by 2050.

Go back one space.

Carrot Top just
dropped a new
special on Netflix.

Stay put!

You forgot your
SPF 80!

Go back 3 spaces!

Congratulations!

You survived
a day in the life
of a ginger!

Author's Testimonial

I never thought much about being a ginger. When I was a kid, the occasional old lady would tousle my hair and say, "You can't get that kind of color out of a bottle!" I figured it just came with the territory. Blondes have more fun, brunettes like to balance their checkbooks, and gingers get a tousling from time to time.



On November 9, 2005, everything changed. The infamous **South Park** episode "Ginger Kids" aired and suddenly friends and strangers alike were joking that I had no soul. I was 25 years old and self-assured enough to know that, if souls exist, surely I have one . . . but what of someone 15 years old? 10? The cultural impact had been made, and it lasts to this day.

Even now, this zine could be perceived as a satirical work, degrading the ginger experience as a pseudo-oppression in the face of other, "more serious" social injustices. The caricature of a redhead as a pale-skinned, easily sunburned freckle-face may be the last acceptable mockery, where everyone *else* can come together in harmony. To save the world, gingers have to take the abuse other groups could never endure. We have to do with our rage what we could never do with this precious hair color.

Bottle it up.

About the Author

Russ Kazmierczak, Jr. is the creator of **Amazing Arizona Comics**, a minicomics satire of Arizona news, history, and culture with superhero adventure. He was Phoenix New Times' Best Storyteller in 2018 for his local performances as a poet, comedian, and an adult that still plays with action figures. Follow his Instagram @amazingazcomics.

Oh, and he is frequently called "Ed Sheeran."

He doesn't see it.

