Luh Ayu Manik is a cartoon 8th-grade girl from Bali, Indonesia who transforms into Luh Ayu Manik Mas, a superhero who uses her powers to help protect the environment. Mas means gold in Balinese. Her character is Indonesia's first teen environmental superhero, and she was developed by artists as part of a project to promote environmental awareness as well as the Balinese language. An estimated two million people speak Balinese in Indonesia which has a population of 261 million. Due to government regulations, Balinese language TV programs are aired in Bali for only half an hour a day, while schools limit instruction in Balinese to only two hours per week or less. While these regulations are intended to boost the use of Indonesian as a national language, they also make it more difficult to promote the use and development of local languages such as Balinese.

What makes the character's story even more interesting is that her adventures are crowdsourced through social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. This means internet users, especially students, can propose themes and stories that can be incorporated into the cartoon by writers and artists working for the Luh Ayu Manik Mas project.

The project was initiated by BASAbali Wiki, a digital platform promoting the Balinese language. BASAbali Wiki Director of Communications Ni Nyoman Clara shared more details about the project through an email interview with this author. "The inspiration for the creation of the superhero character of Luh Ayu Manik Mas is the strong, tough and resilient Balinese women who themselves are like superheroes. Luh Ayu Manik is a 14-year-old junior high school student who turns into a superhero when she faces environmental and other issues. The goal of Luh Ayu Manik Mas is to engage the public in using and valuing Balinese and other local languages alongside national and international tongues".

One of the stories featured Luh Ayu Manik Mas and her friends fighting illegal loggers, and another story tackled plastic pollution. In both stories, Luh Ayu Manik transformed into Luh Ayu Manik Mas who battled against polluters **depicted** as monsters. The webtoon offers translations in English and Indonesian.

As part of promotions for the digital cartoon, Luh Ayu Manik Mas hosted the Asian Language Digital Activism Twitter account for one week last October 2019. The character shared the story of how she and her friends encountered illegal loggers in the forest. The project was warmly welcomed by the Balinese community. BASAbali Wiki also shared that Luh Ayu Manik Mas is now being incorporated into the classroom: "The public is very enthusiastic about Luh Ayu Manik Mas. Her books have already been used to teach Balinese teachers about creative writing and other skills. We will continue to reach out to the public through on the ground workshops in and on social media to elevate the value of local languages".

1. Paragraph 1 mostly tells us about…
   A. the description of the project
   B. the characteristic of the cartoon
   C. the development of cartoon in Bali
   D. the background of the cartoon creation
   E. the promotion of Balinese through a cartoon
2. Based on the passage, we can assume that promoting Balinese language would be easier if …
   A. Luh Ayu Manik Mas had a great partner in her stories.
   B. The foreigners were allowed to speak Balinese language.
   C. Indonesian citizens obey the government rules about local language.
   D. Internet users participated in creating new stories of Luh Ayu Manik Mas.
   E. TV were allowed to extend the duration of programs using Balinese language.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. "In both stories, Luh Ayu Manik transformed into Luh Ayu Manik Mas who battled against polluters depicted as monsters." (Paragraph 5). The underlined word is closest in meaning to …
   A. captured
   B. obscured
   C. portrayed
   D. suspected
   E. relished
4. I agree with Dr. Ikeda's theory. The passive form of the sentence is…
   A. Me is agreed by Dr. Ikeda's theory.
   B. Dr. Ikeda's theory is agree by me.
   C. I agreed with his theory.
   D. Dr. Ikeda's theory agreed with me.
   E. Dr. Ikeda's theory is agreed by me.
5. We're going out for dinner. Would you like _____ us?
   A. Joining
   B. Joined
   C. Join
   D. To join
   E. To joining

LIVEWORKSHEETS