



for parents and educators

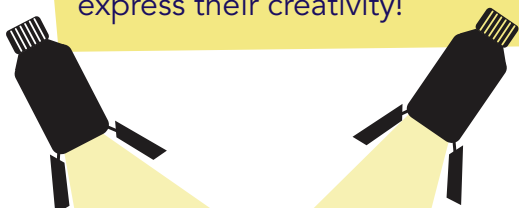
January 2012 edition

smartmedia focus:
raising readers



Greetings from WQED Multimedia in Pittsburgh!

Happy new year from WQED! This month, we're highlighting our many wonderful shows and resources focused on raising readers. Inspire your child's love of reading and writing with these beloved programs and online tools. And be sure to read about our PBS KIDS GO! Writers Contest – it's a terrific way to encourage budding young writers and illustrators to express their creativity!



Spotlight on... Super Why!



SUPER WHY is a breakthrough preschool series designed to help kids ages 3 to 6 with the critical skills that they need to learn to read (and love to read!) – like alphabet skills, word families, spelling, comprehension and vocabulary. SUPER WHY is the first original program from Out of the Blue Enterprises, an innovator in interactive children's entertainment. SUPER WHY makes reading an empowering adventure by using interactive literacy games that need YOU to play. In SUPER WHY, reading is power!

games
lesson plans
super stuff
activities

SUPER WHY is an interactive reading adventure. Each episode begins in Storybrook Village, a magical 3-D world hidden behind the bookshelves in a children's library. The Storybrook Village is the home of your child's favorite fairytale characters. Immediately, you'll meet the four best friends who anchor each episode and encounter a relatable preschool problem. Then friends get super-powered – our Super Readers can solve any problem with their literacy powers!

featured opportunity



Write on! The 2012 PBS KIDS GO! Writers Contest is OPEN! This annual contest, brought to you locally by the **EQT Corporation**, is a chance for aspiring writers in grades K-3 to write and illustrate their own original stories and be entered to win great local and national prizes. Participants even have a chance to have their stories made into live puppet plays at our May 12 winners event, which will be held in WQED's historic Fred Rogers' Studio!

Check out writeonkids.org for all the information you need about the contest, including entry forms, rules, writing guides, previous winners' stories, and information about local contest activities. **This year's Contest runs from January 14 – April 6, 2012.**

Caregivers and educators, check out our free one-hour webinars for great ways to support your student's contest entry:

- **"Writing and Editing"**
January 25 at 3:30 p.m. with teacher Caley Svensson;
- **"Ideation to Storyboarding"**
February 8 at 3:30 p.m. with local children's author Michael Scotto;
- **"Illustration"**
March 7 at 3:30 p.m. with Joe Wos, executive director of the Toonseum

To register, go to www.writeonkids.org or click on the webinar titles above.



The PBS KIDS GO! Writers Contest is brought to you locally by EQT Corporation, a long-time supporter of raising readers in our community.

watch!

Don't miss these engaging shows for every age!

Find out when these shows air on WQED-TV!



In **WordWorld**, words are truly the stars of the show! Come along for an adventurous romp into a colorful, vibrant world of words with the lovable, legible WordFriends – animals whose bodies are made up of the letters that spell the word they represent.

ages 3-5



WordGirl follows the everyday life and adventures of "WordGirl" (a.k.a. Becky Botsford) as she fights crime and enriches vocabulary usage, all in a day's work. In classic superhero form, WordGirl possesses superhero strength with the added benefit of a colossal vocabulary – which comes in handy as she battles and prevails over evil (albeit ridiculous and comical) villains.

ages 6-8



The Electric Company turns on the power of possibility for kids by showing them that learning to read can be fun. With a cool cast of characters, amazing literacy superpowers, side-splitting cartoons, and songs that you can't help dancing along with, this reincarnation of a television classic is sure to make an impact on the newest generation. Like the original series, the new show filters these educational goals through pop culture – music, comedy, technology, and celebrities – to create a playful, hip, multimedia experience.

ages 8-12



GREAT PERFORMANCES provides a place for the world's leading performing artists on the world's biggest media stages – both on air, and online. From classical concerts to popular song, opera to musical theater, and dance to drama, GREAT PERFORMANCES raises the curtain on a new season of excellence from arts capitals of every variety.

ages 12-18

Check out these great online resources for each grade!

K – Grade 2 **Wonder Red's Wonderific Match Up**

Children build words by matching the beginning letter with the end of the word in this online matching game from *SUPER WHY!*

Grades 3 – 5 **Binky's Facts and Opinions**

Decide if Francine and Buster are saying facts or opinions in this interactive game. Answer five correctly and then watch a video clip from the PBS KIDS series *Arthur* to look for more facts and opinions.

Grades 6 – 8 **Off the Charts: The Song-Poem Story - Web Karaoke**

Create a poem that becomes the lyrics to a song in this interactive karaoke activity. Type in the lines of your poem, listen to the melody while singing along, then print your song.

Grades 9 – 12 **the.News**

Using journalism and technology, *the.News* provides educators with content-specific tools while also helping them meet the civic mission of schools.

click!



iQ: smartmedia is an educational initiative of WQED Multimedia.
4802 Fifth Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15213
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Sign up for our **Educator Newsletter** to stay in touch with the latest updates and opportunities from WQED!



Donate to the **Education Fund** and help WQED continue to bring you the high-quality shows, resources, and events you love!