

Citizen Frensky Episode #606

Subject Areas

Reading Comprehension, Writing, Critical Thinking

Media Literacy Objectives

Examine the role captions play in the meaning of a message.

Explore the role a journalist has in creating messages.

Episode Description

After visiting the *Elwood City Times*, Francine decides to start her own paper, the *Frensky Star!* The tabloid, complete with embarrassing photos and sensationalized headlines, is a smashing success -- until all her friends stop speaking to her.

Active Listening

Listen and watch to find out how Francine's newspaper articles bend the truth about her pals at Elwood Elementary.

Guided Discussion

In the beginning of this episode, what did the students think of Francine's stories?

When Francine's paper featured stories on Muffy, Arthur, and Binky, how did they feel? Why?

How did Francine's articles bend the truth?

Activity: A Picture Worth 1,000 Words

Distribute to each student a **caption list** and a copy of the front page of the *Elwood City Times* featuring a picture of Arthur and Buster. Have students select a caption to describe the picture, paste it onto their copy of the *Times*, and write a headline to accompany this news story. Let students read their headlines and captions aloud, and discuss them as a group: *How do the words change your understanding of the image's meaning?* Let students write articles to accompany their stories, and display them around the room.

Activity Materials

Copies of ARTHUR caption list

Copies of *Elwood City Times*

Scissors

Glue



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Caption List

Arthur was embarrassed as Buster sang off-key.

Arthur tried to sneak off during Buster's boring story.

Buster announced, "I'm moving to Mars tomorrow to live with aliens!"

Arthur's hands were glued to his pants, but Buster ignored him.

"I'm even smarter than the Brain!" bragged Buster.

Arthur didn't warn Buster that he was lying on an anthill.

"Buster must be an alien," thought Arthur.

"No one could REALLY eat that much."

Buster waited for someone to throw a candy into his mouth.



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THE ELWOOD CITY TIMES

EST. 1897

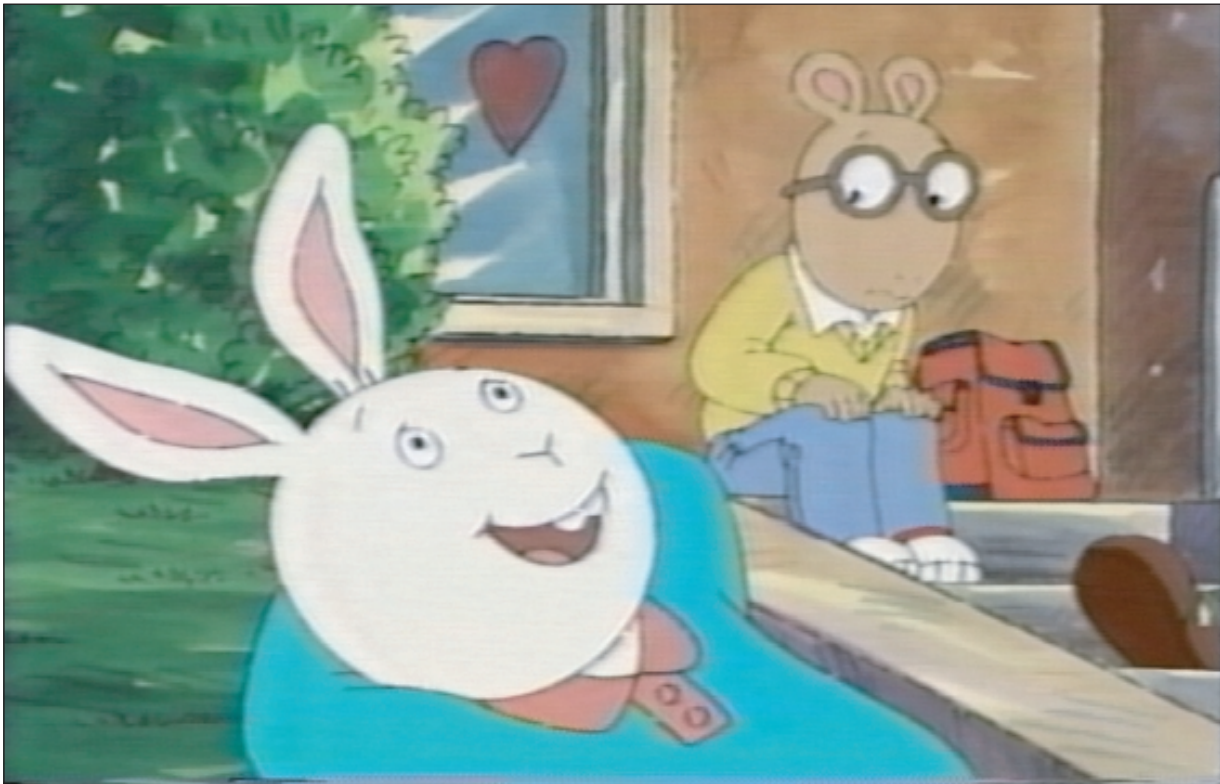
All the news that fits, we'll print.

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write a headline here



paste the caption here



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