

# The Scare-Your-Pants-Off Club Episode #128

## Subject Area

Persuasive Writing and Speaking

## Media Literacy Objectives

Explore techniques used in creating messages to support each side of a controversy.  
Recognize censorship.

## Episode Description

Arthur and his friends develop a consuming passion for the *Scare-Your-Pants-Off* books, a series of hair-raising, spine-tingling ghost stories. Long lines form at the library on Saturday mornings as everyone vies to get the latest edition. But a group called PAWS (Parents Against Weird Stories) wants to take the books away! Can the Scare-Your-Pants-Off Club save the day?

## Active Listening

*Listen and watch to find out what happens when Arthur's favorite books are banned from the library.*

## Guided Discussion

*Why did PAWS (Parents Against Weird Stories) want to ban the Scare-Your-Pants-Off books?*

*Why did Arthur and his friends want to overturn the ban?*

*What arguments and actions did each group use to express its opinion or point of view?*

*Which points did you find particularly convincing on each side?*

*What are some reasons people might have for wanting to ban certain books?*

*Do you think that certain books should be banned from public libraries? What sort of books? Why?*

*Do you think that certain books should be banned from school libraries? What sort of books? Why?*

## Activity: Convince Me

Let students work in teams to create posters supporting either the ban on books by PAWS (Parents Against Weird Stories), or supporting the kids who want the *Scare-Your-Pants-Off* books to remain available. Some reproducible **ARTHUR art** is included with this lesson plan for students to use in creating their posters.

When the posters are done, let students present the two points of view in a role-play or debate. Display the posters around the room and discuss the kinds of persuasive tactics each team used to relay its message.

## Activity Materials

Poster board  
Construction paper  
Copies of reproducible ARTHUR art  
Magazines to cut up and use for additional imagery  
Glue  
Crayons  
Glitter and other decorating supplies



[pbskids.org/arthur](http://pbskids.org/arthur)

All characters and underlying materials (including artwork) © Marc Brown.  
"Arthur" and "D.W." and all of the ARTHUR characters are trademarks of Marc Brown.  
© 1998 - 2002 WGBH

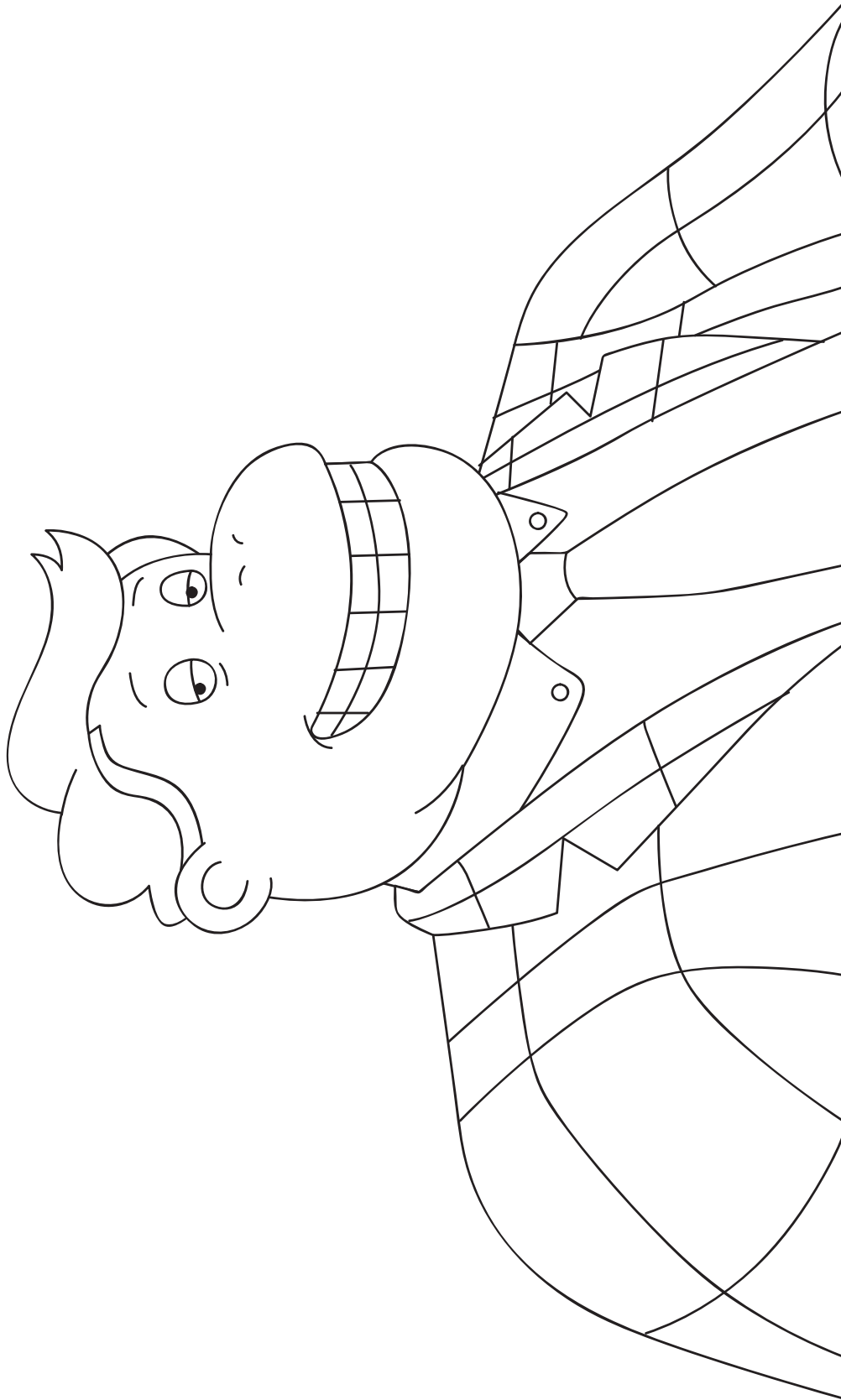
R.A.W.S.

Parents Against  
Weird Stories



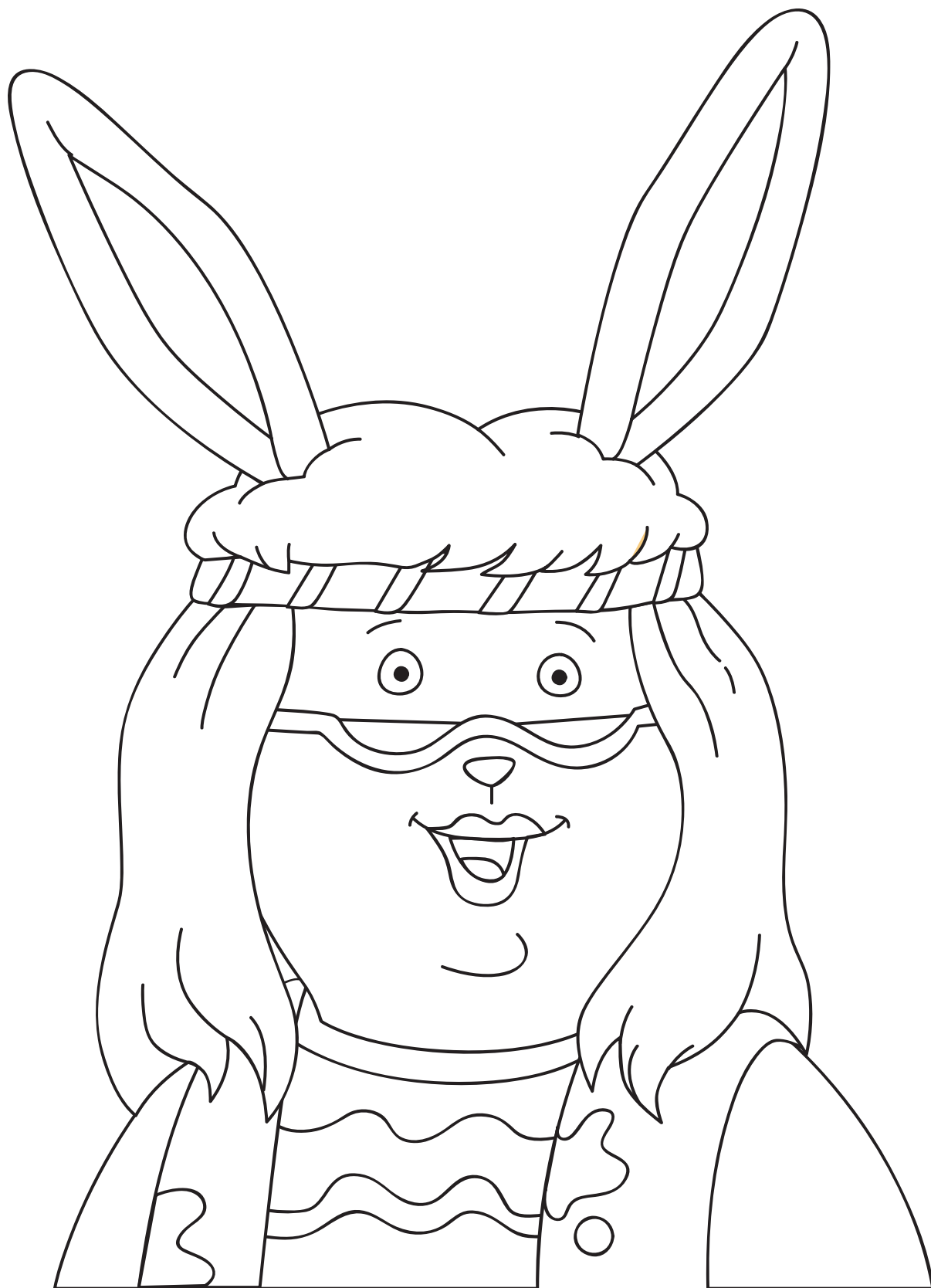
[pbskids.org/arthur](http://pbskids.org/arthur)

All characters and underlying materials (including artwork) © Marc Brown.  
"Arthur" and "D.W." and all of the ARTHUR characters are trademarks of Marc Brown.  
© 1998 - 2002 WGBH



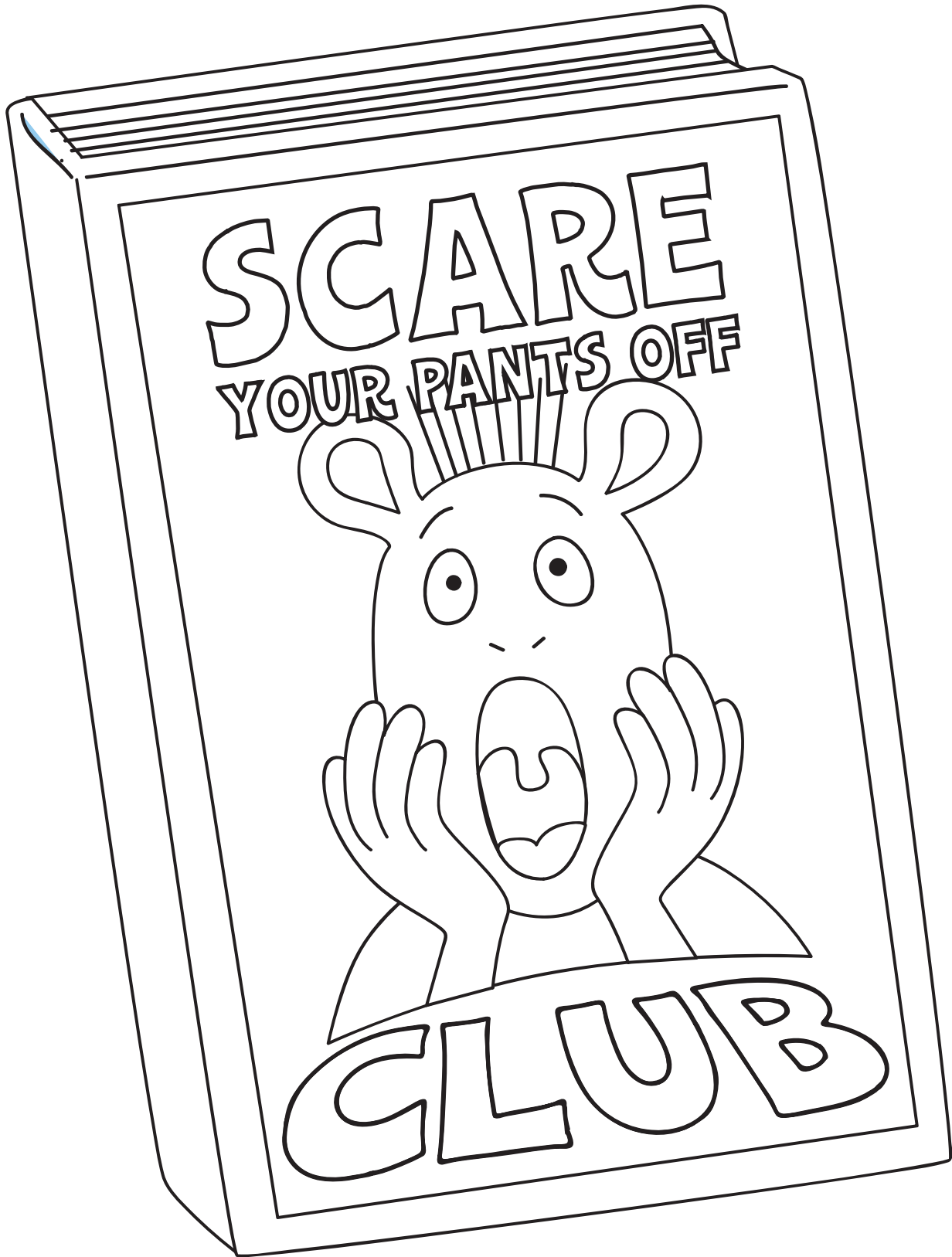
[pbskids.org/arthur](http://pbskids.org/arthur)

All characters and underlying materials (including artwork) © Marc Brown.  
"Arthur" and "D.W." and all of the ARTHUR characters are trademarks of Marc Brown.  
© 1998 - 2002 WGBH



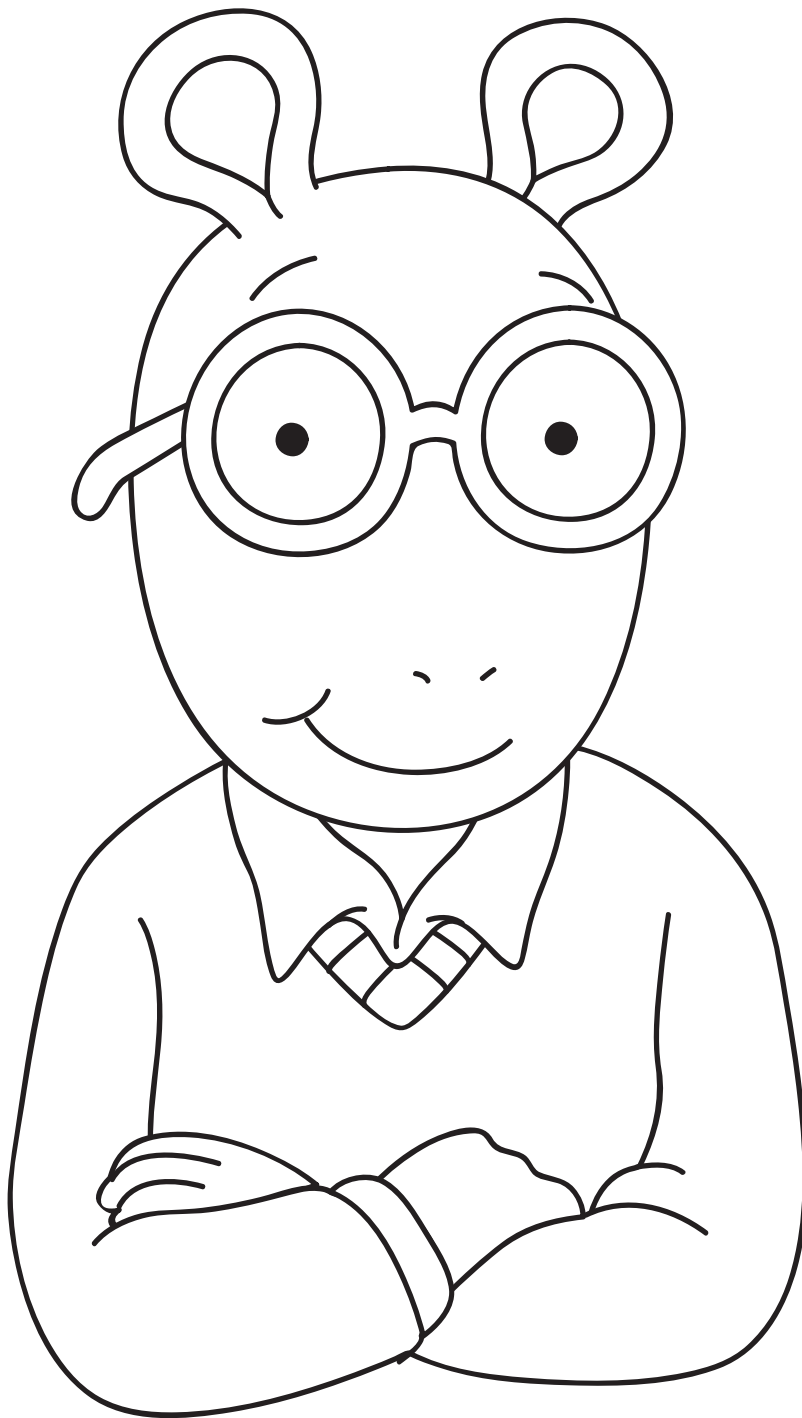
[pbskids.org/arthur](http://pbskids.org/arthur)

All characters and underlying materials (including artwork) © Marc Brown.  
"Arthur" and "D.W." and all of the ARTHUR characters are trademarks of Marc Brown.  
© 1998 - 2002 WGBH



[pbskids.org/arthur](http://pbskids.org/arthur)

All characters and underlying materials (including artwork) © Marc Brown.  
"Arthur" and "D.W." and all of the ARTHUR characters are trademarks of Marc Brown.  
© 1998 - 2002 WGBH



[pbskids.org/arthur](http://pbskids.org/arthur)

All characters and underlying materials (including artwork) © Marc Brown.  
"Arthur" and "D.W." and all of the ARTHUR characters are trademarks of Marc Brown.  
© 1998 - 2002 WGBH