



# Ready To Learn.

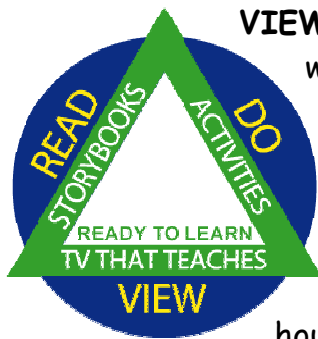


## The Learning Triangle - November 2009 *The Great MacGrady*

The Learning Triangle is a way of teaching young children through a combination of TV that teaches + storybooks + activities - all related to one theme or skill. **READ, DO, VIEW.**

**OBJECTIVE** - Being able to name different feelings can help children recognize, express and cope with their emotions when someone they know is diagnosed with cancer. In this lesson, you will read a book about emotions before watching the ARTHUR episode about cancer, "The Great MacGrady." Then, with your child, you will discuss and respond to the episode and explore the various feelings the show portrays.

**READ** - "*The Way I Feel*" by Janan Cain. This unique book offers children simple verses and engaging illustrations to help them understand and express their own emotions. OR "*Remembering Mrs. Rossi*" by Amy Hest. Nine-year-old Ellen struggles with the sudden death of her mother, a great teacher whose students are hurting, too. A fine novel, well worth remembering.



**VIEW** - *Arthur - The Great MacGrady*. Arthur and his friends deal with the cancer diagnosis of their favorite lunch lady – with the help of Lance Armstrong. As you watch, pause the video occasionally to talk with your child about the characters' feelings. For example, when Muffy asks Francine to visit Mrs. MacGrady ask, *Why do you think Francine doesn't want to visit Mrs. MacGrady?* Or when D.W. arrives at Mrs. MacGrady's house wearing a mask ask, *Why do you think D.W. is wearing a mask? Do you think she needs one? Why or why not?* (airs on WJCT on 11/20 @ 7am and 5:30pm, and 11/22 @ 8 am.)

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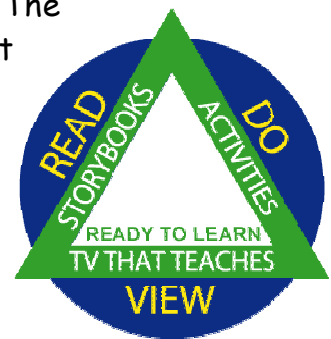


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**DO** - Reassure your child that it's natural to feel worried, frightened, or upset when we learn someone we know has cancer or another serious illness. Emphasize that it's important to talk about and express our feelings, and to ask questions about what puzzles us. Naming and talking about our feelings with others helps us feel hopeful. create a feelings display with labeled photographs of children and adults expressing different emotions.

On the left side of a sheet of paper, list the main characters in "The Great MacGrady." For younger children, parents can also print out pictures of the Arthur characters at [pbskids.org/arthur/print/tradingcards/index.html](http://pbskids.org/arthur/print/tradingcards/index.html) and use the pictures instead of, or in addition to, the names.



Review the characters and these feeling words with your child.

### Connect Characters and Their Feelings

Arthur	frightened
Mrs. MacGrady	upset
Muffy	delighted
Lance Armstrong	shocked
Francine	puzzled
Binky	worried
Buster	ecstatic
D.W.	hopeful

Have your child match the characters and their feelings by completing the following sentence frame for each character.

**(Character) was (feeling word) when (event).**

Model by creating your own sentence, such as:

Arthur was shocked when he found out Mrs. MacGrady had cancer.

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Francine was ecstatic when she finished the bike race.

Encourage your child to create multiple sentences for each character to reflect their mixed and changing emotions. For example, Francine felt *shocked*, *worried*, and *afraid* when she learned about Mrs. MacGrady's cancer diagnosis, but later felt *hopeful* and *delighted* when she hugged Mrs. MacGrady. Use words in addition to those listed.

See how easy it is to use the Learning Triangle?  
Try it yourself and watch your child learn!



## National Academic Standards

### Health:

- knows how to maintain mental and emotional health (identifies and shares feelings in appropriate ways)

### Life Skills:

- demonstrates appropriate behaviors for relating well with others (e.g., empathy, caring, respect, helping, friendliness, politeness)

### Language Arts:

- demonstrates competence in speaking and listening as tools for learning
- demonstrates viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media
- demonstrates the general skills and strategies of the reading process
- demonstrates the general skills and strategies of the writing process

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