



Rockville Centre Public Library

221 N. VILLAGE AVENUE & LIBRARY LANE
Gretchen Browne, Library Director

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11570
516-766-6257 - FAX 516-76-6090

To Whom it May Concern,

As the culmination of our Children's Book Week Celebration, we were delighted to have the students from the local elementary schools visit the Public Library for a special Presentation by ReadSpeak, Incorporated and its licensee, Sharing World Productions on November 16.

The one-hour presentation for 6 fourth grade classes and 2 third grade classes and their teachers and parent volunteers was multifaceted. After a welcome from the Children's Librarians, Kyle Morris introduced the concept of ReadSpeak captions to the audience. This technology allows viewers to graphically see the word from the actor's mouth and hear it at the same time. Mr. Morris told the children that they would be viewing twenty minutes of "The Trojan Horse" and then a new show; "Mister Word Wizard: The Search for the Magic S Word" would be screened. After a question and answer period with Mr. Morris, the children were told that there would be a "surprise guest."

We could not have been more pleased with the entire program. It was an educational as well as an entertaining afternoon. The audience of over 200 was overwhelmingly enthusiastic. The students asked insightful questions, and their comments were spontaneously positive. A fourth grader commented that, "The words have more meaning when you see them that way." When Mr. Morris asked if the children saw a word in "The Trojan Horse" that they perhaps had not seen before, one girl called out "negotiate." As Librarians, we daily encourage children to make that connection from the oral to the written word. We feel that the ReadSpeak captions will enhance the student's comprehension of what they are seeing and listening to. The Director of our Library, Gretchen Browne, attended a good portion of the program and was favorably impressed.

The students enjoyed watching the video of "Mister Word Wizard: Letter 'S' Episode." Although this production is really geared for children between 4 and 6 years old, the 8 to 10 year olds in our audience were captivated. Richie Havens



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is the perfect "Mister Word Wizard," lending his melodic voice and musical talents to the broadcast. On the screen, he exudes warmth and playfulness. When the children met the "surprise guest," Leah Price, who stars as Madeline Readwrite, they couldn't contain themselves! She had a wonderful rapport with the audience, patiently answering the children's questions. She explained and demonstrated how she did the dance numbers and spoke about how certain special effects were done. She is a talented singer, songwriter and actress, and we anxiously await her appearance in future episodes.

Immediately after school that day, several children came back to the Library with their moms looking for the video of "The Trojan Horse." Patrick said, "I just have to see how it ends." Two fourth grade teachers called us to say that on the walk back to school, their classes were abuzz with comments about the presentation. Today, another fourth grade teacher borrowed the video, "The Trojan Horse," so that the children could see it in its entirety. She also checked out several books about the Trojan Horse, again making that connection between the written and spoken word.

We will purchase additional copies of ReadSpeak captioned videos for our community. We look forward to new products starring Richie Havens from Sharing World Productions.

Sincerely,

Anita LaSpina

Anita LaSpina
Head of Children's Services

Lydia Bevilacqua

Lydia Bevilacqua
Children's Librarian