

NOT SO TALL TALES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'SPY KIDS'

SHORTS

THE ADVENTURES OF THE WISHING ROCK

What would happen if everyone's wishes came true? The answer is **SHORTS**, the fantastical, funny new adventure film from *Spy Kids* director Robert Rodriguez, coming to theaters everywhere **August 21**.

To help get the fun started, Young Minds Inspired (YMI), in cooperation with Warner Bros. Pictures, has created this free summer program guide filled with activities based on the characters and themes of this wild, fun, wonderful film.

For extra fun, the program features a summer writing contest — **The SHORTS Story Contest** — that asks kids what they would wish for if their wishes could come true. Fifty winners ages 7-9 and fifty winners ages 10-12 will each receive a special limited edition **SHORTS** backpack.

And the fun doesn't stop there — the first 100 leaders/educators to submit their group's entries will receive two free tickets to see **SHORTS** when it comes to local theaters starting **August 21**.

We hope that you will include **SHORTS** in your summer activity plans by contacting a local theater to arrange a group trip to see this once-in-a-lifetime film. But you can use the activities in this guide before the film comes to theaters. Please share this guide with other program leaders/teachers. Although the materials are copyrighted, you have permission to reproduce them for educational purposes.

So get ready to take your kids on a magical fantasy adventure with **SHORTS** — and don't be too surprised to discover that this not-so-tall-tale will bring a world of colorful fun to your summer program. For more information on the film, go to www.shortsmovie.com.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

SYNOPSIS

SHORTS weaves a magical, mixed-up tale out of short-story segments arranged in surprising ways — thus the title. Eleven-year-old Toe Thompson lives in Black Falls, a suburban community where his and everyone else's parents work for Black Box Unlimited Worldwide Industries, makers of the do-it-all gadget that's sweeping the nation. Toe is the designated punching bag for all the local bullies until, during a freak storm, a mysterious Rainbow Rock, which grants wishes to anyone who holds it, falls from the sky. Suddenly, the neighborhood that Toe already thinks is weird is about to get a lot weirder. As the Rainbow Rock ricochets around the town — from kid to kid and parent to parent — wishes come true, quickly turning Black Falls upside down in a wild rampage of everything from tiny aliens to giant boogers. In the end, it's up to Toe and his newfound friends to save their town from itself, as they discover the hard way that what you wish for is not always what you want.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- Photocopy the four pages of this guide and provide a set to every leader/educator in your program.
- Display the poster prominently to generate interest among the kids in your program.
- Distribute copies of the program's activity sheets and a copy of the official contest entry form to every child.
- For contest details, see the Official Rules enclosed with this program and posted online at www.ymiclassroom.com/shortscontestrules.pdf.

ACTIVITY 1: SHORTS SEARCH

Begin by reading the activity introduction to your group. Talk about what might happen in a town where a rainbow rock falls from the sky and any kind of wish can really come true. Then have the group complete the word puzzle to learn more about the film.

Take your group outside to find rocks for the Part B craft

activity. Provide markers or paints for all group members to create their own Rainbow Rocks. Then have them clip and fill out the "wish certificate" with whatever wild, weird, or wonderful wishes they wish could come true. Display your Rainbow Rocks and wish certificates for everyone to enjoy.

ACTIVITY 2: A SHORTS ADVENTURE

Explain that in this activity everyone in the group will create a different **SHORTS** adventure using their own unique word list. Read the word prompts aloud as your group members fill in their list. Then have group members fill their words into the story and take turns reading their stories aloud. For extra fun, group members can illustrate their stories and add them to your Rainbow Rock display.

Official Contest Entry Form

THE SHORTS STORY CONTEST

Review the writing topic and contest directions with your group. Have group members write their stories in the space provided, and fill in the entry information. Point out that all entries must be signed by a parent or guardian. **Collect all entry forms and mail them in a single envelope to: The SHORTS Story Contest, c/o YMI, 90 Crown Street, New Haven, CT 06510. All entries must be received by August 13, 2009, at 5pm EDT.** From the kids' entries, 100 winners will be chosen to receive an official **SHORTS** backpack.

REMEMBER! The first 100 leaders/educators to mail in their group's entries will receive two free tickets to see **SHORTS** when it comes to local theaters starting **August 21**.

Enter **The SHORTS Story Contest**.
100 kids will win an official **SHORTS** backpack!
See **SHORTS** in theaters
August 21!

See Official Rules enclosed with this program for details.



YMI is the only company developing free, innovative education materials that is owned and directed by award-winning former educators. Visit our website at www.ymiclassroom.com to send feedback and download more free programs. For questions, contact us at 1-800-859-8005 or e-mail us at feedback@ymiclassroom.com. YMI, 90 Crown Street, New Haven, CT 06510



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Activity 1

SHORTS search

THE ADVENTURES OF THE WISHING ROCK

Start

R	A	I	D	L	A	N	T	B	O	O	G	E
B	F	N	F	P	I	M	A	S	D	F	S	R
L	G	B	G	Q	G	E	P	L	K	J	C	P
T	Q	O	H	W	S	V	E	Y	U	I	R	O
O	R	W	J	E	N	G	R	T	N	M	O	Q
C	K	W	K	R	E	C	A	E	W	H	C	W
K	L	I	S	Y	I	D	S	R	C	B	O	E
P	Y	A	H	H	L	S	D	T	V	Y	D	R
I	M	B	E	S	A	A	F	Y	X	T	I	G
L	N	C	Z	T	Y	Q	G	I	Z	E	L	H
D	E	D	I	S	P	W	J	K	A	R	E	J
O	Y	Z	O	L	U	S	E	I	M	R	A	L
W	N	S	E	O	U	Q	N	R	T	W	X	K
N	I	I	D	J	T	B	K	P	S	X	W	C

Finish

In **SHORTS**, a new film from the director of *Spy Kids*, a mysterious rainbow-colored rock falls from the sky one day and hits 11-year-old Toe Thompson on the head. Toe lives in Black Falls, a suburb where all the parents work for Black Box Unlimited Worldwide Industries, which makes a do-it-all gadget that's sweeping the nation. But Black Falls is a different place after the Rainbow Rock arrives — very different!

Part A Find out what happens in **SHORTS**. Read the story below and search for the underlined words in the word-maze. Just move your pencil from letter to letter to spell the underlined words in the story. The first word is already marked on the maze for you.

Toe Thompson would say he lives in a weird community, but Black Falls gets even weirder when a mysterious **RAINBOW ROCK** falls from the sky. Turns out, this rock grants **WISHES** to anyone who holds it! When Toe finds the rock, he wishes for friends, but when his wish is granted, **ALIENS** appear! Toe passes the rock on to other kids in the community, who wish for **GIANT BOOGERS** and **CROCODILE ARMIES**. In the end, Black Falls is turned **UPSIDE DOWN** and **INSIDE OUT** by the magical Rainbow Rock as wishes-come-true run wild!



Part B What if you had your own Rainbow Rock? What would you wish for? Go outside and find a rock that you can color like a rainbow. Use paint, markers, glitter — whatever you want to show off your own personal style. Then cut out and fill out this Wish Certificate with the wildest, most wonderful wish you can imagine. Who knows? Your rock could be the one that really makes wishes come true!

YOUR
SHORTS
THE ADVENTURES OF THE WISHING ROCK
Wish Certificate
My wish is

(name)

Find out what can happen when wishes really do come true.
See **SHORTS** coming to theaters everywhere August 21.

Activity 2

A **SHORTS** Adventure

THE ADVENTURES OF THE WISHING ROCK

In the new film **SHORTS**, coming to theaters **August 21**, strange things start to happen in the town of Black Falls when Toe Thompson, his "frienemy" Helvetica, their families, neighbors — almost everyone — get their hands on the Rainbow Rock that makes wishes come true.

You can imagine what might happen in your town if a Rainbow Rock arrived there. But why just imagine it? Use this story-teller to create your own home-grown **SHORTS** adventure. Just fill in a word for each prompt below, then match up the numbers to write your words into the right spaces in the story. Even you'll be surprised at what happens!

Word Prompts

Word list

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Name of your town or neighborhood | (1) _____ |
| 2. Your first name | (2) _____ |
| 3. First name of a friend or family member | (3) _____ |
| 4. An action word ending in "-ing" | (4) _____ |
| 5. A part of the human body | (5) _____ |
| 6. A piece of furniture | (6) _____ |
| 7. A food or snack | (7) _____ |
| 8. A musical instrument (plural) | (8) _____ |
| 9. A song title | (9) _____ |
| 10. A period of time | (10) _____ |
| 11. A descriptive word | (11) _____ |
| 12. A container | (12) _____ |



A **SHORTS** Adventure in (1) _____. (2) _____ and (3) _____ were (4) _____ when a Rainbow Rock hit (2) _____ on the (5) _____. (3) _____ picked it up and immediately made a wish. "Wait!," said (2) _____, but it was too late. Suddenly, a (6) _____ became a huge pile of (7) _____. Next, (2) _____ snatched the Rock and wished for (8) _____ to play (9) _____ for one entire (10) _____. Before long, (11) _____ wishes were everywhere in (1) _____. But luckily, (2) _____ got the Rock back just in time, and hid it in a (12) _____ where no one will ever find it — except (2) _____, of course! So watch out what I wish for!

Find out what can happen when wishes really do come true.
See **SHORTS** coming to theaters everywhere August 21.

The **SHORTS** Story Contest

THE ADVENTURES OF THE WISHING ROCK

Calling All Kids!

Enter The **SHORTS** Story Contest



What's your **SHORTS** story? What would you wish for if you had a Rainbow Rock and knew your wish would come true?

Tell your story in the space below to enter The **SHORTS** Story Contest.

(Use the back of the sheet if you need more room to write.) One hundred kids — fifty ages 7-9 and fifty ages 10-12— will each win an official **SHORTS** backpack. Be sure to follow the contest directions and to fill in all the entry information, including a parent or guardian signature. Then give your entry to your program leader or teacher to mail in. But hurry! **Entries must be received by August 13, 2009 at 5pm EDT.**

Enter to
win a
SHORTS
backpack

My **SHORTS** Story

THE ADVENTURES OF THE WISHING ROCK

Contest Directions

- Use the space above to write a story telling what you would wish for and what you think would happen if your wish came true. Use the back of this sheet if you need more room. Make your story creative, imaginative, and original.
- Use 75 words or less if you are ages 7-9. Use 150 words or less if you are ages 10-12.
- Fill out the entry information requested and have a parent or guardian sign in the space provided.
- Give your completed entry form to your program leader or teacher to mail in for you to: The **SHORTS** Story Contest, c/o YMI, 90 Crown Street, New Haven, CT 06510.
- Entries must be received by **August 13, 2009 at 5pm EDT.**
- See official rules enclosed with this program or online at www.ymiclassroom.com/shortscontestrules.pdf

Entry Information

Name: _____ Age: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Find out what can happen when wishes really do come true.
See **SHORTS** coming to theaters everywhere August 21.

**The SHORTS Story Contest
Official Rules**

1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. ODDS OF WINNING WILL DEPEND ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRANTS. The SHORTS Story Contest (the "Contest") is open to children who are legal residents of the fifty United States and the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico, all U.S. Territories and Possessions and all Overseas Military Installations) who are between the ages seven (7) and twelve (12) years old (inclusive) as of July 31, 2009, except that children of employees of Young Minds Inspired ("YMI"), of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. ("WBIE"), and each of their respective parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, directors, officers, and of individuals involved in the contest judging are ineligible. All federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply. Void where prohibited by law.
2. To enter, children must write an original story on the topic WHAT WOULD YOU WISH FOR AND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOUR WISH CAME TRUE? Children ages seven (7) through nine (9) (inclusive) are limited to seventy-five (75) words or less; children ages ten (10) through twelve (12) are limited to one hundred fifty (150) words or less. Stories must be handwritten on a copy of the Official Entry Form with the child's name, age, home address, home phone number, and a parent/guardian signature provided in the Entry Information space. The omission of any of this Entry Information may make an entry invalid. The story must be original and not previously published or taken from previously published material. Each child may enter only once. Each entrant's parent or legal guardian agrees, on behalf of the minor entrant, to these official rules. The parent or legal guardian of each winner may be required to execute a release and a prize acceptance agreement.
3. Entries must be submitted to the child's teacher or summer program leader, who must mail all entries submitted to The SHORTS Story Contest, c/o YMI, 90 Crown Street, New Haven, CT 06510. Entries may be received starting on July 1, 2009 and must be received no later than 5pm EDT on July 31, 2009. Late entries will not be considered for judging. Not responsible for lost, misdirected or late entries, or failure of any entrant to comply with the official rules. Illegible and/or incomplete entries, and entries submitted by entrants who do not meet the eligibility requirements are void. Entries will not be returned. All materials, including originals, are sent at the risk of the sender.
4. Entrants agree that they will not retain any rights to their entries and that the entries become the exclusive property of YMI and will not be returned. Entry constitutes permission to YMI and its subsidiary, affiliate and parent companies for use of all entries for publication and promotional, advertising, and trade purposes, and for use of winners' names and photographs, without further compensation, except where prohibited by law. By participating in The SHORTS Story Contest, summer camps, schools, youth programs, their employees, and entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and to release YMI, WBIE, all prize suppliers, and their respective parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, and agencies from all liability, claims, action, or proceedings relating to the contest, and from injuries or damages relating to acceptance or use of any prize.
5. By entering and participating, entrant agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless YMI and WBIE and their respective parent, subsidiary and affiliated companies from and against any and all claims, demands, liability, damages or causes of action (however named or described) losses, costs or expenses, with respect to or arising out of or related to: (i) entrant's participation in The SHORTS Story Contest, and (ii) entrant's acceptance, use or misuse of a prize (including, without limitation, any property loss, damage, personal injury or death caused to any person(s)). Winners assume all liability for any injury or damage caused, or claimed to be caused, by participation in The SHORTS Story Contest or use or redemption of a prize. By participating in The SHORTS Story Contest, entrants agree to abide by and be bound by these Official Rules, and understand that The SHORTS Story Contest results are final in all respects. In the event there is a discrepancy or inconsistency between disclosures or other statements contained in any contest-related materials, the Official Rules shall prevail, govern and control and, the discrepancy will be resolved in YMI's sole discretion. In the event that any provision of the Official Rules is determined to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable or illegal, the other provisions will remain in effect and will be construed in accordance with their terms as if the invalid or illegal provision were not contained herein.
6. Entries will be judged by the following criteria: 80 percent for creativity/originality, 10 percent for grammar and spelling, 10 percent for adherence to contest rules.
7. Entries will be judged under the supervision of YMI, an independent judging organization, whose decisions are final on all matters relating to this contest. YMI will select fifty (50) prize winners from all entrants ages seven (7) through nine (9) (inclusive) and fifty (50) prize winners from all entrants ages ten (10) through twelve (12) (inclusive). All prize winners will receive an official SHORTS backpack (approximate retail value ("ARV"): Twenty-Five United States Dollars [\$25]). The total ARV of all prize winners combined in this Contest is Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (US \$2,500). Additional prize details not specified in these Official Rules will be determined by YMI, in its sole discretion.
8. The parent or legal guardian of each potential prize winner will be notified by mail sent to the parent or legal guardian at the mailing address provided at the time of entry. Return of prize notification (or any other Contest communication) as undeliverable after a reasonable attempt has been made by YMI (as determined by YMI in its sole discretion) may result in disqualification and an alternate potential winner may be selected. Winners will be notified on or before August 4, 2009, and will be required to have a parent or legal guardian sign and return an Affidavit of Eligibility and Release on behalf of their minor child as to YMI, WBIE and each of their respective parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, divisions, advertising and promotion agencies, and all of their respective employees, directors, officers, shareholders, agents, successors and assigns (collectively, the "Contest Entities"). The failure of the parent or legal guardian of any winner to complete, sign and return the affidavit or release or to comply with any term or condition of these Official Rules may result in a winner's disqualification, the forfeiture of his or her interest in the prize, and the award of the prize to an alternate winner. All prize claims, affidavits and releases are subject to verification by YMI. Except where prohibited by law, acceptance of any prize by a parent or legal guardian of a winner constitutes consent to the publication of the minor's name and his/her likeness (including his/her voice), biographical information, city and state of residence, statements and/or photograph(s) in any media for any commercial or promotional purpose without further compensation or notice. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of prizes. All prizes legitimately claimed will be awarded. No more than the stated number of prizes will be awarded. YMI is not responsible for the inability of any winner to accept or use any prize or portion thereof for any reason. All other costs not specifically stated herein are the responsibility of the prize winners, including without limitation, all federal, state, and local taxes. Prizes are non-assignable and nontransferable. No substitutions allowed, except that prizes are subject to availability and YMI reserves the right to substitute prizes of equal or greater value for any reason, including, without limitation, due to prize unavailability.
9. To receive a list of prize winners, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to SHORTS Winners, c/o YMI, 90 Crown Street, New Haven, CT 06510.
10. The Contest and these Official Rules are governed by and shall be construed in accordance with the substantive laws of the State of California (as distinguished from the choice of law rules) and the United States of America applicable to contracts made and performed entirely in California and where the relevant contacts are with such state. All applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply. Except where prohibited, as a condition of participating in this Contest, each entrant agrees that any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of or connected with this Contest, the prize awarded, or the determination of the winner shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action. Further, in any such dispute, under no circumstances will an entrant be permitted to obtain awards for, and hereby waives all rights to claim punitive, incidental or consequential damages, or any other damages, including attorneys' fees, other than entrant's actual out-of-pocket expenses, and entrant further waives all rights to have damages multiplied or increased.
11. The parties agree that any disputes arising out of these Official Rules shall be submitted to final, binding arbitration conducted in Los Angeles County under the Arbitration Rules and Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services Inc. ("JAMS") before a single, neutral arbitrator who is a former or retired California state or federal court judge with experience in entertainment matters who shall follow California law and the Federal Rules of Evidence and have no authority to award punitive damages. Either party may enforce a final arbitration award in any court of competent jurisdiction in Los Angeles County, including an award of costs, fees and expenses incurred in enforcing the award. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Licensor shall be entitled to seek injunctive relief (unless otherwise precluded by any other provision of these Official Rules) in the state and federal courts of Los Angeles County. Any dispute or portion thereof, or any claim for a particular form of relief (not otherwise precluded by any other provision of these Official Rules), that may not be arbitrated pursuant to applicable state or federal law may be heard only in a court of competent jurisdiction in Los Angeles County.
12. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of these Official Rules shall not affect the invalidity or unenforceability of any other provision. In the event that any such provision is determined to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable, these Official Rules shall be construed in accordance with their terms as if the invalid or unenforceable provision was not contained therein.
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2. To enter, children must write an original story on the topic WHAT WOULD YOU WISH FOR AND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOUR WISH CAME TRUE? Children ages seven (7) through nine (9) (inclusive) are limited to seventy-five (75) words or less; children ages ten (10) through twelve (12) are limited to one hundred fifty (150) words or less. Stories must be handwritten on a copy of the Official Entry Form with the child's name, age, home address, home phone number, and a parent/guardian signature provided in the Entry Information space. The omission of any of this Entry Information may make an entry invalid. The story must be original and not previously published or taken from previously published material. Each child may enter only once. Each entrant's parent or legal guardian agrees, on behalf of the minor entrant, to these official rules. The parent or legal guardian of each winner may be required to execute a release and a prize acceptance agreement.
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SHORTS

THE ADVENTURES OF THE WISHING ROCK

IN ASSOCIATION WITH IMAGENATION ABU DHABI AND MEDIA RIGHTS CAPITAL
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