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## Greetings!

Keep up with KERA's new reporting series "The Race to Save Failing Schools." Also, help students learn about *Little Women*, financial literacy and middle school math -- and treat yourself to a great new NOVA series. --Kit Lively, KERA Education Director, [klively@kera.org](mailto:klively@kera.org)

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## New KERA series: "The Race to Save Failing Schools"

A new [KERA broadcast and digital series](#) explores what an "Improvement Required" rating means and the effort necessary to bring a school up to state standards. The series looks at five North Texas schools — four that have been IR for at least three years and one that was taken off the state's list after turning things around. Follow the series as new stories are added in coming weeks.



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## Teaching *Little Women*

If you plan to assign students to watch the Masterpiece presentation of *Little Women* (or if you plan to watch it yourself) you can find [a free, TEKS-aligned teaching guide](#) on PBS LearningMedia. The guide, from Digital Public Library of America, includes discussion questions, classroom activities and links to primary sources from DPLA. **Part I of *Little Women* airs Sunday, May 13, at 7 p.m.** on KERA. Part II follows the next Sunday.



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## Building Rigor into Middle School Math

*Education Week* has an insightful [piece about a study of math assignments](#) that found teachers often comply with many parts of more rigorous standards, but often do not require strategic or extended thinking. The story is designed to help teachers think critically about their interpretations of standards and the assignments they produce.



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## Money and Financial Responsibility

PBS LearningMedia has free, TEKS-aligned resources on financial responsibility for different grade levels.

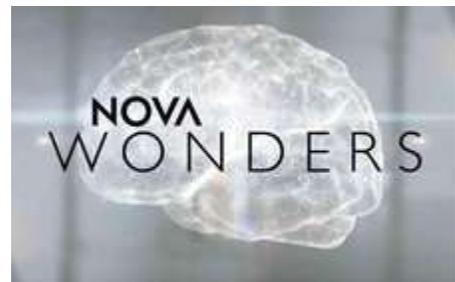
- [Arthur: Money Math Activity](#) (grades PK & K) – These games help children learn about different coins and their values.
- [Estimating Profit From a Job](#) (grades 5-8) – This lesson with videos and handouts teaches about estimating, rounding values and rounding with decimal points.
- [Two Cents](#) (grades 9-12) – This PBS digital series, designed for Millennials and Gen X-ers, covers a range of topics from the role of trust in economics to the financial payback of various college majors.
- [Taxes--Where Does Your Money Go?](#) (grades 9-12) – This lesson teaches why the government uses taxes, where the money goes and how different income brackets pay different taxes. Students learn to decipher a pay stub and figure out actual take-home pay. They also can discuss how to lower taxes through deductions, retirement accounts and other provisions.



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### Bonus! Quality TV with *NOVA Wonders*

Ever wonder what your dog is thinking? About whether there is life on other planets? A [new series from NOVA](#)-- called *Wonders* -- answers these questions and more. Among the series' topics are: microbes that live inside you; artificial intelligence technologies that could surpass the abilities of the human mind; the power to engineer life in a lab; and the mysteries of the universe. *NOVA Wonders* airs on KERA **every Wednesday in May, at 8 p.m.**



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