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Momania: A Blog for Busy Moms (<http://blogs.ajc.com/momania>)

Phineas and Ferb is a guilty pleasure

12:30 am June 29, 2011, by Andy Johnston

Dad Days of Summer: *While Momania's Theresa Walsh Giarrusso takes a vacation, local dad and sportswriter Andy Johnston will be filling in. You can e-mail him at ajcmomania@gmail.com.*

OK, I confess.

The other day I caught myself watching "Phineas and Ferb."

There's nothing strange about that. Usually.



Andy and his son Ty.

Ty enjoys it. I enjoy it. It's our thing. We bond.

This time was different.

This time, I was alone.

Lori and Ty were gone and yet, Phineas and Ferb were there. On my TV.

The guys with the geometrically challenged heads had once again successfully gained all the permits and qualified for yet another loan to buy the parts needed to build the world's largest roller coaster or lawn mower engine-powered chariots or a rocket or some other fantastic contraption.

I don't remember exactly which episode was on, I just remember that at some point I thought to myself: How did I get caught up in this?

In my defense, I find “Phineas and Ferb” to be one of the most clever shows on TV. There are subtle pop culture references, an '80s hair band – the wonderfully named Love Handel – oblivious parents, a crazy obsessive sister, a bumbling, rambling bad guy and a pet platypus that doubles as a secret agent.

Some of the best lines are reserved for neighborhood bully Buford and his favorite target, the brainy Baljeet.

What more can you want?

I'm not sure what Ty gains from watching it since it's not educational, but he tends to laugh a lot and appears genuinely interested in the shenanigans.

Besides, I think it's a nice break from his other favorites like “Dora the Explorer,” “Go, Diego, Go,” “Little Einsteins,” “Mickey Mouse Clubhouse” and others that stress learning and push our kids' thought processes.


One of the ongoing unofficial contests around our house is to see who can do the best Perry imitation. It's a tough noise to replicate, but it's a clicking sound that sounds something like when your car's alternator is dead.

Try it sometime. It'll give you something to do today.

Are you into Phineas and Ferb? What shows do you secretly like that are supposed to be for kids?

What were your favorite cartoons when you were growing up?

- By Andy Johnston, for the Momania blog

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