

ROBOT ZOT!

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by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by David Shannon

Ages: 3-7; Grades: Pre-K - 2

Themes: Fantasy, Bravery, Humor, Rhyming

Running time: 8 minutes

SUMMARY

Robot Zot is a fearsome and fearless robot from a planet far away. He comes to earth to crush and conquer. He is powerful, relentless, and smaller than a toaster. Robot Zot destroys all in his path... until he meets the beautiful Queen. Battling with an emotion he has never felt before, Zot begins the biggest rescue of his life. Will he save his Queen and conquer the earth?

OBJECTIVES

- Students will identify point-of-view.
- Students will write or tell an extension of the story.
- Students will make text-to-text connections.
- Students will make inferences.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Introduce point-of-view to the students. Practice identifying point-of-view by having pairs of students describe an object from different angles. Ask:

- What would this object look like if you were very small?
- What would this object look like if you were a giant?
- If you had never seen this object before, what would you think it is? What would you think it could do?

Tell students that they will see a movie from the point-of-view of a robot from another planet. Encourage students to listen and look for the unusual ways that Robot Zot sees common household objects.

Give a mini-lesson on using pictures to make inferences.

Explain to students that when you make an inference, you use

your own background knowledge together with clues in the text to draw conclusions about the characters, setting, or plot. Tell students that you're going to play part of the movie (or show a page from the book **Robot Zot!**) and that they should look for picture clues that tell them what regular household object Zot is battling. Start with the beginning of the movie when Zot lands in the kitchen.

Ask:

- Where is Zot? How do you know?
- What do you recognize from this picture?

Then, read or play the part that says: "Zot challenges Earth's shiny Captain."

Ask:

- What is the Captain? How do you know?
- Why do you think that Zot calls him the Captain?

Other inference questions that you can ask throughout the viewing:

- What is the large talking box? How do you know?
- What is Zot's Queen?
- Who is guarding the Queen?
- Where does Robot Zot go next?
- Who gets blamed for Zot's destruction? How do you know?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Engage students in an interactive writing lesson. Replay the end of the movie when Zot's ship lands in the cantaloupe truck. Imagine aloud with students what happens next. Write their ideas on chart paper, and add your own. Focus on the literary devices used in the book, such as:

- Zot's incomplete sentences and unusual vocabulary
- Ordinary objects seen from Zot's point-of-view

When the new story is complete, choral read it with the class. Have students draw illustrations. Display the story and illustrations in the classroom for students to reread for fluency practice.

Read aloud other books that show the world from a different point-of-view. Guide students to make text-to-text connections with **Robot Zot!**

Suggested texts:

Diary of a Worm, *Diary of a Spider*, *Diary of a Fly*, *Spoon*, *Splat the Cat*, *That New Animal*. Guiding questions:

- How does the world look different to the characters in this book?
- What things that are normal to us humans, are scary or unusual to the characters in this book? Why is that?
- How are the characters in these books similar? How are they different?

Use recycled milk cartons from the students' lunches to make robot characters. Collect other materials such as buttons, pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, yarn, sequins, etc. for students to glue onto the milk cartons to make their own robots.

Encourage oral language development by allowing students time to imagine and tell stories about their robot characters. Include the characters in a free-play center in the classroom.

Guiding questions:

- What is your robot's name?
- What kind of personality does your robot have?
- Does your robot have any special abilities?
- Where did your robot come from?

OTHER RELATED TITLES FROM WESTON WOODS INCLUDE:

Diary of a Fly, by Doreen Cronin, ill. by Harry Bliss

Diary of a Spider, by Doreen Cronin, ill. by Harry Bliss

Diary of a Worm, by Doreen Cronin, ill. by Harry Bliss

Fletcher and the Falling Leaves, by Julia Rawlinson,

ill. by Tiphonie Beeke

Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms, by Julia Rawlinson,

ill. by Tiphonie Beeke

The Librarian from the Black Lagoon, by Mike Thaler,

ill. by Jared Lee

The Gym Teacher from the Black Lagoon, by Mike Thaler,

ill. by Jared Lee

Spoon, by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, ill. by Scott Magoon

Splat the Cat, by Rob Scotton

That New Animal, by Emily Jenkins, ill. by Pierre Pratt

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