

Ideas for exploring Dave Cousins' ROBOT series with children in KS2



My Babysitter is a Robot (Robot Series #1)

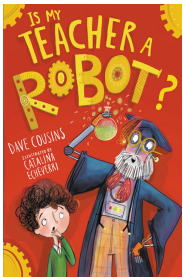
We are told that Robin the robot was designed to look and behave like a human, so that people won't realize he is a robot.

Discuss: What does Robin do that proves **he is** a robot and not human? Maybe compile a list as a group, of the ways humans and robots are different. (For example – humans need food, but robots don't eat. However, robots do require recharging, but is that the same as humans needing to sleep?)

Question: Do you think Robin would like to be human? Why? What does he do in the story that is like a human?

Question: Would you like to have a robot for a babysitter? Why?

Activity: Write a story showing what it would be like if you had a robot living at home with you.



Is My Teacher a Robot? (Robot Series #2)

Discuss: Who thinks it would be good to have a robot for a teacher? Why?

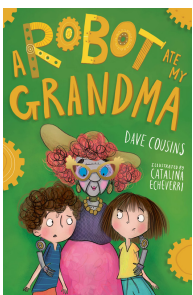
Discuss: Who thinks it would be bad to have a robot for a teacher? Why?

Have a vote and let me know the result when I visit.

Activity: Fill in the blank: WHAT IF MY ----- WAS A ROBOT? Try to come up with as many different ideas as you can, maybe as a group. (For example, What if my SISTER was a robot? What if my DOG was a robot?)

Then: Write a list of advantages, **and** a list of disadvantages, for the idea you choose.

Finally: Write a story using these ideas and show us what could happen if your ----- was a robot!



A Robot Ate My Grandma (Robot Series #3)

Activity: Read chapter one, or watch the video of me reading it on my [website](#) or [YouTube channel](#). The chapter ends with a classic *dum-dum-dah!* cliff-hanger moment. **Now**, write the next chapter, or draw a one-page comic showing what you think will happen next. When I visit, I'll read you the next chapter, and we can compare and discuss our ideas for where the story might go. (*Thanks to Mrs*

Freeman at Beanfield Primary for this activity.)

Discuss: the use of cliff-hangers at the end of a scene or chapter to create suspense, so the reader HAS to read on in order to find out what happens. Explore what else happens in chapter one to create suspense – the fact that we learn that Robin’s identity as a robot, must be kept secret, for example. Giving characters a secret that must not be revealed, is another great way to create suspense in a story.

Activity: Write the start of a story where a character is trying to protect a secret that is in danger of being discovered? Be sure to finish the scene on a cliff-hanger!

I'm a big fan of detective/mystery stories, and this book is my go at writing one!

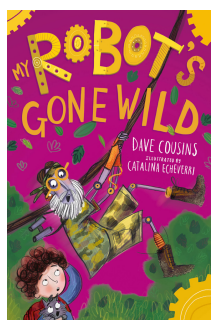
Activity: Can you crack the code that Robin the robot is using to send a message to Jake and Jess in the story? The '**Codes Sheet***' might help.

Activity: Have a go at the other codes on the worksheet, **then** see if you can write a story where the characters have to crack a code, or use one to send secret messages.

Tips: Have a look at the '**Crime Mystery Writing Tips***' for some ideas for writing a detective story.

Also have a go at the '**Word Search***' then see how many of the words you can include in your story.

**sent as separate PDFs. You can also download from my website [SCHOOLS & EVENTS](#) page.*



My Robot’s Gone Wild (Robot Series #4)

In this story, Jake is worried about moving to a new school and starting Year 7.

Everything in his life is changing and Jake doesn't like it.

Discuss: What changes in Jake's life is he unhappy/worried about?

Discuss: How does the **location** of the story (wild camping in a remote part of Scotland) affect Jake? I firmly believe that **STORIES GET GOOD WHEN**

THINGS GO BAD FOR THE CHARACTERS, so taking Jake out of his comfort zone and making him face even more change, adds a lot of conflict and drama to the story. It also provides Jake with opportunities to face his fears, and come to see that not all change is bad.

Activity: *Either* **(1.)** Write about a change in your life that you found difficult. Explain why. Did things work out in the end?

or **(2.)** His friendship with Ali is really important to Jake, and he is worried that change will mean the end of this relationship. Write a story where a friendship is tested to breaking point!

or **(3.)** Write about a character who finds themselves well outside of their comfort zone, maybe in an unfamiliar location? Make them face their fears and weaknesses, in order to survive or escape.

Will they change how they feel by the end, or just be glad to get back home?