

Origins

Watch the video clip:

<https://www.literacyshed.com/origins.html>

Questions for discussion: Where is the robot from? Why is he wandering through the woods? How is he feeling? How do we know he is feeling this way? Should he go into the factory? Why do you think he goes back to the woods? How do you think he lives the rest of his life? Are there others like him?

Task 1:

Write a description about the character, explaining who he is and how he came to be where he is.

See example below for ideas.

Task 2:

What do you think may have happened if he had gone into the factory instead of into the woods? What do you think the factory may have looked like?

Write a detailed description of what happened when the robot entered the factory.

See example below for ideas.

Task 3:

Imagine that the robot met a friend when he went back into the forest. Create a friend for the robot (you could draw a diagram to help you). Write a short story about how they met and what happened.

See example below for some ideas.

Task 4:

Write a short story about what happened to the robot after he returned to the forest.

Task 1 example.

The robot's back story.

Horace was created twenty four years ago in a large, chaotic factory in an industrial town in the north of England. A factory worker called Peter spent twenty five days constructing Horace in a small, untidy workshop. Horace was not the only one of his kind, Peter had crafted twelve other robots that were similarly designed. The purpose of these robots was to assist the human workers in fixing machines that produced animal food. After nearly eighteen years of service, Horace and his robot colleagues were sent on a train to London in order to be used at another factory. Unfortunately, during the journey, the train derailed and most of the cargo aboard was destroyed or lost. Horace emerged intact from the awful accident. Sadly, it seemed his colleagues weren't so lucky. Horace searched the rubble for days, looking for any sort of trace of his robot family. After several days, he finally gave up and ambled miserably around his surroundings. It was then that he stumbled across a dark, dense forest which Horace reluctantly decided to call his new home. Luckily, Horace had been designed to build and fix things and so he managed to create his very own shelter from whatever he could find in his new environment. He decided that he would make it his home.

Task 2 example.

Description of the factory.

I stepped into the dark, silent opening and saw a long, dull corridor ahead of me. Just at the end, I could see a bright, red door. I slowly ambled towards it wondering what lay on the other side. As I reached it, I jumped up and turned the door handle. Pushing the door open, I cautiously took a step into the next room, peering carefully from behind the door. The noise was ear shattering! There were loud crunching noises and high-pitched whistles pierced the air. The noise was so chaotic it made my head spin and I had no idea which direction I should go. I managed to trudge forward a few more steps but the floor felt hard and it was black and dusty from what must have been years of use. All of a sudden, an enormous, metal machine zoomed around me, nearly knocking me off of my feet. I slowly regained my balance and continued to carefully walk on. Looking up, I saw endless rows of shelves packed with unfamiliar objects of all shapes and sizes. The ceiling looked like it went on forever. Cautiously, I hopped from shelf to shelf until I came to a low-down box, I peered carefully in to see strange pieces of metal and parts from old, broken robots. There were lots of robots in the dark, dusty factory which narrowly missed me as I walked around every corner. As I tiptoed on, I stumbled upon a weird looking door with an unusual symbol. What could this lead to? I felt scared. What could be beyond the door?

Task 3 example.

When Horace met Freddie.

A few months after returning to the forest, Horace met a friend. It happened one miserable, rainy day when he was searching a couple of miles from the shelter that he had built. He had been searching for something to help patch up some leaks in his cosy, little house. Suddenly, shivering under an old, bare tree, Horace spotted a rusty robot. He quickly ran over to see if the robot needed any help, he didn't look well or happy. The robot looked at Horace and a slight smile spread across his face. It was then that Horace noticed that the Robot's arm and leg were broken in several places. Horace carefully helped the robot up onto his one working leg and together they slowly made their way back to Horace's shelter. Horace found out that the Robot's name was Freddie. He had worked in a factory which made orange juice but sadly, he had been thrown out one day as he was no longer needed. Damaged and heartbroken, Freddie managed to drag himself many miles through treacherous towns and remote villages until he reached the safety of a forest. It was there that he collapsed from exhaustion and waited under a tree, hoping to be saved.