



Not a Robot

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Identity, Friendship, Robots

Book Brief: Red 3869 is malfunctioning and the head scientist isn't happy about it!

Author:
Holly Wallis

Illustrator:
Hugo Cuellar

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you ever wanted to do something different from what others expected you to do? How did you feel?" (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about who is in the story, what Red wants, and what happens. Think about the message this story teaches us."



Think Aloud: "Red was programmed to clean and work like a machine, but he wants to do the things humans do. Jones believes in Red and tries to help him be seen for who he really is. The message seems to be that having someone who believes in you and supports you helps you be yourself."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What is Red 3869 supposed to do? What does Red want to do instead?
- Why does Red keep saying he is not a robot?
- Why is the head scientist unhappy with Red?
- What does Red's behavior show us about him?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "What did Red want? How did Jones help Red? What message does this story teach us about being yourself?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "How did Jones help Red? What makes someone a good friend like Jones?" Discuss qualities of good friends (believing in you, standing up for you) and have students think about ways they can be good friends to their classmates.

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- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.