



Alan Windram learning activities

Age 5-8

CFE Levels Early and First

Resource created by
Scottish Book Trust

Contents

About this resource	1
Make your own robot	2
Day and night	2
Who helps us in an emergency?	3
Magic buttons	3
Difference and tolerance	4
Authors and illustrators	4
Create a character	5
Outdoor learning	5
Quick activity sheet	6

About this resource

This resource will help you explore Alan Windram's award winning book *One Button Benny*. The activities cover a range of curriculum areas, and can be used before or after your visit from Alan Windram with the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour.

One Button Benny

Written by Alan Windram and illustrated by Chloe Holwill-Hunter

Benny is not like other robots. They all have many buttons that do wonderful things, while Benny just has one big red button with 'Only Press in an Emergency' written on it. Benny often wonders what would happen if he pressed his button. One day, when danger is afoot, Benny gets the chance to find out, and discovers that he can be an unlikely hero! *One Button Benny* is a fun, touching read, and the retro-style illustrations will give your pupils plenty to discuss.

Make your own robots

TCH 0-12a, TCH 1-02a

The book gives you a great opportunity to make some robots from recycled materials.

There are many examples of DIY robots on sites like Pinterest, but you can also have a look at this video to get an idea of how pupils can go about the project: bit.ly/Recycled-Robot. This blog post also shows you how you can make a robot collage as an alternative project: bit.ly/Robot-Collage

If you want to extend the task, you could ask pupils to think about what their robot's buttons might be able to do and make up a story about them. What problems or dangers could their robots help to overcome?

Creating robots is a great task for older and younger children to do together, particularly if you are running a shared reading project. You can find out more in our Paired Reading Toolkit: www.scottishbooktrust.com/learning-resources/paired-reading-toolkit

Write a robot story

LIT 1-31a

You can find a template to write a simple robot story on page 3 of this resource: teachprimary.com/resource_uploads/all-systems-go.pdf. The resource also contains a number of other robot writing activities, including robot poetry.

Robot songs

EXA 0-16a

Like all books published by Little Door Books, *One Button Benny* has some specially written songs for children to sing and dance along to. You'll find them here – one is free to download: store.cdbaby.com/cd/alanwindram5

Day and night

SCN 1-06a

With his ability to fly, Benny will be able to explore the whole solar system. This is a good opportunity to talk about the sun and the moon, and how these affect light on earth.

Watch this video clip about day and night with your pupils: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zxcxnbk. There are some great classroom ideas to help you explore the concept of day and night after you finish watching the video. Pupils can share what they have learnt with others, using a globe and a torch as the BBC suggest.

For younger pupils, create a sun and a moon, and talk about where light comes from during the day and night. Now play a game as a group. Have one person hold the moon and another the sun. As the moon comes up, pupils pretend to sleep and as the sun comes up, they wake up.

Who helps us in an emergency?

SOC 1-20a, LIT 1-09a

Benny comes to the rescue when the robots are under attack. But who helps us in real life emergencies?

Here are some great books you can read with your class to introduce them to different emergency services:

Police

Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam by Tracey Corderoy and Steven Lenton

Wanted: Ralfy Rabbit, Book Burglar by Emily MacKenzie

What the Ladybird Heard by Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks

Ambulance

Tabby McTat by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

Ambulance, Ambulance! By Sally Sutton and Brian Lovelock

Dylan the Doctor by Guy Parker Rees

Fire Service

This Book Just Ate My Dog by Richard Byrne

George's Dragon at the Fire Station by Claire Freedman and Russell Julian

Maisy's Fire Engine by Lucy Cousins

Do your pupils know what to do in the event of an emergency? Pupils can write scripts and act out 999 calls. For younger pupils there are some great activities and videos you can show them in this resource: theschoolrun.com/homework-help/people-who-help-us

Magic buttons

SOC 1-08a, HWB 1-05a

During the book, Benny discovers that his button can help people.

Ask your pupils to imagine that they have a magic button. What would their magic button do to help people? Encourage them to think about all the people in the school and community who might need help, and all the ways they might be able to improve their community. For instance, could their button create a vegetable patch or floral

garden to brighten up a community space? Could it help point other pupils towards book recommendations from the library?

Ask pupils if any of their suggestions could be accomplished *without* a magic button. See if they can pledge to do one specific thing for another person – the whole class could make the same pledge, and you could make it reading-themed. For example, they could pledge to find a book in the library that a friend would like.

Difference and tolerance

HWB 0-01a, HWB 0-05a, HWB 0-10a, LIT 0-09a

The book gives you a great opportunity to discuss some of the following questions with pupils:

- No one is the same as anyone else. Think about the people you know: in what ways are you different from them, and in what ways are you similar? For example, what foods do you like, what activities do you like to do, and what books do you like?
- Do you think it would be good if everyone liked exactly the same things as each other?
- Do you think that friends have to like exactly the same things as each other? Can you be friends and not like the same things?
- The robots all have buttons they can press to do things. But we're not like the robots – if we want to be good at something, we can't just press a button. We need to practice and get better! What are you better at than you were a year ago?
- How do you think Benny feels when the other robots make fun of him? If you were one of the robots, what do you think you might say to Benny to make him feel better?

Authors and illustrators

LIT 1-31a, EXA 1-03a

Alan Windram and Chloe Holwill-Hunter worked together to create the book, one writing the text and the other creating images.

Explain the concept of an author and illustrator to your pupils. This would be a good opportunity to get pupils talking about different books by different authors and illustrators, to see which ones they prefer. Look at books in your school or class library and talk about the role of an author and illustrator.

To help your pupils understand the idea of an author and illustrator team, you could watch our Authors Live event with Tracey Corderoy and Steven Lenton:

bit.ly/ShiftyMcGiftyAuthorsLive

Create a character

Ask each pupil to come up with a character. You could ask them to come up with a robot character, or an animal. Pupils can come up with names – this is a good chance to introduce alliteration, e.g. Robbie the Robot. Ask them to imagine a few details about the character – something they love to do, a food they like, a special ability, and so on.

Ask each pupil to describe their character to their partner. They do not need to come up with too much description – the point is not for their partner to try and reproduce exactly what's in their head. Now, each pupil can draw a picture of the other's character.

You can use this activity as a starting point for some story writing or story building.

Outdoor learning

SCN 1-02a, SCN 0-03a, MNU 0-02a

In *One Button Benny*, the Collectors want to turn all the robots into teapots, which is not a particularly nice reason to collect something, but it can be fun starting a collection with your pupils!

One good activity could be to go on a nature walk and start a collection of different leaves that your class find. The Woodland Trust has a handy spotter sheet to help your pupils identify the trees that leaves fall from: bit.ly/Leaf-ID. This is a good opportunity for counting – how many of each different leaf did your pupils find? Even if you don't have a wood near you, see what leaves you can find in your local park, playgroup or ask pupils to look on their journey home.

Insects eat leaves and are then eaten by animals higher up the food chain, so this could be a good chance to do some activities around food chains.

Here are some resources to help you introduce food chains:

- This short BBC video talks generally about how food chains work: <http://bit.ly/FoodChainsBBC>
- This short presentation and game from the RSPB gives a slightly more in depth explanation: <http://bit.ly/FoodChainChallenge>
- This card sort activity from TES is also useful – you'll need to create a free login for the site to access the resource: <http://bit.ly/FoodChainsTES>. You could choose to cut off the text on the cards and ask pupils to get in groups, take a card each and stand in the correct order.

Activity sheet

The robots in the story can press their button and make things happen like blowing bubbles, playing music or zooming through the sky! If you were a robot, what would you do? Draw it below.

