



Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?

The Big Idea...

In a dystopian book where the line between androids and humans seems to blur, Year 4 are set to explore that brave new world! The Iron Man is a literary masterpiece that blends modern myth with science fiction and encourages us to question and contemplate the power and potential of man and machine. If scientists believe that artificial intelligence cannot function without human intervention, what might happen if a robot does independently open one eye as it stands on a cliff top... or closes both and dreams of electric sheep...?

As language specialists we will...

enjoy novels and texts that open up a world of robots, androids and artificial intelligence through stories, poetry and non-fiction texts. Ted Hughes's *Iron Man* (and extracts of *The Iron Woman*) will immerse Year 4 in the vocabulary of the sci-fi genre and with extracts from *Boot* by Shane Hegarty and *Troofriend* by Kirsty Applebaum. There is a strong focus this half term on narrative writing, especially characters and scene settings. The children will think of themselves as authors, using the grammatical devices taught earlier in the year along with newer tools. Work will culminate in children creating a story inspired by the structure and style of *The Iron Man*, a story to be proud of. Pupils will write creatively several times a week as they build stamina in both Free Writes and narrative work. Whole class guided reading this half term will focus on *The Boy who Swam with Piranhas* by David Almond whilst we will share *No Ballet Shoes in Syria* by Catherine Bruton at the end of the day. The Year 4 spelling curriculum will be taught and practised in explicit sessions and rehearsed through comprehension and writing.

As geographers

We will be recapping our knowledge of South America and building on our understanding of maps and biomes. We will investigate human geography, and will look at city life, culture and tourism. From the wealth of Santiago to the favelas of Brazil, we will be appreciating settlement and land use.

As historians

We will be considering and evaluating primary and secondary sources and understanding the importance of reliability and bias for an historian. The coronation of Charles III will provide a backdrop and an historic occasion for our investigations and thinking.

As scientists we will

Construct and use simple electrical circuits to make predictions, conduct investigations, then record observations and results. We will understand how switches open and close circuits and how different materials act as insulators and conductors. In design technology, we will be using our scientific knowledge of circuits to design, make and evaluate a working torch.

As mathematicians we will

Consolidate our prior learning of fractions before then building on this to count beyond one whole and introduce mixed numbers and improper fractions. We will be more confident with basic equivalent fractions, as well as adding and subtraction fractions. Children will recap their knowledge of tenths and decimals, once secure we'll move onto hundredths. Children will rehearse this knowledge through real world examples using measurement and money. Rehearsal of times tables will enable children to increase speed and accuracy.

Across the curriculum

As musicians we will explore the idea of pulse and beat within electronic music. We will listen and engage with more contemporary themes and artists.

As expressive artists

We will seek to understand more about observational drawing of still life, taking inspiration from Cezanne. Children will experiment and evaluate different mediums as they then design their own still life final piece.

As fitness experts

We will finish our sessions of swimming; all children will be able to use a variety of strokes and perform safe self-rescue. In Cricket, we will develop our fielding, bowling and batting skills. All children will understand the positions, roles, rules and scoring system in cricket.

As computer experts

We will continue to develop our programming skills by making a quiz game on Scratch.

As philosophers

Year 4 will be exploring Christianity and understanding how music and worship are used to express beliefs about God and devotion.

Citizenship and PSHE

The term's theme is 'Health and Wellbeing' whether that is physical and mental wellbeing, understanding the meaning of a balanced lifestyle and recognising and respecting individual qualities. We should embrace being unique and appreciate what separates us from a programmed creation!

Ambitious thinking

If robots are reliant on human minds for their intelligence, will we ever reach a stage where a machine will think for itself and triumph over its creator? Victor Frankenstein certainly regretted the monster he created! But AI can now write essays and paint pictures... We will learn the art of debate as we consider the pros and cons of pushing technology to its limits.