Curriculum/Activity Guide

***Monkey & Robot: Flights of Fancy*** by Peter Catalanotto

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GRL N, GLE 3, CCSS/Instructional strand: W.3, 3, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4, 8, 10; SL.3.1, 1c, 1d, 4, 5, 6; RF.3, 3, 3b, 3c, 4, 4a, 4c; RL.3.1,3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 10

Fantasy, graphic novel, early chapter book

How does the graphic novel format help you get a good sense of the characters right away? What is your first impression of Robot? Of Monkey? What do the drawings add to your sense of their personalities?

How does the author use the size of the pictures to give a sense of pacing? Notice when there are more small frames on the page, when there are fewer larger ones. How does that speed up or slow down the story?

Story elements: setting, plot, character development, problem and solution, illustrations enhance meaning and tone.

Describe the main characters, are the happy, sad, angry, careful, messy, mean, kind? Give examples of what shows their personalities.

Describe the settings for the stories. Do most of them happen at school, at an office, at home? What kind of home is it? Fancy, plain, cozy, uncomfortable? How does the kind of house make you feel about the characters? What if the house were a creepy dungeon? What if it were a palace? How would that change your impressions?

Each story has a problem, some kind of conflict between Robot and Monkey. Describe in just a sentence or two what each story is about, what the conflict is, how is it resolved.

Language:

Most of these stories take place through dialog, through people talking. How does Monkey speak differently from Robot? Give examples where Robot needs to explain words or things to Monkey. Give examples where Monkey explains things to Robot.

Notice when the language is conversational, figurative versus literal meanings, uses of idioms, humorous tone, word play.

Comprehension strategies: identify differences in point of view, characterization, and cause and effect relationships.

Monkey and Robot are good friends, but they are very different. Which one is serious? Which one is silly? Point out places in the stories where you get a sense of their character.

Describe Monkey’s personality. Now describe Robot’s.

Draw your own Monkey and Robot comic strip. Pick a situation where Robot can be serious and Monkey can be silly. Here are some examples:

Monkey and Robot go trick-or-treating. Think about what costumes they would wear. Which one would eat the candy right away and which one would wait?

Monkey and Robot go to the beach. What would each one want to do? Would they swim, build sand-castles, look for hermit crabs?

Monkey and Robot get a puppy. Who would feed the puppy, walk the puppy, train the puppy? Would one of them be scared of the puppy? Would one want to sleep with the puppy?

Someone delivers a surprise package to their house. Draw one comic strip where Monkey is the one home when it arrives. Robot is away at the store. What does Monkey do?

Now draw another comic strip where Robot is the one home when the package arrives. Monkey is away at the store. What does Robot do?