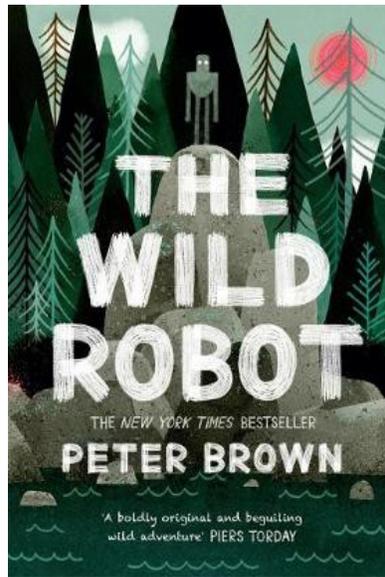


The Wild Robot



By

Peter Brown

A Novel Study
by Nat Reed

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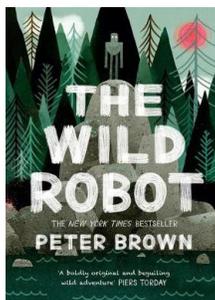


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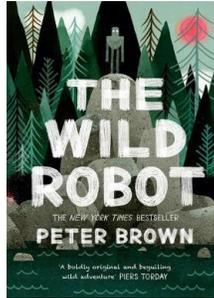
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About the author: Nat Reed was a member of the teaching profession for more than 35 years. He was a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program for nine years. He is also the author of the novel for Young Readers, *Mystery at Red Marsh Lake* (Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2019), available on www.amazon.com. For more information on his work and literature, please visit the websites www.reedpublications.org and www.novelstudies.org.

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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on 8 chapters of *The Wild Robot* and is comprised of the following activities:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language and Extension Activities

A portfolio cover (page 7) as well as a Checklist (page 6) are included so that students may keep track of their completed work.

Every activity need not be completed by all students.

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to the following:

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters . . . respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include robots, the importance of community, courage and compassion, heroism and sacrifice, friendship, personal growth, acceptance of others.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homophones
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *personification*.
7. Identify *anagrams*
8. Listing compound words
9. Identifying parts of speech
10. Identify/create *similes*
11. Identification of root words

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Identify *cliffhangers*
5. Identify the climax of the novel.
6. Complete a Story Pyramid

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Identify the protagonist/antagonist
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Compare characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

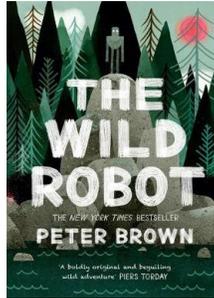
1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Create a poem
6. Write about personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete an Observation Chart
9. Complete a KWS Chart

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Create a comic strip

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Synopsis

When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is--but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a fierce storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants.

As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.

From bestselling and award-winning author and illustrator Peter Brown comes a heartwarming and action-packed novel about what happens when nature and technology collide. [Courtesy of the publisher]

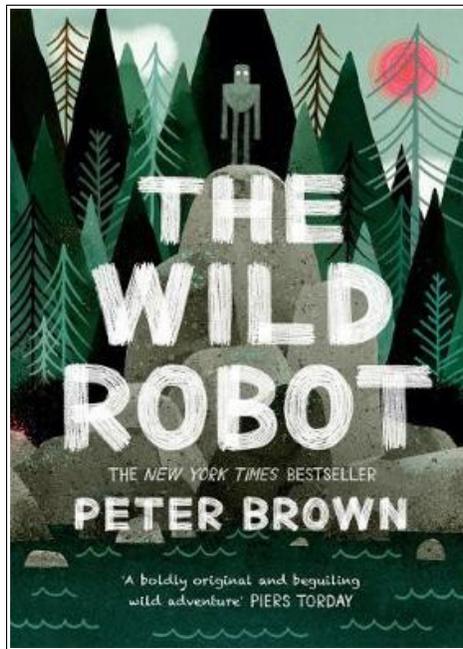
Author Biography

Peter Brown

Peter has always loved telling stories. Growing up in New Jersey, he told stories by drawing whimsical characters and scenes from his imagination. As a teenager, he fell in love with writing and began telling his tales with words. After graduating from Art Center, Peter moved to New York City where he worked on animated TV shows. There he signed a book deal to write and illustrate his first picture book, *Flight of the Dodo*. Peter quickly signed up his second and third books, and his career as an author and illustrator of children's books was under way. Since then Peter has written and illustrated many books for children and earned numerous honors. Peter lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. [Adapted from the author's official website]



The Wild Robot



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Name:

The Wild Robot

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Chapters 1-8



Before you read the chapters:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The main character of *The Wild Robot* is not your typical protagonist, but a robot who finds herself stranded on a deserted island. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read or movies you’ve seen. Who would you say is your *most favorite* character ever? What made you select this character?



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

irregular	methodically	technique	instinct
restrained	absorbed	activated	hatchling

1. Cora's swimming _____ was quite unusual, but very effective.
2. Josh dumped the baseball cards onto his desk and began to _____ examine each one.
3. The robot's arms were _____ by cords.
4. Like a _____ breaking from a shell, Roz climbed out into the world.
5. Her first _____ was to lash out at her assailant.
6. The perfect lines and angles were set against the _____ shapes of the wilderness.
7. Once fully _____, Roz was able to move, communicate and learn.
8. The owner of the coffee shop _____ the loss in revenue because of the pandemic.

Questions

1. Describe the **setting** of the story at the beginning of Chapter One.

2. a) What caused the first 95 crates to sink?
b) What caused the last four to be destroyed?

a)	
b)	

3. Describe the role that the otters played in Roz's activation.

4. Answer True or False:

- a) Roz has the capability of learning. True or False
- b) Over time Roz will find better ways of completing tasks. True or False
- c) Roz was incapable of feeling anything remotely similar to curiosity. True or False
- d) Roz was solar powered. True or False

5. Describe the event that first activated Roz's damage sensors.

6. What was the first challenge (or problem) that Roz faced? Why did she feel she needed to tackle this challenge?

7. What did Roz learn from the crab?

8. Describe how the wilderness proved to be a challenge for Roz.

9. Use Your Imagination. It took a few pinecones bouncing off Roz's head to get her activated again. If the pinecones had not succeeded in doing this, what do you think might have brought her back into action?



Language Activities

A. Sea Otters

A group of frolicking sea otters play an important role in this section of the novel. How much do you know about this fascinating creature? Did you know, for instance, that the sea otter's coat is the thickest in the animal kingdom? Did you know that they often sleep while floating on their backs in the water? Using resources in your school library or on the Internet, research three additional facts about this mammal and record them below.



1	
2	
3	

B. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **WAS** can also form the word **SAW**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:

a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters. All of the words in the left-hand column can be found in the first eight chapters of *The Wild Robot*.

Word	Anagram	Clue
shape		Stage; period.
forest		Not as firm to the touch.
doing		Wild Australian dog.
brain		Youngster (In Scotland.)
heads		Out of the sun.
rocks		Bottle stoppers.
crate		Respond in a particular way.

Now find two additional words from the first eight chapters which have interesting anagrams to see if you can stump a classmate.

Word	Anagram	Clue

C. Next to each pair of words indicate whether each is an example of a Synonym (S), Antonym (A), or Homophone (H).

1	robot - cyborg		6	curious - disinterested	
2	forest - woods		7	activated - dormant	
3	coastline - inland		8	way - weigh	
4	cord - chord		9	discover - identify	
5	absorbing - repelling		10	cautious - negligent	

D. A Quatrain Poem Celebrates Robots.

The **quatrain** is a popular form of rhymed verse. It is a poem of four lines, is usually light and can be humorous. The following quatrain is the first four lines of the famous poem, *My Robot*, written by the renowned poet, Atrocious Halitosis.

*My robot lives in my garage,
I keeps him under wraps.
As far from people as I can,
Cause he's made from table scraps.*



Various rhyming schemes make up a quatrain poem. As you can see, the above four lines have a rhyming scheme of **A – B – C – B**. Other rhyming schemes include: ABAB, AAAA, AABA, ABBA, ABBA, and AAAB.

Your task is to write your own quatrain poem. You may choose a rhyming scheme that fits with your own personal creation. The theme should have something to do with the themes established in the first eight chapters of our novel (like *shipwrecks* or *deserted islands*).

The Quatrain Poem

Now create your own Quatrain Poem. Your poem must follow the format of a quatrain poem described above (and must rhyme).

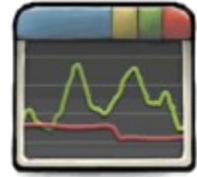
Title: _____

Bonus Question.

In the above poem why do you think the poet used the word *keeps* instead of *keep*?

E. Cliffhanger

Chapter Two contains an important literary device called a **cliffhanger**. A cliffhanger usually occurs at the end of a chapter when the author leaves the reader in suspense. How is this true in Chapter 2? Why do you think the author ended the chapter this way?



F. A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. An example from Chapter Four is: *Like a hatchling breaking from a shell, Roz climbed out into the world.*

What is being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your own imagination:

a) ocean waves crashing on the shore

b) a sea otter cracking open a clam

c) your choice

Extension Activity

Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel. Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first five chapters of our novel. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6