

A is for Automaton by Ross Denton

Teacher's Guide

Discussion Questions for Students:

1. Now that you have read this book, what do you think an automaton is? How is an automaton different from or similar to robots?
2. Why do you think the author/illustrator, Ross Denton, chose to keep the colors muted in this book instead of using bright colors?
3. If you had to choose, which automaton would you most like to meet? Why?
4. If you had to choose, which automaton would you NOT like to meet? Why?
5. Why do you think that the author chose to stage these automatons engaging with animals and not humans?

Lesson Ideas

1. Creative Writing - *A is for Automaton* is full of delightful alliterative words that challenge vocabulary of students. Have students use a dictionary or online dictionary to look up all of the words for one letter. Then, have the student turn the one-sentence into a full-length story using the illustrations on that page as a guide.
2. Make your own Alliteration & Assonance Book – Alliteration is the repeating of an initial consonant sound, while Assonance is the repeating of a vowel sound over and over. *A is for Automaton* uses Automaton as a theme to create an entire alphabet book. Challenge students to do the same using a theme of your choosing: simple machines, book genres, biographies of famous people, countries, etc. The options are endless.
3. Automaton Design Challenge – Automatons have fascinated humans for centuries---even as far back as appearing in Greek Mythology! Have students research real-life automatons and then design and/or build their own automaton creations.