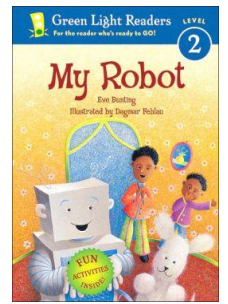


My Robot by Eve Bunting



I got a new robot for my birthday. I call him Cecil. Ever since I got him, we have been doing lots of things together. Cecil plays tag with the children at school. WHIR! WHIR! We hear the **sound** of his wheels spinning as he races after us. Sometimes he goes a little too fast. CRASH! SMASH! Cecil hits the fence. "Not the fence, Cecil!" I call. It's hard not to laugh. Playing tag is not the best thing my robot can do. All my friends at school like Cecil a lot. He helps our teacher, Mr. Spencer. Helping Mr. Spencer is not the best thing my robot can do. Cecil leads the school band. RUM-A-TUM-TUM. Hear that drum. "Don't dance, Cecil! I **say**. "Don't prance! Just march!" The children in the band march along after him. Leading the band is not the best thing my robot can do. Cecil picks me up after school. He gives me a ride home. "How's the weather up there?" my little brother Dennis asks. He gets a ride home, too. **Once** in a while, Cecil **does** tricks with our dog. They can roll over. WHIRL! WHIRL! They can beg. CREAK! FIZZ! WHIZ! "Shake, Prince," **says** Dennis. "Shake, Cecil," he **says**. Doing tricks is not the best thing my robot can do. Cecil plays hid-and-seek, too. He is **always** IT. He gives everyone a chance to find a good place to hide. CLANK! CLUNK! Here comes Cecil! We don't **say** we heard him coming. He whistles when he finds us. WHIR! SPARK! POP! Playing hide-and-seek is not the best my robot can do. Everyone has heard about Cecil's cakes. He makes circus animals with the frosting. His cakes are **almost** too **pretty** to eat. "This is your best cake yet!" **says** Dennis. "Cecil's cakes are **pretty** good," I **say**, "But that is still not the best thing my robot can do." "My tummy tells me it is," Dennis **says**. Cecil can mow the

grass. WHIR! WHEEZE! WHISH! Cecil goes very fast. It's a hot day, but Dad is not hot. "This must be the best thing Cecil can do," *says* Dad. "*Almost*," I tell Dad. "You and Dennis come with me. I'll show you something else Cecil can do." "Look in here. *Even* cleaning my room is not the best thing my robot can do." I give Cecil a hug. "Thanks, Cecil," I whisper. "The very best thing you can do is be my friend!"

FLASH! SPARK! WHIRL! POP! Cecil knows.

Phonics Skill	Comprehension Skill	High-Frequency Words
consonant /s/ c	Fantasy/Reality	almost, always, does, even, once, pretty, say, sound
Genre: Science Fiction		
In science fiction, things happen that can't happen yet but MAY happen in the future. Look for tools and machines that are different than tools we use today and things that are the same as today.		