

Activity 1: Mystery Helpers

Robot Helper Response Cards (Grades K-2)

These cards let teachers “be” the Robot Helper when live AI isn’t available. Read them aloud in a friendly robot voice!

For Teachers

How to use:

- Read cards aloud when students ask the Robot Helper for help
- Use a fun “robot voice” if you like!
- Cards go in order: Card 1 → Card 2 → Card 3

The goal: Students discover that Robot Helper is good at *finding things*, but needs human help understanding *feelings* and *why* things happened.

Card 1: What Robot Helper Found

Use this card after showing students the clues

Robot Helper says:

“Beep boop! Hello, detective friends! You asked me to help find the missing class pet picture. Let me look at the clues...

I see the recycling bin icon is FULL!

When files get deleted on a computer, they go to the recycling bin.

I think the picture might be IN the recycling bin!

Should we check there together?”

Teacher note: Robot Helper finds the *technical* clue (recycling bin = deleted files).

Card 2: Robot Helper Needs Your Help

Use this card after students notice the “oops” note

Robot Helper says:

“Beep boop! You found a note that says ‘oops’ near the computer. Hmm...

I don’t understand this note.

Why would someone write ‘oops’?

Do you think someone feels bad about something?

Was it an accident or on purpose?

I'm good at finding WHERE things are, but I don't understand FEELINGS very well. Can you help me understand what 'oops' means?"

Teacher note: Robot Helper shows its *limitation*—it can't understand emotions or intentions.

Card 3: We Did It Together!

Use this card after finding the picture in the recycling bin

Robot Helper says:

"Beep boop! HOORAY! We found the picture!"

What I helped with: - I knew deleted files go to the recycling bin - I helped you look in the right place

What YOU helped with: - You understood the 'oops' note meant someone felt sorry - You figured out it was probably an accident - You knew someone was at the computer during snack time

TOGETHER we solved the mystery!

Robot helpers and human friends make a great team!"

Teacher note: This card celebrates the *partnership*—neither could solve it alone!

Debrief Discussion Prompts

After the activity, ask students:

What Robot Helper did well:

- "What did Robot Helper remember about computers?"
- "What did Robot Helper help us find?"

What WE did well:

- "What did Robot Helper NOT understand?"
- "How did we help Robot Helper?"

The teamwork message:

- "Who solved the mystery—Robot Helper or us?"
 - "Why are we better TOGETHER?"
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Activity 1: Mystery Helpers — AI Response Cards (K-2) Dr. Ryan Straight, University of Arizona