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## Once Upon A Blue Moon

Directed by Steve Boot

UK 2015 / 3m28s

Activities created by Lynsey Dick

**CfE Outcomes:** Expressive Arts, Technologies, Literacy

**Themes:** Loneliness, excitement, new adventure, determination

## Synopsis

A comical mixed-media stop motion animation about a blue planet and a lonely blue creature. The isolated planet is visited by a robot on an important mission, to only take pictures of the rocks it finds.

## Before visiting the cinema

Show the class the film trailer. It can be viewed on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/140587773>

Once the class have watched the trailer ask them to predict what they think will happen in the story. Will the Robot play a key part in the story? What will the blue creature do? Take feedback and record the ideas on the interactive white board.



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## After visiting the cinema

The full film is available to watch again on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/127529843>

### Questions for discussion

Look at the ideas previously recorded predicting what they thought would happen.

- Were any of the predictions correct?
- What was the creature doing with the rocks?
- Why do you think he was trying to make another creature similar to himself?
- How do you think he felt when he saw the spaceship land?

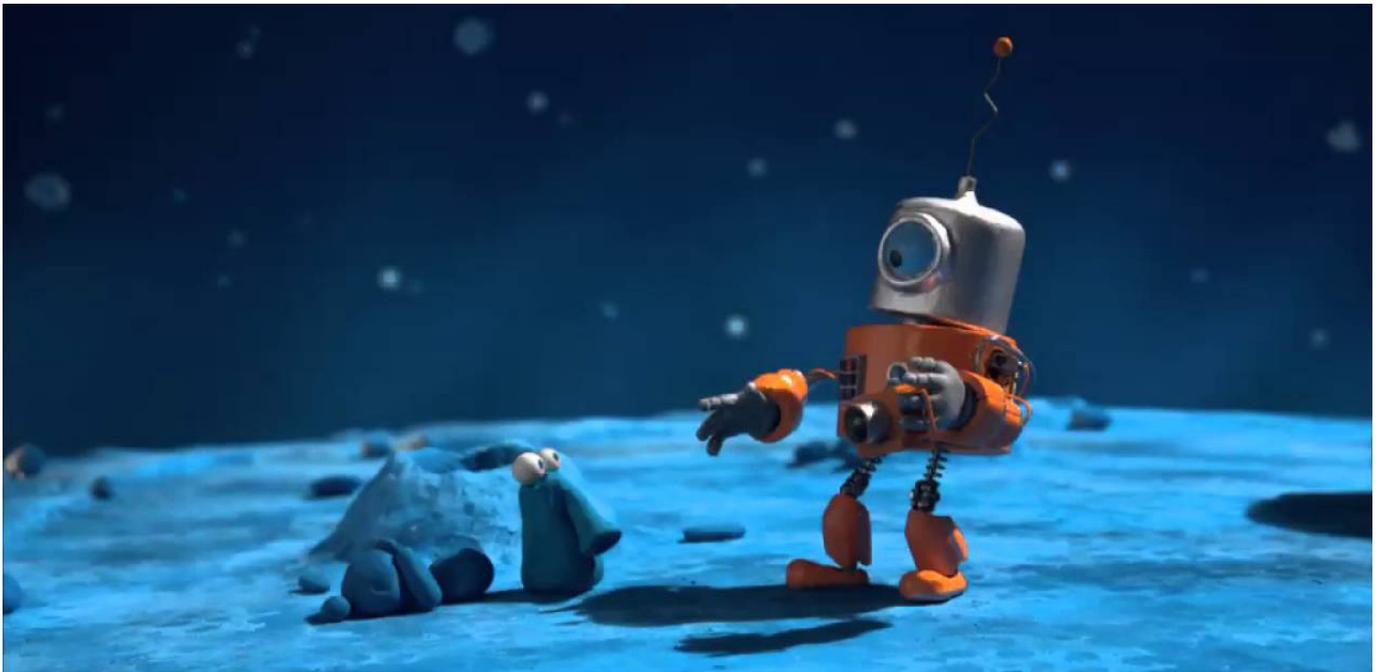
### Children's Task One

Allow the children the opportunity to experiment creating their own blue creature. This could be using clay, play-doh, plasticine, fimo or any other material available.

Have the children create their creature then encourage them to evaluate which of the materials makes the best model.

*I have the opportunity to choose and explore a range of media and technologies to create images and objects, discovering their effects and suitability for specific tasks. EXA 1-02a*

*I have the opportunity to choose and explore an extended range of media and technologies to create images and objects, comparing and combining them for specific tasks. EXA 2-02a*



## Children's Task Two

Using a suitable computer programme such as Textease, encourage the children to draw the Once Upon a Blue Moon background. Can they add in details like the blue creature, the Robot and the camera?

*I explore and experiment with the features and functions of computer technology and I can use what I learn to support and enhance my learning in different contexts. **TCH 2-04a***

*I am developing an interest, confidence and enjoyment in using drawing and colour techniques, manually or electronically, to represent ideas in different learning situations. **TCH 1-15a***

## Children's Task Three

The Robot had clear intentions of returning once his mission had been complete. However, due to the spaceship leaving unexpectedly the Robot is stranded on the blue planet.

Discuss with the children that the Robot would be expected to return with his results from the mission. To explain what happened they will need to write a letter/email to be sent to the Robot's home.

*I enjoy creating texts of my choice and I regularly select subject, purpose, format and resources to suit the needs of my audience. **LIT 1-20a/ LIT 2-20a***

*I can create, capture and manipulate sounds, text and images to communicate experiences, ideas and information in creative and engaging ways. **TCH 1-04b/TCH 2-04b***



**Write an email to explain what happened to the Robot**

**To:**

**From:**

**Subject:**

**Send**

**Attach** 

A large empty rectangular box for writing the email content.



## Children's Task Four

If you wanted to allow the children the opportunity to create their own stop motion animation, they could try making the Robot from the film, the spaceship, the camera and even the background.

Let the children experiment with a variety of materials when making their models. They could bring in an assortment of junk modelling or you could collect this from home or ask colleagues to bring in things for your class to use.

Use the still below to look at the way the objects in the foreground have been made. The children could make exact replicas or use their imagination and create a new design.



*I have the opportunity to choose and explore an extended range of media and technologies to create images and objects, comparing and combining them for specific tasks. **EXA 2-02a***

*Through discovery and imagination, I can develop and use problem-solving strategies to construct models. **TCH 1-14a/ TCH 2-14a***

## Children's Task Five

The brilliance of this short animation is the three rules the Robot has been clearly given. Look at the still image below to remind the children of these rules. How many of these rules does the Robot break?

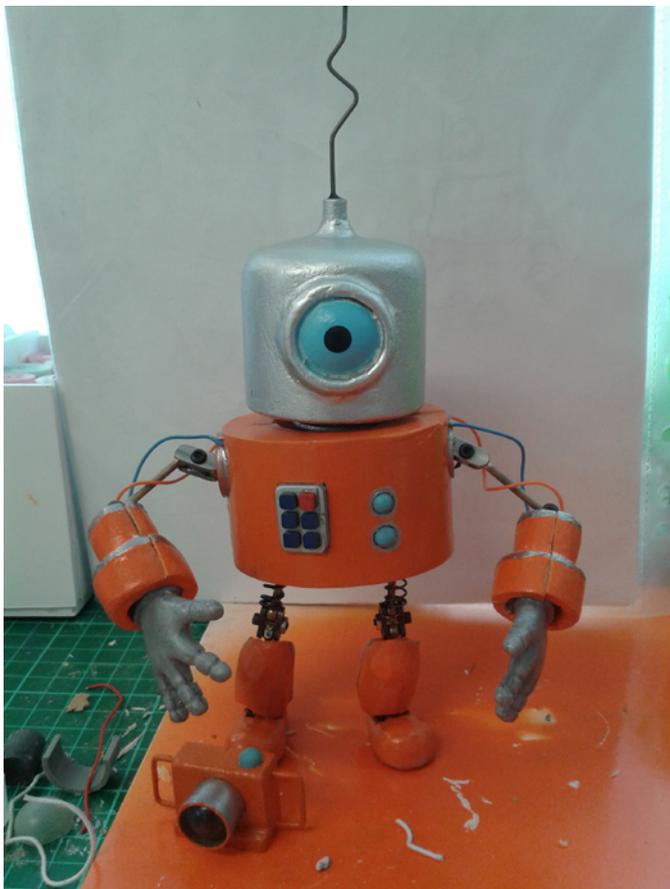
However we do not know why the Robot has been given this mission. With the children discuss the following:

- Why has he been sent on this mission?
- Where has he come from?
- What is his planet like?
- Will anyone realise he has failed to return from the mission?

Explain to the children that they are going to write a background story as to why the Robot has been sent on the mission.



*Having explored the elements which writers use in different genres, I can use what I learn to create stories, poems and plays with an interesting and appropriate structure, interesting characters and/or settings which come to life. **ENG 2-31a***



## Additional Activity

As another activity the children could create a missing poster of the Robot.

## Additional Information and Resources

This website has a great interview with Steve and some lovely images of the animation in the process of being made:

<http://www.skwigly.co.uk/watch-upon-blue-moon-steve-boot/>

Steve Boot has other videos available on Vimeo at:

<https://vimeo.com/steveboot>