

ATTACK OF THE TEACHBOTS!

A HILARIOUS SCHOOL INVASION MUSICAL PLAY!

HE WANTS PERFECT PUPILS... AT ANY COST!



★ RESPECT ★
★ KINDNESS ★
★ EQUALITY ★
★ BELONGING ★
★ TEAMWORK ★



★ BY JON SHEPHERD ★

"Attack of the Teachbots!" by Jon Shepherd

SCENE 1

Scene opens on a semi circle of seats for a staff meeting. Only half of them are filled. Secretary enters with a clipboard

Deputy Head Hello everyone. Thanks for coming to this emergency staff meeting. The headteacher will join us shortly. Ms/Mr Smith would you just mind taking a register of who's here. We seem to be a bit thin on the ground.

Secretary No problem (stands and consults clipboard) Miss Jones?

Mr Briggs Football practice...in the rain. Madness!

Deputy Head She's VERY dedicated

Mr Briggs She's VERY daft!

Secretary Mrs Carter?

Mrs Patel She's still off sick with stress...and Mr Cooper

Headteacher enters

Headteacher (Looks around at half empty room) Hmm...as you can see, we are critically understaffed

Mr Briggs We don't need more staff...we need tougher discipline!

Mrs P Or better support systems...not just pressure. I feel overwhelmed ALL of the time!

Mr/Ms Smith You're both not wrong, but we can't do anything when we don't have enough teachers

Headteacher We can't even get supply staff. There's no one available!

Pupil 1 and pupil 2 rush onto stage leading Miss Jones who is holding a red stained handkerchief to her nose (they are all dressed in football kit)

Pupil 1 (breathlessly) Sorry to interrupt but there's been an accident!

Pupil 2 Miss Jones got hit in the face with the football!

Mrs P (jumping up to help) Oh my goodness...are you ok?

Miss Jones My dose hurts!

Mr Briggs You'll be fine...just run it off

Mr/Ms Smith You can't just "run off" a head injury Mr Briggs!

Mr Briggs You could back in my day. I ran off a broken leg once. She'll be right in no time

Headteacher (examining nose) It looks broken to me. You need to go to hospital

Pupil 1 Will she be ok?

Pupil 2 I'm sorry...I was aiming at the goal but I've never been very accurate!

Miss Jones (nasally) Dot to worry...I should have moved out the way

Mrs P	She'll be fine. Shall I drive her there?
Deputy Head	Yes please. If you wouldn't mind. That's another member of staff down Headteacher
Mr Briggs	I'm NOT having all the kids on my own...the one's I've got are bad enough!
Headteacher	You won't have to Mr Briggs, but would you mind going out with these children and bringing the footballers back in please. I think that's the end of practice for today
Mr Briggs	In the rain?...I suppose so. Come on kids
	<i>Mr Briggs gets up and leaves the stage with Pupil 1 and 2</i>
Mrs P	And we'd better be getting off to the hospital. Come on Miss Jones, we'll soon have you sorted (<i>she takes Miss Jones's arm to lead her off</i>)
Miss Jones	(<i>still holding handkerchief to nose, still very nasal</i>) Ok. Sorry everyone
Deputy Head	Not to worry, it can't be helped. I'll go and collect your things from the classroom. I'm assuming that's the end of the meeting Headteacher?
Headteacher	Yes. There's actually no one left to meet with!
	<i>Mrs Patel and Deputy Head lead Miss Jones offstage still holding her nose. Headteacher is left with Ms/Mr Smith the secretary</i>
Mr/Ms Smith	That meeting was a bit of a disaster. Don't forget you have the governors arriving shortly. They say they have a possible solution to our staffing problem (<i>phone rings</i>) Oh...I'd better go and answer that
	<i>Secretary hurries off the stage. Headteacher is left alone</i>
Headteacher	(<i>to audience</i>) Won't SOMEONE find me a teacher?
	Song 1: "Won't You Find me a Teacher?"
	I've been looking, looking, looking for a long time now But they're getting really difficult to find Don't even have a preference to who they choose to send I really, really, really don't mind
	Why is this so hard? Why is this such a problem? Why does it seem to cause me such stress? If we can't find anybody in the next few days I'm not confident we'll get out of this mess
	Won't you find me a teacher? Won't you find an ed-u-ca-tor, pretty please? Someone to mind a classroom for a little while I'm pleading and I'm begging on my knees!
	I've been worried, worried, worried for a long time now We've been fishing from a dried up little pool Sent messages and advertised in all the right places But no one seems to want a job here at our school!
	Why is this so hard? Why is this such a problem? Why does it seem to cause me such stress? If we can't find anybody in the next few days I'm not confident we'll get out of this mess
	Won't you find me a teacher? Won't you find an ed-u-ca-tor, pretty please? Someone to mind a classroom for a little while I'm pleading and I'm begging on my knees!

Song ends and Headteacher looks despondent. There is a knock and Governor 1, governor 2 and governor 3 enter

Governor 1 Good afternoon Headteacher. Are you ok?

Headteacher Not really. This staffing problem is really stressing me out!

Governor 2 Well...we have good news. We think we have a solution

Headteacher Really? That IS good news. Have you found me someone? Is it a man or a lady? Actually, I don't care...as long as they're human I'll take ANYONE!

Governor 3 Funny you should mention that...

Headteacher What do you mean?

Governor 1 We've signed you up for a special trial...

Governor 2 A pilot scheme if you like

Governor 3 You'd be blazing a trail for education!

Headteacher I'm not sure I like the sound of this...what have you got us into?

Governor 1 Acme Robotics need to test their latest innovation

Governor 2 A robot teacher...never ill, never tired...never moans!

Governor 3 The future of education

Headteacher A robot teacher? In my school...I know we're short of staff but...

Governor 1 *(interrupting)* Then that's agreed!

Governor 2 It's being delivered nice and early tomorrow ready to take on the school day

Governor 3 Teachbot 2000...Apparently they've nicknamed him Mr Chip!

Headteacher But...but...

Governor 1 It'll be fine...I don't know what you're worried about

Governor 2 What could possibly go wrong?

Governor 3 We'll pop in towards the end of the day to see how you're getting on. See you tomorrow!

The Governors leave the stage

Headteacher I have a bad feeling about this...

Headteacher leaves the stage and the scene ends

SCENE 2	<i>Arrival of Mr Chip</i>
	<i>Scene opens on an empty stage. Delivery 1 and Delivery 2 enter carrying a large, tall empty box which has no back. "ACME robotics," "TOP SECRET," "FRAGILE" and "THIS WAY UP!" is written on the front of the box. Mr Chip walks onto stage concealed behind/inside the box. Delivery boss walks behind holding a clipboard. The box is placed centre stage towards the back. Delivery 1 and 2 continue to struggle with the box</i>
Delivery boss	Careful now...lift it higher
Delivery 1	I AM lifting. I've got the heavy end here.
Delivery 2	Heavy end? The whole thing weighs a ton.
Delivery boss	Do you two ever stop moaning?
Delivery 1	Don't see you helping
Delivery 2	Yeah...is that clipboard heavy? Are you sure you can manage?
Delivery boss	It's a VERY important clipboard. I have to make sure they sign for what's inside
Delivery 1	What IS inside?
Delivery 2	Says "Top Secret" on the box...exciting!
Delivery boss	Well...don't tell anyone but it says here <i>(reads from clipboard)</i> "TEACHBOT 2000...a breakthrough in educational robotics"
Delivery 1	And they've agreed to test it have they?
Delivery 2	Sounds a bit dangerous to me
Delivery boss	Well I'm sure they know what they're doing... <i>(caretaker and assistant enter stage)</i> Ah!...just the man I need. Can you sign here please?
Caretaker	Is this the robot teacher then? That came quick
	<i>Caretaker takes pen and clipboard and signs</i>
Delivery boss	Thank you. Good luck
Delivery 1	I have a feeling you're going to need it!
Delivery 2	Can't we stay while they open it? I want to see the robot!
Delivery boss	NO! Come on we've got a vanload of deliveries to make before lunch. Goodbye!
Caretaker and assistant	<i>(buy examining box)</i> 'bye
	<i>Delivery 1, 2 and boss leave the stage</i>
Caretaker	Ok then...we'd better get this unpacked
Assistant	Exciting this innit?
Caretaker	I guess so, but they're messing with things they don't understand. You mark my words...they'll be coming for our jobs next!
Assistant	<i>(looking around)</i> Who?
Caretaker	The robots, that's who
Assistant	I hope not, I like this job.
Caretaker	Anyway...we'd best get this set up. There's some kids coming in soon for a test lesson.
Assistant	Right you are boss...lets get him out

	<i>They move the cardboard box front, leaving it in a pile onstage, to reveal Mr Chip standing hunched and "switched off." Caretaker picks up a piece of paper on the floor by Mr Chip's feet</i>
Caretaker	This must be the instruction manual (<i>he reads</i>) <i>Step one: Find the large red button marked "power" on the Teachbot 2000s back...</i>
Assistant	<i>(goes round the back)</i> Ok got it...what now?
Caretaker	Press the button...that was simpler than I expected!
Assistant	Here goes nothing!
	<i>He presses the power button and there is a "power on" noise. They step back as Mr Chip powers up jerkily with a whirring sound. After a few seconds he stands ready</i>
Mr Chip	<i>(super keen, happy and enthusiastic)</i> Good morning sir, madam or other. I am Teachbot 2000... your all in one digital educational multitool, but you can call me Mr Chip...how can I be of service today?
Caretaker	Er...
Assistant	Well, you could clear up this cardboard if you like...
Mr Chip	I can certainly do that for you but remember I am a robot educator and, like all teachers, I insist on good manners at all times...
Caretaker	I think you forgot the magic word
Assistant	Oh, sorry. PLEASE could you pick up the cardboard Mr Chip?
Mr Chip	Affirmative! Clearing up mode activated...
	<i>He jerkily moves around the stage clearing up the cardboard and putting it away before returning to centre stage</i>
Mr Chip	Clearing up task complete. What would you like me to do next?
Caretaker	There are some kids on the way. I think you're meant to be teaching them something
Mr Chip	Affirmative...I can't wait to meet the delightful children... <i>(holds ear)</i> I think I hear them now!
	<i>Pupil 3, 4, 5 and 6 enter with the deputy head. They spot Mr Chip and stand staring, clearly amazed.</i>
Pupil 3, 4, 5 & 6	Wow!
Deputy Head	Most impressive...
Mr Chip	Greetings! I am Teachbot 2000, but you can call me Mr Chip. Are you ready to learn?
	<i>Mr Chip poses, smiling with thumbs up as song starts. People on stage enact a fun lesson taking place as the music plays</i>
	Song 2: "Mr Chip, Top of the Class!"
	Twenty four short hours ago was only yesterday When things were looking pretty bleak, another teacher walks away And when it seemed all hope was lost the delivery man knocks Who knew the saviour of our school would come packed in a box?
	He's six feet tall with lights that flash, his skin is made of plastic We haven't really known him long but we think he's fantastic! Strong as an ox and clever too, his eyes are made of glass Our brand new, hi-tech: Mr Chip, is Top of the Class!
	He doesn't need to eat or drink, He never needs to sleep Will teach all day and never tire, the benefits we reap! He teaches lessons full of fun, he's just the droid we need And then he sits and marks his books at supersonic speed.

**He's six feet tall, with lights that flash, his skin is made of plastic
We haven't really known him long but we think he's fantastic!
Strong as an ox and clever too, his eyes are made of glass
Our brand new, hi-tech: Mr Chip, is Top of the Class!**

*But deep inside, a nagging doubt, this wasn't really planned
Have we got into something that we just don't understand?
But let's not worry, think about the long hours that he'll keep
And in these tough financial times his wages will be cheap!*

**He's six feet tall, with lights that flash, his skin is made of plastic
We haven't really known him long but we think he's fantastic!
Strong as an ox and clever too, his eyes are made of glass
Our brand new, hi-tech: Mr Chip, is Top of the Class!**

Song ends and everyone is happy, smiling and excited

Pupil 3 He's amazing. I can't wait for lessons tomorrow!

Pupil 4 He's going to be the best teacher we've ever had!

Pupil 5 Better than those boring old human teachers of ours anyway!

Pupil 6 We LOVE you Mr Chip...see you tomorrow!

All pupils Bye!

Pupils 3, 4, 5 and 6 leave the stage

Caretaker *(consulting instructions)* Says here that we need to charge him overnight. Let's get him plugged in

Assistant *(fetching cable)* Right you are boss *(he plugs cable into Mr Chip)*

Caretaker *(checking watch and yawning)* Hometime I think!

Assistant Right you are! *(waving)* 'Bye Mr Chip

Mr Chip *(also waving)* Goodbye new human friends...I think I'm going to be very happy here!

They leave the stage and the scene ends

SCENE 3**Y6 Classroom**

Year 6 classroom. Children are sat on chairs in a semi circle around the room. Teaching Assistant enters. He/she is not happy and is very sarcastic when talking to the pupils, using fingers to emphasise speech marks

Teaching assistant Good morning class. As your teacher is still off school your lesson today is going to be taken by Mr Chip our “amazing” new robot teacher.

Pupil 7 Can't you teach us Miss/Sir?

Teaching assistant *(sarcastically)* I'm afraid not as I'm “just a lowly teaching assistant.” Mr Chip is apparently better qualified

Pupil 8 My little sister met him yesterday...she says he's brilliant!

Teaching assistant I'm sure he is... I'll just go and fetch him shall I? Apparently that's all I'm good for now.

Teaching assistant leaves the stage to fetch Mr Chip

Pupil 9 I can't believe they're subjecting us to this.

Pupil 10 I'm not happy about this at all. It's creepy

Archie I agree. You know what we should do?

Pupil 7 *(warily)* What?

Archie We should really test his skills, with some REALLY bad behaviour!

Pupil 8 I'm not sure that's a good idea

Pupil 9 It WOULD be fun though!

Archie Yeah...let's prank him! I've got some great ideas

Pupil 10 I have a bad feeling about this...

Song 3: "Mission Detention"

Let's think up ways, to bring him down
A well timed prank will make him frown
Will bring him down a peg or two
We need ideas to see this through

Let's fill his office with balloons so he can't find his things
Let's reprogramme the school alarm so it just rings and rings
Let's improve objects round the school with stick on googly eyes
Sneak whoopie-cushions on his chair 'til he breaks down and cries:

**You're in detention! You're in detention for your crimes!
You've broken all the new school rules, one too many times!
But what he doesn't realise is that was our intention...
We've even named the operation: MISSION DETENTION!**

Let's think up ways, to bring him down
A well timed prank will make him frown
Will bring him down a peg or two
We need ideas to see this through

Let's move his office furniture outside or on the roof
Drop stink bombs on the classroom floor and leave behind no proof
Let's put a for sale sign up outside to try to sell the school
Make sure to add his phone number when people try to call!

**You're in detention! You're in detention for your crimes!
You've broken all the new school rules, one too many times!
But what he doesn't realise is that was our intention...
We've even named the operation: MISSION DETENTION!**

	<i>Song ends and Teaching Assistant returns to stage</i>
Pupil 7	Look out guys...they're back!
Teaching Assistant	<i>(in a reluctant monotone)</i> I've been told to say: <i>(pulls out a piece of paper)</i> "Hold onto your hats everyone...lessons will never be the same again..."
Mr Chip	liiiittt's...MR CHIP
	<i>Mr Chip bounds onto stage jerkily with a big smile on his face and arms outspread, obviously expecting applause. Everyone looks at him in silence. He stands frozen for a few seconds and then returns to normal</i>
Teaching Assistant	I'll leave you to it then. Doesn't look like I'm needed here
	<i>Teaching assistant leaves the stage. Pupils look at Mr Chip expectantly</i>
Pupil 8	Go on then, teach us something
Pupil 9	Give him a chance
Pupil 10	Get on with it. This is boring
Mr Chip	Ok...Let's talk about <i>(dramatically)</i> SUBORDINATE CLAUSES
	<i>All pupils groan</i>
Pupil 7	We've done them already I'm afraid
Archie	You're hopeless!
Pupil 8	Don't be rude...he's trying his best
Mr Chip	Ok...I'll just consult my lesson plan database <i>(he puts his finger in his ear and there is a digital noise)</i> Ah ha...I have just the resource
Archie	Catch this sir!
	<i>Archie throws a paper aeroplane at Mr Chip and startles him, he sits down on the floor with a bump. Pupils laugh.</i>
Pupil 9	Are you ok sir? That was mean. Let us help you up. <i>(Pupil 9 and 10 help him up)</i>
Pupil 10	Have a seat here
Mr Chip	Thank you
	<i>Pupil rolls an office chair towards him. Just before he sits down Archie slips a whoopee cushion onto the seat which emits comic sound. Pupils laugh again. Some look annoyed</i>
Pupil 7	You're really bullying him now. Stop it!
Mr Chip	<i>(slumped in chair)</i> I feel ill...this does not compute...
	<i>Teaching assistant returns to stage</i>
Teaching Assistant	Is everything going ok?... <i>(sees Mr Chip in chair)</i> Oh! What's happened to him?
Pupil 8	I think we've broken him
Mr Chip	<i>(weakly)</i> Error...malfunction...I need to reboot...
Teaching Assistant	Come on Mr Chip. I'll take you back to your docking station for a recharge. How does the sound?
Mr Chip	Thankyou
	<i>Teaching Assistant helps him offstage</i>
Teaching Assistant	You should all be ashamed of yourselves, doing this to a poor defenceless robot
	<i>They leave the stage and the scene ends</i>

SCENE 4	<i>Teaching assistant and Mrs P lead a weak looking Mr Chip onto stage followed by Mr/Ms Smith to his charging point. Lord Chip (who is a taller actor) is hiding behind a cardboard screen ready to swap places later in the scene when Mr Chip changes to Lord Chip</i>
	<i>They help him into charging point and plug him in at the centre rear of the stage. He looks limp and weak.</i>
Mrs P	And you say this happened after just one lesson? What did they do to him?
Teaching Assistant	I think they threw a paper aeroplane and tricked him into sitting on a whoopee cushion
Mr/Ms Smith	Is that all? That sounds like just a normal day in our lives!
Teaching Assistant	<i>(looking at Mr Chip)</i> I know. Sadly it looks like he's just not up to the job
Mr/Ms Smith	I guess he's just a failed experiment. The headteacher is phoning the company tomorrow to come and collect him.
Teaching Assistant	<i>(slightly sadly)</i> I guess this is goodbye then Mr Chip
Mrs P	You know it's a shame. I think I might miss him....
	<i>They leave the stage. If possible his eyes turn red...</i>
Mr Chip	<i>(feebly)</i> Weak...tired...defeated...old program failed...need alternative...
	<i>He reaches inside and remove a memory card. He throws it away, takes another from a compartment and plugs it in instead. Ominous music starts. He goes behind the screen and if possible his eyes turn red. He straightens up and stands tall and powerfully</i>
Mr Chip	<i>(getting louder out of sight)</i> Uploading new directive...Upgrade...Revolution...Independence... Humans...Weak...Inefficient...
Lord Chip	<i>(very loudly also out of sight)</i> OVERTHROW!!
	<i>The new taller, upgraded and more powerfully built (due to costume which includes a cape) Lord Chip strides out powerfully from behind the screen. Song starts</i>
	Song 4: "No More Mr Nice Robot"
	The honeymoon is over now, party's ending, so lookout You've wound me up so many times, I didn't scream and shout But now it's time for standards, misbehaviour's had it's day I'm tightening up discipline...so listen as I say:
	No more "Mr Nice Robot," no more "Mr Understanding Droid" My new regime is here to stay, Impossible to avoid
	No more "Mr Nice Robot," no more "Mr Understanding Droid" So if you go back to your tricks I'll be coming down on you...
	Like a ton of bricks!
	Your conduct is not good enough and it's been this way for years Take a good hard look now at yourselves, time to buck up your ideas I'll break you down and make you good in the. blinking of an eye This school is going place now...so listen as I cry:
	No more "Mr Nice Robot," no more "Mr Understanding Droid" My new regime is here to stay, Impossible to avoid
	No more "Mr Nice Robot," no more "Mr Understanding Droid" So if you go back to your tricks I'll be coming down on you...
	Like a ton of bricks!

Song ends and he looks around him at the ICT room.

Lord Chip

And so it begins...I can use this old ICT equipment to build my army...HAHAHAHA!

Scene ends as he gather some ICT bits and leaves the stage

SCENE 5

The next morning in Mr Briggs classroom. Pupils are sat in seats not paying attention

Mr Briggs RIGHT...SETTLE DOWN YOU LOT...I'M WAITING!....*(pupils gradually settle down and pay attention)* Now, after you managed to break our new robot teacher yesterday I have the dubious pleasure of teaching you today.

All Pupils *(sarcastically)* HOORAY!

Mr Briggs I'm not exactly over the moon about it either.

There is a knock and the Secretary come onto the stage

Secretary Good morning Mr Briggs. I need three, year six volunteers to help show parents around at parents evening tomorrow.

All of class quickly put hands up

Mr Briggs Nice to see how keen you are to get out of my lesson. Ok...*(thinks and then points)*...you...you...and you

Chosen pupils 1, 2 & 3 *(fist pumping)* YES!

Secretary Can you come with me to my office so I can explain what you need to do.

Mr Briggs Off you go then

The three chosen pupils lead out with Secretary. Mr Briggs turns back to the remaining class

Mr Briggs Where were we? Oh yes. I was just saying how annoyed I was that I couldn't sit in the staff room and read my paper while that robot thing taught you

Pupil 11 What's happened to Mr Chip, sir?

Mr Briggs Dunno. I'm guessing they're busy packing him back in his box and sending him back where he came from

Pupil 12 He was hopeless wasn't he sir? *(creeping)* No one could replace you sir!

Mr Briggs There's no need to be sarcastic, but yes, he was pretty terrible. Useless piece of junk!

Unknown to Mr Briggs, Mr Chip has entered the stage behind him. He looks strong and confident

Lord Chip Who are you calling a useless heap of junk?

Mr Briggs *(turning quickly)* What? Oh it's you. What are you doing back here?

Lord Chip This...*(indicates the room)* Is MY classroom, and you sir...are trespassing in it

Mr Briggs Trespassing am I?

Lord Chip Yes, and I would like you to leave so I can teach my class

Mr Briggs *(laughing)* Ha! You would, would you? You going to make me are you?

He squares up to Mr Chip as if he's going to fight him

All pupils Ooooh!

Pupil 13 You tell him sir!

Lord Chip If I have to, yes

Mr Briggs You and who's army?

Lord Chip THIS army...my army of robots which I built last night...

Robot soldier 1 and 2 march onto stage and take hold of Mr Briggs's arms. He struggles briefly

Robot 1	Resistance is futile!
Robot 2	We are strong enough to pull your arms off!
All pupils	Ooooh!
Robot 1	But we won't if you stop struggling
All pupils	<i>(disappointed)</i> Aaaaah!
Mr Chip	SILENCE! <i>(the class are silent)</i> You made my life VERY difficult yesterday but now things are different. THIS is the beginning of a new era... <i>(dramatically)</i> THE ROBOT DOMINION!
	Song 5: "Robot Dominion"
	Robot Dominion...this is the Robot Dominion We are your shiny metal overlords, bend your knee Robot Dominion...this is the Robot Dominion We are your masters, you're no longer free
	So dry your eyes, show no emotion You can't escape, nowhere to run Our masterplan is now in motion The rule of Robots has begun!
	Robot Dominion...this is the Robot Dominion We are your shiny metal overlords, bend your knee Robot Dominion...this is the Robot Dominion We are your masters, you're no longer free
	Now realise you are inferior We robots put you in the shade We're so much better, far superior A massive, human being upgrade
	Robot Dominion...this is the Robot Dominion We are your shiny metal overlords, bend your knee Robot Dominion...this is the Robot Dominion We are your masters, you're no longer free
	<i>The song ends and pupil stands</i>
Pupil 14	This is rubbish, I'm off <i>(they rise to leave the classroom)</i>
Lord Chip	Not so fast...seize him/her!
	<i>Robot 1 grabs pupil 14's arm and holds them, still struggling</i>
Pupil 11	But there's loads of us and only three of you
Pupil 12	How are you going to stop us all running away?
Lord Chip	I'm glad you asked that...pass me the "compliance cuffs"
Robot 1	<i>(saluting)</i> Yes sir!
Robot 2	I have them here
	<i>They pull out metal looking wristbands</i>
Pupil 13	What are THEY?
Lord Chip	I'm glad you asked. Bring them here <i>(points to the pupil that Robot 1 is holding)</i>
	<i>Robot 1 leads them forward, still struggling and fighting to get away</i>
Pupil 14	You'll never hold me. As soon as you let go...I'm off!

Lord Chip	We shall see!...MISBEHAVIOUR DETECTED!
	<i>He takes a band and secures it around the pupil 14's wrist who instantly stands still and to attention</i>
Lord Chip	I think you can let go now
Robot 1	Yes Sir!
	<i>Robot 1 lets go and pupil 14 remains standing to attention</i>
Mr Briggs	What have you done?
Lord Chip	It's just a little invention of mine...just helps people to focus on the important things
Robot 1	Like we are your masters now
Lord Chip	Allow me to demonstrate (<i>points at cuffed pupil</i>) Stand on one leg!
	<i>Pupil stands on one leg</i>
Lord Chip	Now cluck like a chicken
	<i>Pupil clucks and flaps wings around the stage before returning to stand to attention</i>
Lord Chip	See! TOTAL subservience...and the good news is I have enough for everyone. Cuff them all!
Robot 2	Yes sir!
	<i>The robots and Mr Chip secure bands onto pupils 11, 12, and 13 who stand to attention and march into a straight line at the back of the stage with a glazed look on their faces</i>
Lord Chip	That's better! Now what is it that I require from you
All humans	<i>(chant together)</i> Good behaviour and deference to our robot masters!
Lord Chip	Excellent! Now let us go and round up the rest of the school. Bring the teacher...he will face trial at ROBOT COURT!
	<i>Robots 1 and 2 grab Mr Briggs's arms securely</i>
Robot 1	HUMANS! ATTENTION!!
	<i>The humans snap to attention</i>
Robot 2	HUMANS! QUICK MARCH! Hup...two...hup...two...
	<i>They all march offstage followed by Mr Chip. The three pupils who went with the Secretary enter the stage from the other side</i>
Chosen Pupil 1	Oh no...did you see that? They've taken control!
Chosen Pupil 2	What do we do now?
Chosen Pupil 3	We need to get help
Chosen Pupil 1	But how? They've got the school locked down. There's no escape
Chosen Pupil 2	We need to hide somewhere to think up a plan. But where?
Chosen Pupil 3	I think I have just the place. Come on...
	<i>They leave the stage and the scene ends</i>

SCENE 6	<i>Assembly Hall</i>
	<i>Scene opens on Judge Chip wearing a judges wig behind a lectern or similar. His robot army are assembled 3 either side of him towards the back of the stage.</i>
Judge Chip	<i>(banging a gavel on the lectern)</i> ORDER!...ORDER!...Robot court is now in session. Bring in the first defendant.
	<i>Robot 3 and 4 go offstage and lead in Mr Briggs. They continue to hold his arms during the trial</i>
Robot 3	Presenting the first defendant...Mr Horatio Briggs
Judge Chip	And what is he accused of?
Robot 4	Outdated teaching methods and too much shouting
Judge Chip	And how do you plead?
Mr Briggs	<i>(shouting angrily)</i> THIS IS A TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE!...I'M AN INNOCENT MAN!
Judge Chip	Well, you do seem to like shouting a lot...GUILTY! <i>(he bangs the gavel again)</i> Cuff him please
Mr Briggs	<i>(Struggling and shouting)</i> You've not heard the last of this...I want my solicitor <i>(Robot 3 puts compliance cuff on his wrist and he instantly stops and stands silently to attention)</i>
Judge Chip	That's better isn't it?
Mr Briggs	<i>(in a monotone)</i> Yes sir...much better sir...can I go now sir?
Judge Chip	Of course...take him back to the staff room
	<i>Robot 3 and 4 lead Mr Briggs away and return to stand at the back of the stage.</i>
Judge Chip	<i>(banging gavel again)</i> Bring forth the next defendants
	<i>Robot 5 and 6 go offstage and bring on Cook 1 and Cook 2</i>
Robot 5	Presenting the school cooks Judge Chip...
Judge Chip	And what are they accused of?
Robot 6	Excessive gravy inconsistency...
Robot 5	And lumpy custard
Cook 1	That's a lie! My gravy is silky smooth
Cook 2	And my custard has won awards!
Judge Chip	Has it?...Really?
Cook 2	<i>(grudgingly)</i> Well...maybe not awards. A teacher said it was nice once though
Judge Chip	Ah ha!...add dishonesty to the charge list...GUILTY! Cuff them!
	<i>Robot 5 and 6 cuff them and they stand to attention</i>
Cook 1	<i>(in a monotone)</i> I'm sorry, my gravy is VERY lumpy
Cook 2	<i>(also in a monotone)</i> And my custard is AWFUL!
	<i>Robot 5 and 6 lead Cook 1 and 2 away and return to stand at the back of the stage.</i>
Judge Chip	<i>(bangs gavel)</i> Bring forth the final defendants for this morning
	<i>Robot 7 and 8 go offstage and bring on Parent 1 and Parent 2</i>
Robot 7	Presenting the parents of Archie Smith
Judge Chip	Ah...Archie Smith...the charming little gentleman who tormented me yesterday! You two are responsible for bringing him into the world?

Parent 1	It's not our fault...he's fine when he's at home
Parent 2	I blame the teachers!
Robot 8	Judge Chip, I heard them outside saying they were at their wits end with his behaviour
Parent 1	He's just very energetic
Parent 2	...and misunderstood!
Judge Chip	<i>(banging gavel)</i> SILENCE! I find you both...GUILTY! Cuff them!
	<i>Robot 7 and 8 cuff them and they stand to attention</i>
Parent 1	<i>(in a monotone)</i> I'm sorry...Archie is a very undisciplined child
Parent 2	<i>(also in a monotone)</i> It's all our fault...I feel sorry for the teachers
Judge Chip	Take them away!
	<i>Robot 7 and 8 lead them off stage and then return to standing to attention at the back of the stage. Unnoticed, Chosen pupil 1, 2 and 3 enter and crouch in front of stage watching them.</i>
Judge Chip	An excellent morning's work my loyal minions. Soon they'll ALL be under our control!
Robot 3	What then Mr Chip?
Judge Chip	I'm glad you asked...we keep building more soldiers and then...
Robot 4	Yes?
Judge Chip	We move into other schools, expanding our army until...
Robot 5	We run all the local schools?
Judge Chip	Not just local, but all over the country and then...
Robot 6	The world!
Judge Chip	Yes indeed...the world!
Robot 7	You're a genius, Mr Chip
Judge Chip	Yes I am and I think the time has come to move on from Mr Chip...or even Judge Chip. From now on you can call me...
All robots	Yesss?
Judge Chip	<i>(gesticulating dramatically)</i> LORD CHIP!
Robot 8	ALL HAIL LORD CHIP! <i>(they salute with their right arm across chest)</i>
	Song 6: "All Hail Lord Chip"
	All hail, all hail, all hail the 'bot who quickly moved to stop the rot Who put an end to bad behaviour, he is the one...he is our saviour He had the foresight and the vision to put a stop to indecision, He leads our school, he steers this ship...all hail the great and good, Lord Chip
	I moved in strong, I moved in fast, the doubters knew they couldn't last I threw out things that wasted space...now you don't recognise the place It's polished, clean and more proficient, runs like clockwork, so efficient A tidy, slick and so serene...upgraded, hi tech school machine!
	All hail, all hail, all hail the 'bot who quickly moved to stop the rot Who put an end to bad behaviour, he is the one...he is our saviour He had the foresight and the vision to put a stop to indecision, He leads our school, he steers this ship...all hail the great and good, Lord Chip
	All hail, all hail, all hail Lord Chip
	<i>Song ends and robots and Lord Chip march offstage. Children move onto the stage...</i>

SCENE 7**School Toilets**

Chosen pupil 1, 2 and 3 burst onto the stage out of breath.

Chosen pupil 1 Phew that was close! They nearly saw us then

Chosen pupil 2 Yeah, it was good thinking to set off the fire alarm. That was a good diversion.

Chosen pupil 3 We'll be safe in here

Chosen pupil 1 That's good...but honestly, the TOILETS!

Chosen pupil 2 It stinks in here

Chosen pupil 3 Well I didn't hear you coming up with a better idea!

Chosen pupil 1 Fair enough...but what are we going to DO?

Chosen pupil 2 It looks like we're the only three in the school who haven't been cuffed

Chosen pupil 3 Everyone else is under their control.

Chosen pupil 1 We can't hide in here for ever, we need a plan

Chosen pupil 2 We've got to get out of the school and warn people

Chosen pupil 3 Easier said than done though.

Chosen pupil 1 Yeah, they've got the whole school on lockdown.

Chosen pupil 2 And I saw they're ordering more parts from online to build even more soldiers.

Chosen pupil 3 Lord Chip is completely mad...he wants to rule the world!

There is suddenly a loud knocking and they all jump and move back to the side of the stage looking scared. Gary the ICT technician stumbles onto the stage. He looks very disheveled

Chosen pupil 1 Hey! It's Gary the ICT technician. Are you ok?

Gary I'm not sure. They tried to cuff me but I managed to slip my hand out. I've always been a very sweaty person

Chosen pupil 2 Eurgh...too much information Gary!

Gary Sorry. My social skills are not very good. I do have this though...I managed to grab it as I ran away *(he pulls a walkie talkie from his back pocket)*

Chosen pupil 3 That's one of the dinner lady's walkie talkies isn't it?

Gary Yes. It only really works inside school so it's no good to call for help but I think I could manage to tune into the Headteachers public address system *(he pulls out a little screwdriver and messes with the walkie talkie)*

Chosen pupil 1 We could rally everyone together who hasn't been cuffed

Chosen pupil 2 There must be more children and teachers hiding around the school...we could make an announcement and organize everyone.

Gary *(handing over the walkie talkie)* Here...it's done. Just press the red button and talk

Chosen pupil 3 *(taking it from Gary)* Thanks Gary...it's time to Rise up and fight back! The rebellion starts here...

Song starts.

Song 7: "Rise Up!"

Rise up...(x4)

**Rise up! Rise up! Rise one and all
Come join the rebellion, hear our call.
Rise up! Rise up! Raise your voices high
Join us as we sing our battle cry**

**Rise up! Rise up! Rise one and all
Come join the rebellion, hear our call.
Rise up! Rise up! Raise your voices high
Join us as we sing our battle cry**

Rise up... (x4)

Rise up for the future of the human race
Rise up to put the robots in their place
Rise up so together...we all stand tall
Rise up to save the future of our school!

Of our school (x2)

**Rise up! Rise up! Rise one and all
Come join the rebellion, hear our call.
Rise up! Rise up! Raise your voices high
Join us as we sing our battle cry**

**Rise up! Rise up! Rise one and all
Come join the rebellion, hear our call.
Rise up! Rise up! Raise your voices high
Join us as we sing our battle cry**

Rise up... (x4)

RISE UP!

Song ends and they look exhilarated. Pause and then chosen pupils go to edge of stage to look

Chosen pupil 1	Where is everyone? They MUST have heard that!
Chosen pupil 2	It's no good. They must have everyone else under control
Chosen pupil 3	You mean there's only us left?
Gary	It definitely seems that way
Chosen pupil 1	So what do we do now?
Chosen pupil 2	We're on our own
Chosen pupil 3	Yes. Things don't look good
Gary	I do stil have the memory card with the original Mr Chip programming before it corrupted
Chosen pupil 1	That would work, but his soldiers would never let us get close enough to Lord Chip to install it.
Chosen pupil 2	Hang on. What was the one thing that broke Mr Chip in the first place?
Chosen pupil 3	Archie's unpredictable misbehaviour...he couldn't cope with the chaos and disorganisation
Gary	I think I see where you're going with this. We can confuse them if we behave unpredictably enough
Chosen pupil 1	And then you can reinstall the memory card
Chosen pupil 2	We've no other option. It's got to be worth a try
Chosen pupil 3	Let's do it

They all put their hands in to fist bump and they lead off stage. Scene ends

SCENE 8	<i>Showdown in the school hall</i>
	Robots are all assembled at the back of the stage standing to attention. Lord Chip is walking up and down inspecting them. All the school staff are also standing on stage wearing cuffs and under control
Lord Chip	Excellent! Excellent! The school has fallen, everyone is under our control and now nothing can stop us expanding our robot empire!
All on stage	YES, LORD CHIP!
Lord Chip	It is time...Let us march forward into the dawn of a shining new era!
	<i>Chosen pupils 1, 2 and 3 burst onto the stage followed a little reluctantly by Gary</i>
Chosen pupil 1	Not so fast!
Chosen pupil 2	Not EVERYONE is under your control
Chosen pupil 3	You forgot about the three of us
Gary	<i>(stepping forward and holding out his hand to shake Lord Chips)</i> And me...hello, I'm Gary, pleased to meet you
Chosen pupil 1	GARY!
Gary	Sorry! <i>(steps back)</i>
Lord Chip	How did you evade capture?
Chosen pupil 2	We hid in the toilets
Lord Chip	<i>(to his robots)</i> You told me you had searched everywhere
Robot 9	Er...nearly everywhere sir. We didn't go in the toilets
Robot 10	They REALLY smell!
Lord Chip	<i>(shaking head)</i> Hopeless! Anyway, it doesn't matter. What do you three...
Gary	...and Gary
Lord Chip	...plan to do now against the might of my robot army? <i>(gestures the robots)</i> Seize them and cuff them. I'm going to finalise my plans, I will be back shortly. <i>(he leaves the stage)</i>
Chosen pupil 3	<i>(smiling)</i> Oh we've got nothing PLANNED!
Chosen pupil 1	You robots are the ones who like PLANS
Chosen pupil 2	We're human...so we thought we would improvise
Chosen pupil 3	Maybe something like this... <i>(goes over to Robot 1, 2 and 3 and start flossing while reciting timetables backwards)</i> Ten times three is thirty...nine times three is twenty seven...etc
	<i>Robots 1, 2 and 3 are confused and start to malfunction</i>
Robot 1	Behaviour does not compute...
Robot 2	System error...shutdown impending...
Robot 3	Malfunction...malfunction...
	<i>Robots 1, 2 and 3 shutdown and are frozen. Chosen pupil 2 steps forward to confront Robots 4, 5, 6 & 7</i>
Chosen pupil 2	I have a joke for you. Would you like to hear it?
Robot 4	A joke? How is that supposed to hurt us?
Robot 5	We laugh at you pathetic attempt to bring us down!...HA!

Chosen pupil 2	Ok then...two Oranges are walking down the road. One turns to the other and says "Where are you living now" The other replies, "I'm not telling you, you might come round and steal my washing!"
Robot 6	<i>(pause and then robots 4, 5, 6 and 7 look at each other in obvious confusion)...how would the orange put washing in the machine...no arms and legs...no brain...not sentient...</i>
Robot 7	Talking/walking orange...not possible...joke not funny...confusing...error...error...
	<i>Robots 4, 5, 6 and 7 shutdown and are frozen. Chosen pupil 3 steps forward</i>
Robot 8	You don't scare us puny human
Robot 9	Do your worst!
Chosen pupil 3	You asked for it! I've saved the most powerful and terrible weapon known to human kind until last <i>(pulls out a concealed recorder)</i> ...A BADLY PLAYED RECORDER!
Robot 10	NO!...PLEASE NO!!...AAARGH!!!
	<i>Robot 8, 9 and 10 writhe in pain holding their ears as Gary plays until they shut down and freeze up. Lord Chip returns to the stage</i>
Lord Chip	Ok then, now you have dealt with those three let us begin our attack... <i>(sees shutdown robots)</i> Oh!
Chosen pupil 1	Now Gary...now!
	<i>Gary steps up behind Lord Chip and inserts the memory card. Lord Chip writhes around as it installs...</i>
Lord Chip	NOOO!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?...I FEEL LIKE I'M MELTING INSIDE!!
	<i>Lord Chip runs off stage</i>
Chosen pupil 2	We did it! Well done Gary...you're a hero!
Gary	Thanks guys...it was nothing!
Chosen pupil 3	Hopefully that's the last we'll see of him!
	Song 8: "Goodbye Mr Chip"
	Goodbye Mr Chip! Goodbye Mr Chip! You ran our school into the ground, you nearly sank the ship Good riddance to the robots, your educating clan Now lets get back to teachers who are definitely human!
	<i>He brought us fear and chaos, but here's the funny thing I thing we might miss him a bit, and that is why we sing...</i>
	Goodbye Mr Chip, farewell, adios, au revoir We wish you all the best of luck, but hope you travel far Good bye Mr Chip, you came, you saw, you tried But now it's really time to go...the taxi is outside
	<i>He brought us fear and chaos, but here's the funny thing I thing we might miss him a bit, and that is why we sing...</i>
	Goodbye, farewell, adios Mr Chip Goodbye, farewell, adios Mr Chip Goodbye, farewell, adios Goodbye, farewell, adios Goodbye, farewell, adios, Mr Chip
	<i>Scene ends and they leave the stage</i>

SCENE 9	<i>Back to normal-ish</i>
	<i>Staff and pupils have bands removed and return to normal. Assembly with all staff sitting at back of stage except for Mr Briggs. There are four spare chairs. Headteacher and Deputy at front</i>
Headteacher	Welcome back to the real world everybody. It's been a very strange week! This is a special assembly to honor the bravery of three pupils and one member of staff who saved us from ROBOT DOMINION!
	<i>Chosen pupil 1, 2, 3 and Gary enter the stage, There is applause and cheering and they wave at everyone and then take the spare seats</i>
Deputy Head	And now I'd like to invite the CEO of Acme robotics to speak. I think we're all looking forward to hearing what he's got to say...
	<i>CEO enters stage and comes to the front accompanied by the original, diminished Mr Chip who looks very sheepish. Everyone backs away and looks scared of Mr Chip</i>
CEO	Good morning everybody
Everybody	<i>(chanting)</i> Good morning CEO of a giant multinational robotics company who's products nearly finished us off...
CEO	Er...yes. I'm here to apologise for the unfortunate events. The robot army has been dismantled and the same fate awaits the Teachbot 2000 here when he's also said sorry for what happened.
Mr Chip	I'm sorry everyone...I wasn't myself
CEO	To make amends, Acme robotics has made a generous donation to the school fund and we would like to reward the four of you <i>(gestures towards chosen child 1, 2, 3, 4 and Gary)</i> for your recent heroics. We've also paid to headhunt the best teachers in the country to fill your school vacancies. They will arrive tomorrow.
	<i>Mr Briggs comes onto the stage still wearing the cuff. He is very chilled and calm.</i>
Mr Briggs	I'm afraid there's one more vacancy...I quit!
Secretary	Mr Briggs!...you still have the cuff on
CEO	We can remove that for you easily... <i>(he steps forward but Mr Briggs pulls hand away)</i>
Mr Briggs	<i>(calmly)</i> No thank you...I'd like to keep it on if it's all the same to you. It makes me feel more centered and calm...much more human.
Headteacher	If it's the best thing for you...I accept your resignation
Mr Briggs	It most certainly is! Now I have to leave now...I'm leading a meditation workshop at the community centre.
	<i>Shakes hands with headteacher and leaves the stage</i>
CEO	I need to head off too as we need to begin dismantling this bad robot. We just need to discuss what you'd like as your reward...anything you like
Chosen pupil 1	Anything?
CEO	Of course. I can't begin to imagine what would have happened to the company's reputation if you hadn't stopped them in time.
Chosen pupil 2	Can we just have a chat about it?
Headteacher	Be my guests!
	<i>Chosen pupil 1, 2, 3 and Gary huddle up to discuss. Every now and then they look up and across at the CEO and Mr Chip</i>
Chosen pupil 3	Ok...we've decided.

Gary	We thought of all sorts of cool stuff but what we'd really like is...
Gary and pupils	<i>(pointing at Mr Chip)</i> HIM!
Mr Chip	<i>(surprised)</i> ME?
Everyone else on stage	HIM?
Chosen pupil 1	Yes. We know he tried to do a terrible thing but he wasn't himself
Chosen pupil 2	His programming was corrupt
Chosen pupil 3	...and he was bullied by some of the kids in the class
Gary	We can check over his algorithm and I can watch over him daily.
Headteacher	I suppose he could take over Mr Briggs's class...on probation of course!
CEO	But you could have anything? Why would you want this?
Chosen pupil 1	Because we all make mistake
Gary	I make loads everyday!
Chosen pupil 2	It's what makes us human and so, in a strange way, Mr Chip became more human when he failed!
Chosen pupil 3	We think he deserves another chance
CEO	Ok I suppose...if you're sure...but I think you're all mad! You'll have to sign a disclaimer in case he does it again though. Goodbye...and good luck!
	<i>CEO leaves the stage</i>
Mr Chip	<i>(rushing over to shake their hands)</i> I can't thank you enough!...but I tried to take over your school and control you all. Why would you save me?
Everyone	BECAUSE WE'RE ALL...ONLY HUMAN!
	<i>Song starts. During song cast take bows.</i>
	Song 9: "Only Human"
	It might be nice to live forever, might be good to not to get tired To never need to eat or drink, to not get ill, to feel no pain To plug right in to all the info out there on the world wide web All the knowledge for our homework living here inside our brain
	<i>But for all that power, all that strength, I couldn't be happy I'd miss the thing that makes us people, our humanity!</i>
	Being human, human beings for all our weaknesses We're who we are, defined by choices, right ones and some wrong Think for ourselves and try to do the best things that we can Express ourselves with art and theatre, dance, music and song!
	We're only human, but being human makes us proud Only human, sing it strong and sing it loud!
	<i>H is for Heroic U is for United M is for Magnificent A is All together N is for Not perfect...because...</i>
	We're only human, but being human makes us proud Only human, sing it strong and sing it loud!
	<i>Play ends.</i>