

English in Action

Storydrama/ Readers' Theatre written by Susan Hillyard, based on the story: JACK AND HIS COMPUTER: BEGINNER: LEVEL 2 (EN PAPEL)

C. J. MOORE , HEINEMANN, 1992, ISBN 9780435286132

Script Jack and his Computer

Characters:

- Narrator(s)
- Jack
- Mum (Margaret)
- Dad (David)
- Sister (Susie)
- Doctor Daniels

Props:

- PC (real or made by the students out of a cardboard box)
- Computer table and chair
- Mess for the bedroom floor (clothes/mags/books/dirty cups/popcorn/biscuits half eaten etc etc)
- A broken watch
- A bed with sheet
- Dream bubble (like a speech bubble)
- Robot mask/ box/head
- Doctor's coat/overall and stethoscope/ scalpel/
- 3 boxes
- Broom/mop/cloths
- Food stuff for boxes at end
- Labels for Jack's bedroom, surgery
- Pan or wooden spoon
- Bucket and rag

Set

- Bedroom laid out with PC, table, chair. Bed with sheet and mess all over the floor etc
- Doctor's Surgery with a bed, a chair and gadgets

Script.

Scene opens with Narrator standing with the story book front stage right. Jack is at the PC set diagonally at middle stage left or facing the audience (as long as Jack's head is visible over the screen.)

Scene1. In Jack's Bedroom

Narrator(s): The story of Jack and his Computer

Jack loves computers. He has got a new computer in his bedroom. He works at his computer all the time. His Mum gets mad.

Jack: (concentrated totally on the PC, talking to himself and muttering and staring at the screen, moving back and forth)

Mum: (Enters and stands front stage right next to the narrator with a pan or spoon in her hand. She is angry) Tidy your room Jack.

Jack: (without looking up) Busy

Mum: (Moving towards Jack with a pan or spoon in her hand. She is angry) I said: Tidy your room Jack.

Jack: (without looking up) I'm busy

Mum: (Moving closer to Jack and shaking the pan or spoon at him. She is angry) I said: Tidy your room Jack. Now!

Jack: (without looking up) I'm too busy

Narrator(s): Jack does not tidy his room.

Mum: (Tutting in despair and storming out) Taghhhhhhh.

Narrator(s): Jack loves computers. He works at his computer all the time. His Dad gets mad.

Dad: (Enters and stands front stage right next to the narrator with a bucket and rag in his hand. He is angry) Please wash the car, Jack (he holds up the bucket)

Jack: (without looking up) Busy

Dad: (Moving towards Jack. He is angry) I said: Please wash the car Jack (he holds up the bucket)

Jack: (without looking up) I'm busy

Dad: (he stands over Jack with the bucket held high. He is angry) Please wash the car, NOW; Jack (he wiggles the bucket and shakes the rag)

Jack: (without looking up) I'm too busy!

Narrator(s): Jack does not wash the car.

Dad: (Tutting in despair and storming out, shaking his head) Taghhhhhhh.

Narrator(s): Jack loves computers. He works at his computer all the time. His family gets mad.

Sister: (Enters and stands front stage right next to the narrator with a broken watch in her hand. She asks nicely) Please mend my watch, Jack (she holds up the watch)

Jack: (without looking up) Busy

Sister: (Moving towards Jack. She is angry) I said: Please mend my watch, Jack (she holds up the watch)

Jack: (without looking up) I'm busy

Sister: (she stands over Jack with the watch held high. She is angry) Please mend my watch, Jack NOW (she wiggles the watch in front of his face)

Jack: (he ignores the watch and his sister and without looking up) I'm too busy!

Narrator(s): Jack does not mend the watch.

Dad: (Tutting in despair and storming out, shaking her head and looking sadly at her watch) Taghhhhhhh.

Narrator(s): Jack loves computers. He works at his computer all the time. He doesn't eat his lunch. He doesn't eat his dinner. The sun goes down. It is dark. His family gets mad.

Mum: (Enters stage left, stops and looks at her watch.) Jack! Jack! It's late! Go to bed now!

Narrator(s): But Jack doesn't go to bed. He works at his computer until midnight. Then he goes to bed and dreams about computers.

Jack: (gets up slowly and goes over to bed. Mimes taking off his clothes and putting on his pyjamas. Yawns, stretches and climbs into bed with a long sigh. He closes his eyes and falls asleep. Silence. Snoring. He begins to fidget and starts muttering the names of computer games. He sits up and stares into an imaginary screen and starts typing on an imaginary PC. He lies down and snores and repeats the sitting up mime.)

Narrator(s): Jack's father goes to wake him up in the morning.

Dad: (enters stage left, stops and looks at his watch) Jack! Jack! It's 8 o'clock. (walking over and shaking him)

Narrator(s): But Jack doesn't wake up.

Dad: Jack! Jack! Wake up! (Still shaking him. Jack sits up with the robot head showing) Oh dear me! (Dad turns to stage left and calls) Margaret! Margaret! Come here! (dad goes back to stare at Jack who is again working on an imaginary PC)

Mum: (enters stage right, stops and asks) What's the matter?

Dad: (pointing at Jack and stepping back a bit) Look! Look at Jack!

Mum: (walks straight over to the bed and stares at Jack) That's not Jack! That's a robot!

Dad: (holding up his hands) Well a robot is very useful in the house. Mr Robot, tidy the room. (he indicates with a sweeping motion that the whole room is untidy. He walks to the wings and gets three boxes)

Jack: (starts putting things in the first box, then the second, then the third and says repeatedly in a robotic voice) I'm tidying the room, I'm tidying the room (He continues saying the same phrase while his Mum and Dad, with their arms folded or hands on hips, watch him tidying the room. Jack sets the boxes down front stage left)

Mum: (Goes to the wings and fetches a mop. She hands the mop to the robot) Mr Robot, wash the floor.

Jack: (washes the floor and says repeatedly in a robotic voice) I'm washing the floor, I'm washing the floor (He continues saying the same phrase while his Mum and Dad, with their arms folded or hands on hips, watch him)

Sister: (enters stage left, stops and stares. Her mouth drops open and she points at the robot) What's that? What's happening? Oh! I see. (holding out her watch) Mr Robot, please mend my watch.

Jack: (looks at the watch, mimes mending it and says repeatedly in a robotic voice) I'm mending your watch, I'm mending your watch (He continues saying the same phrase while his Mum, Dad and Sister, with their arms folded or hands on hips, watch him. He continues miming as the narrator speaks)

Narrator(s): The robot is very clever. He tidies the room. He washes the floor. He mends the watch. The robot works all the time. He works in the house. He washes the car. But he doesn't smile. He doesn't laugh. Jack's family are sad.

Mum: Robots are useful, but we love Jack.

Dad: Yes. We want Jack back.

Sister: Yes. I miss Jack. What can we do?

Mum: We have to go to the Doctor.

Scene 2.

In the Doctor's surgery

Narrator(s): They go to the doctor's surgery. (They all walk off stage and enter the Dr's Surgery.)

Doctor: Yes. Come in how can I help you?

Mum: (praying to the Dr) Please change the robot.

Dad: (Holding up his finger and shaking it in denial) We don't want this robot.

Sister: (bending forward and begging) Please, Doctor, we want Jack back.

Doctor: I will have to operate on the robot! Lie down, please, Mr Robot.

Narrator(s): Doctor Daniels operates on Mr. Robot (the doctor mimes operating on the robot) Jack isn't a robot now. He is a boy again. He plays with his computer. But he also works in the house. He helps his family.

All: Thank you Doctor! Thank you! Goodbye! (they all exit the surgery and enter the bedroom.

Jack: (Jack starts working on the PC then he starts taking the clothes out of the boxes and starts folding each item and putting it tidily on a desk. He gets the mags and books and papers out of the box and starts tidying everything. He continues with a big smile on his face and says with a laugh) Busy. I'm busy. I'm very busy!

Mum: Robots are useful but we love Jack

Dad: Yes, but we love Jack

Sister: Yes, but we love Jack

All: (holding hands and smiling) Yes. Robots are useful but we all love Jack! (they freeze)

Narrator(s): And so Jack worked and played on his computer but he also worked and played with the family.

Word count 1,312 but mostly stage directions.

Susan Hillyard 17th March 2010