

‘You’ve got a friend in me.’ – a classroom worship about Friendship.

Teacher Notes

This classroom worship is based on the [Toy Story theme song](#) by Randy Newman, which is a useful hook to open the conversation about what makes a good friend. The reflection uses a story about an AI friend to discuss whether perfect friends exist and introduce the idea that none of us is perfect. You can find a lesson plan based on this story at [The Philosophy Foundation](#) if you wanted to spend more time exploring this theme.

Introduction

Play the [Toy Story theme](#) (**PowerPoint slide 1**) and ask the class what qualities they look for in a friend.

- Are there different types of friend? E.g. is a friend different from a good friend? Can you have a bad friend?
- Is it possible to have a perfect friend?

Story

Tell the class this story (**PowerPoint slide 2**)

Pella is a girl who has no friends, but her mum owns a factory that builds computer-robots, so she builds her daughter a computer-robot friend called _____ (have the class name her or invent a name of your own). She tells Pella that [insert name] will be ‘the perfect friend’, the best ‘best friend’ anyone could ever have, and that Pella will get to choose exactly what kind of friend [insert name] will be.

- Can a synthetic human/android be a friend? What qualities should Pella choose for her ‘friend’?
Pella decides that [insert name] will... 1. ‘Never fall out with me,’ 2. ‘Always get on with me,’
3. ‘Always agree with me.’ Should Pella programme these rules into her ‘friend’? Why? Why not?

This is not just science fiction. With older children, you could discuss the idea of developing robot companions for older people (**PowerPoint slide 3**) Do they think this is a good idea or not? Could robots ever replace human companions?

Do our friends have to be perfect? Show **PowerPoint slide 4**. What do they think this means? Ask them to discuss some of these scenarios. (**PowerPoint slides 5 – 8**)

What would happen if...

- Your best friend shared your secret with someone else?
- Your best friend left you out of a game?
- Your best friend lied to you?
- Your best friend called you an unkind name?

Could you still be friends with them?

What can we do to put things right when we fall out with our friends? Should we wait for them to make the first move?

What would you want to happen, if you were the person who had upset their friend?

Reflection

Show **PowerPoint slide 9**

Nobody is perfect. The perfect friend doesn't exist. But it's important to be kind to each other and to forgive each other when we need to. Let's be quiet for a moment and think about our friends. Let's remember all the good things about them. And if we need to forgive anybody, let's decide to put things right with them.

Closing prayer

I am going to finish with a prayer now and if you would like to make it your own prayer, you can say Amen at the end.

Dear God,
Thank you for our friends.
For the fun we have together and the good times.
We're sorry for the times when we let each other down.
Please help us to forgive each other and to put things right when we need to.
Amen.

Or ask for volunteers in the class to say their own prayer, based on the ideas you have discussed.

