



### The first two pages of *The Honey Bear*

One beautiful summer morning, very early, a little boy was sleeping in his room. His name was Petey and he was 6 years old. He lived in a big white house near a forest.

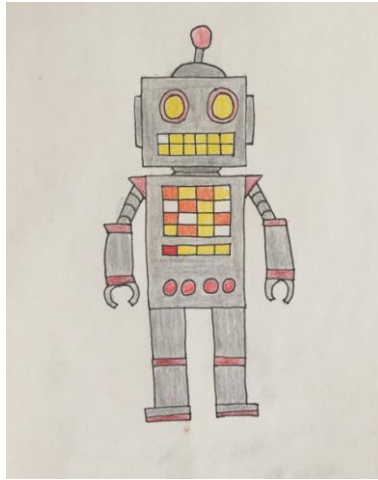
All of a sudden the little boy woke up. It was a noise that woke him up. Somebody was talking, right in his ear. The little boy opened his eyes. To his great surprise, sitting on the floor right beside his bed, was a big brown bear. And the bear was talking!

'I'm hungry' said the bear to the little boy. 'Can we have something to eat? Can we have breakfast? Please?'

The little boy wasn't afraid, because the bear was very nice and very friendly. But it did seem strange. After all, it's not every day that a bear wakes you up in the morning, sitting on the floor beside your bed. And it wasn't just a bear. It was a Honey Bear.

'Are you a real bear?' asked the little boy, in a very quiet voice.

The bear smiled. 'Right now I am' he answered. 'But I can be lots of things. I can be a hippopotamus, lying on my back, floating down the river, telling silly jokes to myself. I can be a snow man in the winter time, with a carrot for a nose. I can be a tall, tall tree with fluffy green leaves. I can be a big cloud in the sky. I can even be a huge drum that you can thump on with a drumstick.'



### The first two pages of *Freddy the Robot*

August 31, 2018 was Melvin Zipperman's ninth birthday. He lived in Winnipeg, in Canada, right beside a big park where he often played. It was a hot, sunny summer day and Melvin had the best birthday party ever. Everyone came - all of his friends from the neighbourhood, all of the children from last year's grade three class, all of his cousins, his mom and his dad, and his grandparents. Each of the kids got a fantastic loot bag, containing licorice, a puzzle book, money and a Monopoly card-game. Melvin got so many presents that he couldn't even count them all: books, games, clothes, candy and some amazing toys.

One of Melvin's presents was very, very special. It was from his grandfather. It was a small silver robot. It was cleverly hidden inside the chocolate cake that Melvin's mom had baked. Chocolate cake was Melvin's favourite kind of cake: chocolate cake with thick, chocolate-cream-cheese icing. It was so delicious that Melvin even ate some of the cake, and not just the icing. It was so delicious that he didn't even notice the little robot in the centre of the cake. But all of a sudden, when the robot walked off the plate and across the table, everybody noticed it. It was a very small robot, only four inches high. It walked right over to where Melvin was sitting - in the funny way that robots walk - then it stopped and handed a little folded piece of paper to Melvin. The piece of paper was very small. It had been folded in half, again and again, six times, because it had to be small enough to fit into the robot's tiny robot hands.