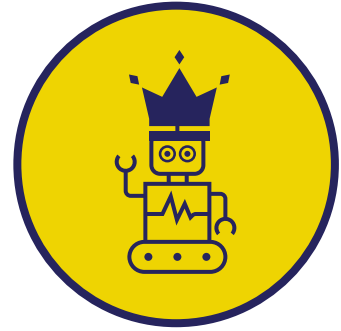


KING MURDAS #3

KING'S DREAM



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This is the third of three sessions inspired by the fairy tales of Stanisław Lem, a world renowned Polish author, from his collection of short stories: *Fables for Robots (1964)*. These sessions follow a robot-king called Murdas.

Keywords: dream, reality, awareness, thinking, perception, knowledge

Remind the children of the story from session one and two. Then tell the last part.

After all this, Murdas could not find peace. He constantly dreamed about his murdered family but he still imagined conspiracies against him. Eventually he began to fear falling asleep. In fact he never knew whether he was asleep or awake. He couldn't tell the difference between his dreams and reality. He was more frightened than ever. Eventually every part of him began to live a life of its own. In time, he fell into madness and that was the end of the cruel and cowardly ruler who had been destroyed by his own delusions.

Warm-up questions:

Did you ever dream something so unusual that you realised it was a dream?

When you are dreaming, do you know that you are dreaming?

How can we know that our life is not a dream?

What makes dreams different from reality?

Task question:

How can we be sure of something?

Questions to take you further:

Are our senses better than our reason (mind)?

Can our senses lie?

(You can use an example of an optical illusion, e.g. an Adelson checkerboard, where you can see two squares in a different shades of grey but, when checked, they turn out to be exactly the same colour).