

Family Resource

A Parent's Guide to The Wild Robot: Exploring Empathy and Resilience



ages: 8-12



120-150 minutes

Skills Practiced

- Visual literacy
- Critical thinking
- Empathy
- Cultural awareness

The Why

The Wild Robot follows Roz, a robot who unexpectedly finds herself stranded on a remote island, where she learns to adapt to her new environment and form connections with the local animals. Watching The Wild Robot with children is important for several reasons. The story explores themes of empathy, friendship, and belonging, sparking discussions about accepting differences and valuing diverse relationships. Roz's journey of adapting to a new environment and overcoming challenges teaches resilience, showing that facing difficulties can lead to growth and success. The narrative also opens conversations about the natural world, wildlife conservation, and the balance between technology and nature. Roz's interactions with the animals highlight teamwork and community values, while her character raises questions about identity and the ethical implications of artificial intelligence.

The How

Use these questions to unpack some ideas with your child after watching the movie.

- How did Roz show kindness to the animals, even though she was different from them? How did that help her make friends?
- Have you ever felt different or out of place like Roz? What helped you feel like you belonged?
- How did Roz make the animals trust her? What are some things you can do to build trust with new friends, especially if they are different from you?
- How did the animals react when they first met Roz? How did their feelings about her change, and what can we learn from this about accepting people who are different?
- Roz helped many animals. How can helping others make your friendships stronger? Can you think of a time when helping someone made you feel closer to them?
- Roz didn't belong to a group at first. What did she do to become part of the community? How can you help someone new feel like they belong?
- Roz and the animals were very different but still worked together. Why is it important to have friends who are different from you?
- Roz and the animals sometimes disagreed or didn't understand each other. How did they come to an understanding, and what can we learn about solving disagreements with friends?

Take it Further

Create your own survival plan: Imagine you and your child are dropped onto a deserted island like Roz. Work together to create a survival plan! Discuss what items you would need, how you would find food and water, how you would make shelter, and how you would interact with the animals. You could even draw or build models of your ideas.

This activity sparks creativity and problem-solving skills, much like Roz's experience in the story. It also encourages empathy by thinking about how to live peacefully alongside the animals and nature, tying in themes of adaptation, teamwork, and respecting differences.

You could also discuss how Roz used kindness and understanding to build relationships and how these strategies could be used in real life to make new friends or help others.