

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIGITAL LITERACY

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Learning to Engage with AI
Activity 2 – Can AI think like me?

What is Artificial Intelligence?

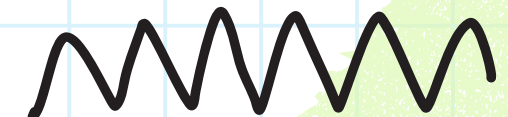
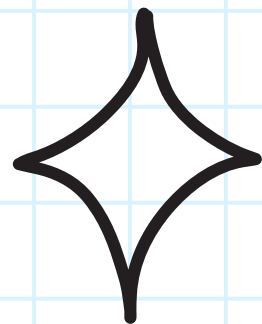
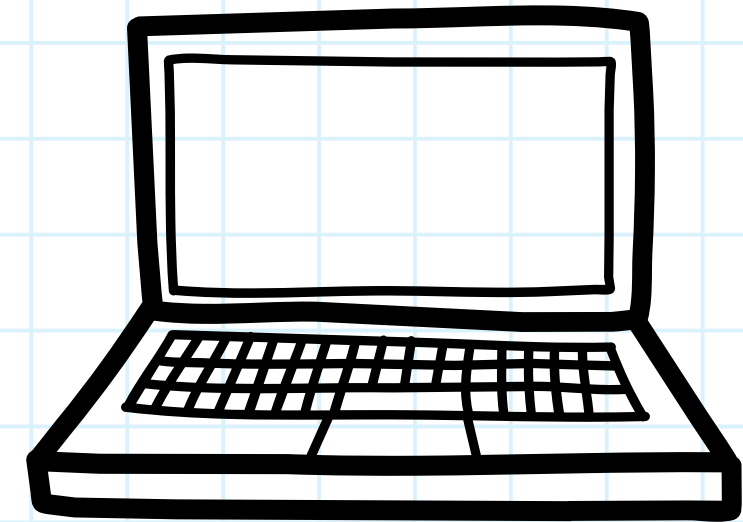
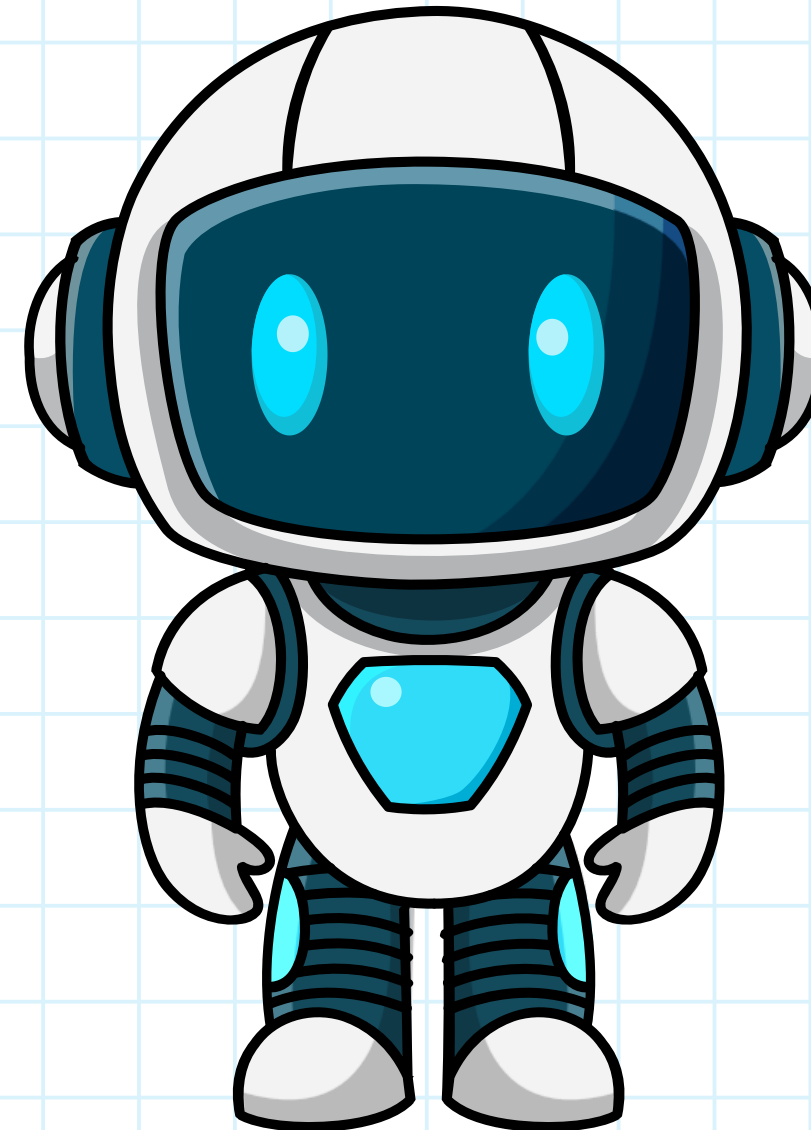
Use simple terminology to explain to the children
what AI is...

1

A computer or robot
that can talk to us or
solve a problem.

2

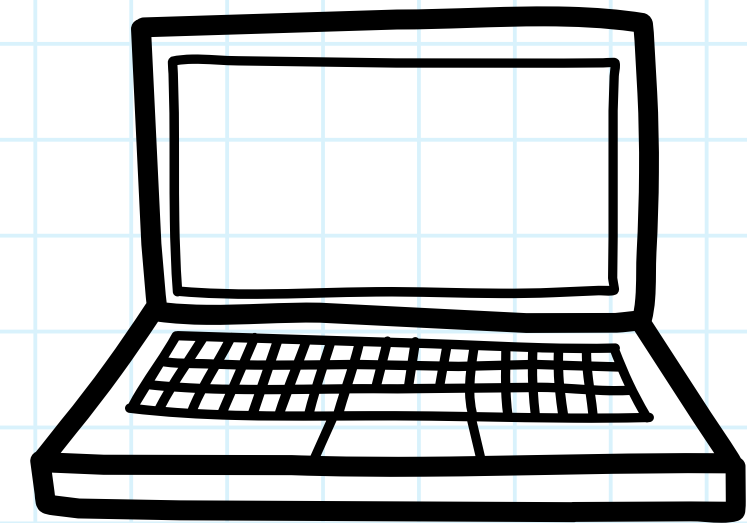
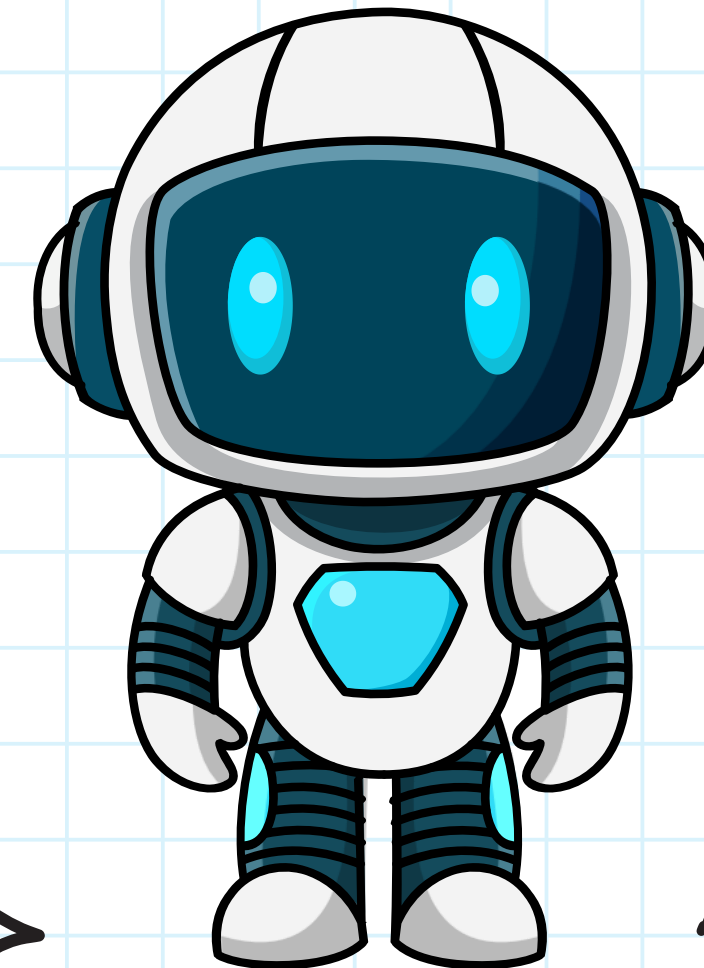
An AI computer or
robot can seem
very clever.

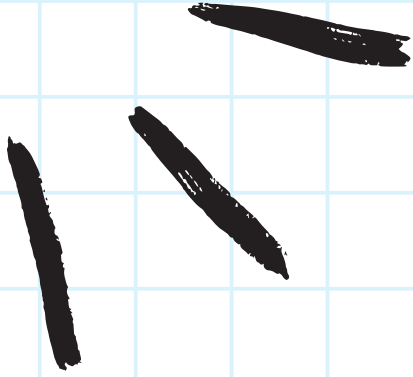
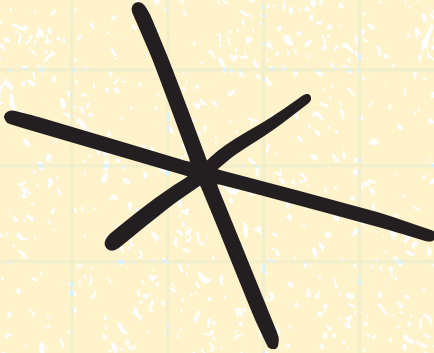
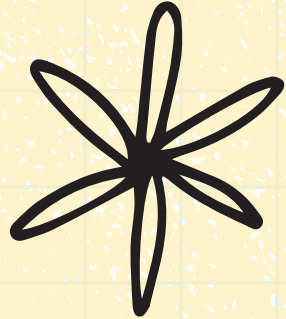
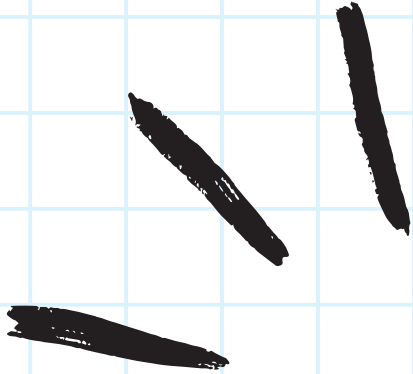


ECEC & the AI Literacy Framework

This activity will support ECEC children to develop skills relative to the 'Engage with AI' pillar of the AI Literacy Framework by helping children understand that:

'AI is a non human tool that produces outputs based on patterns of data and lacks authentic context or understanding' (OECD/EU 2026).

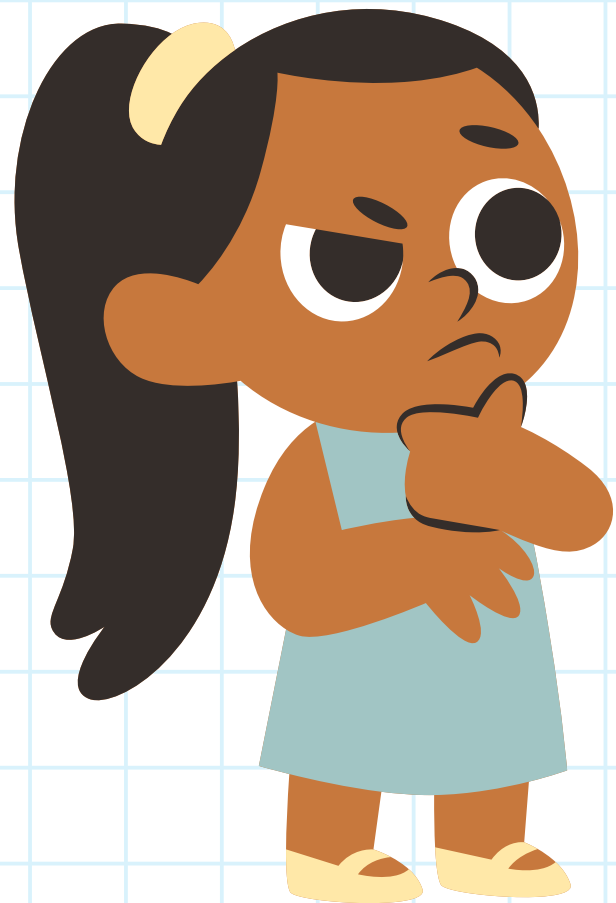




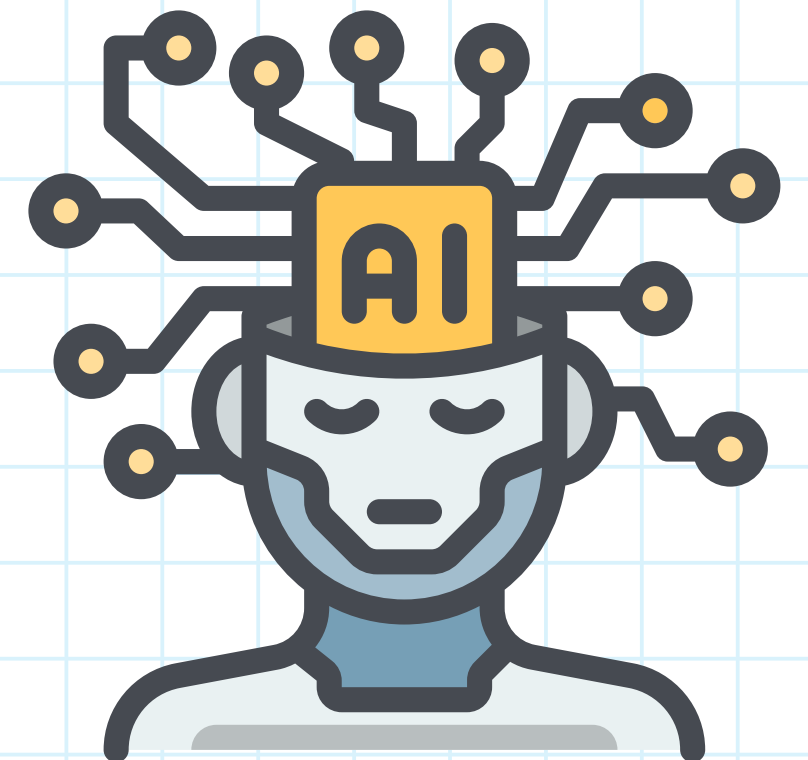
Can AI think like me?

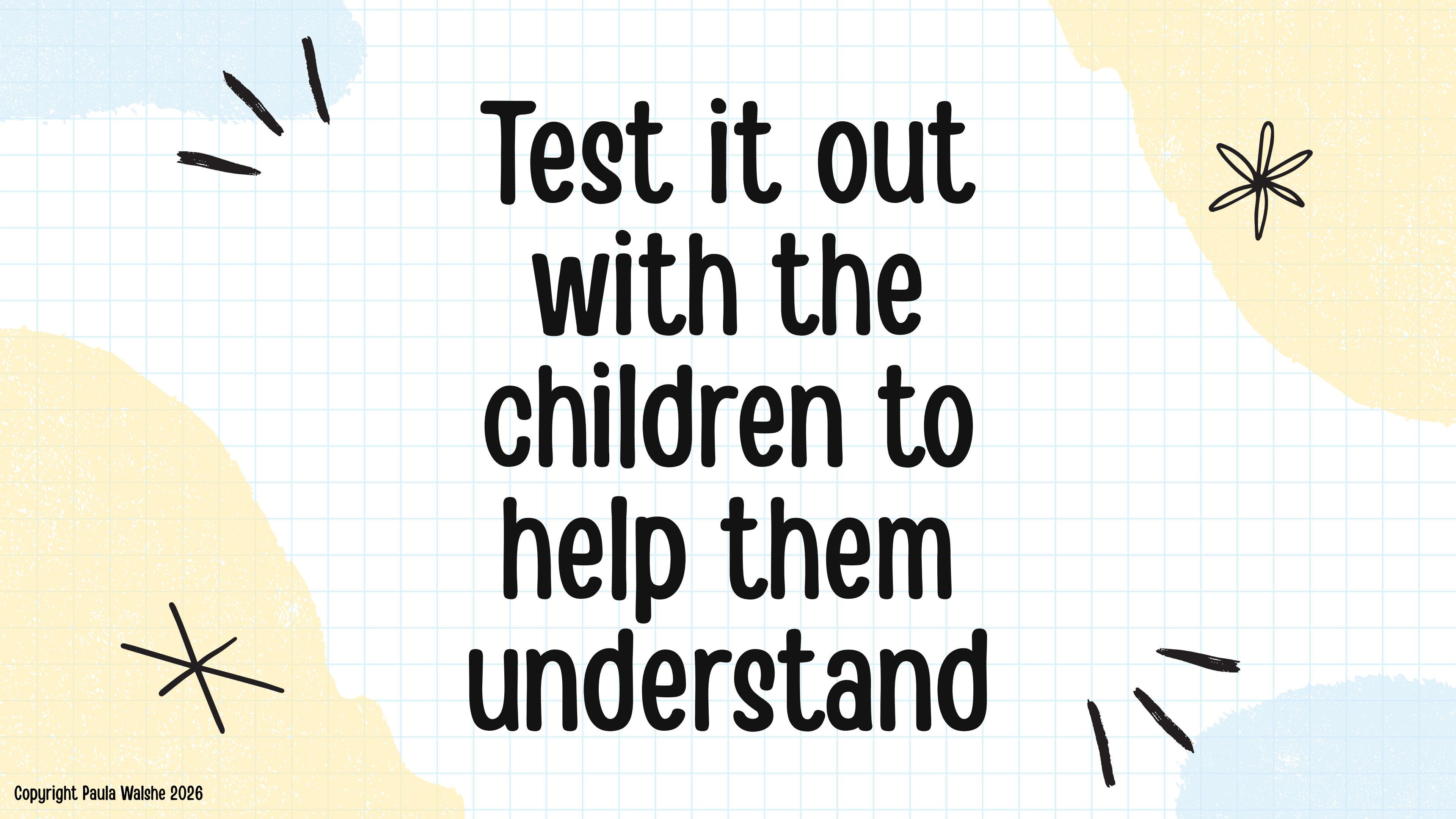
Use this creative activity to help young children understand that AI does not think like humans and depends on human interaction to generate relevant output based on the information we feed it....ask the children...

Can AI draw a picture of your
pet/favourite toy?



If you draw the picture yourself and ask
AI to draw a picture too will they be the
different or the same?





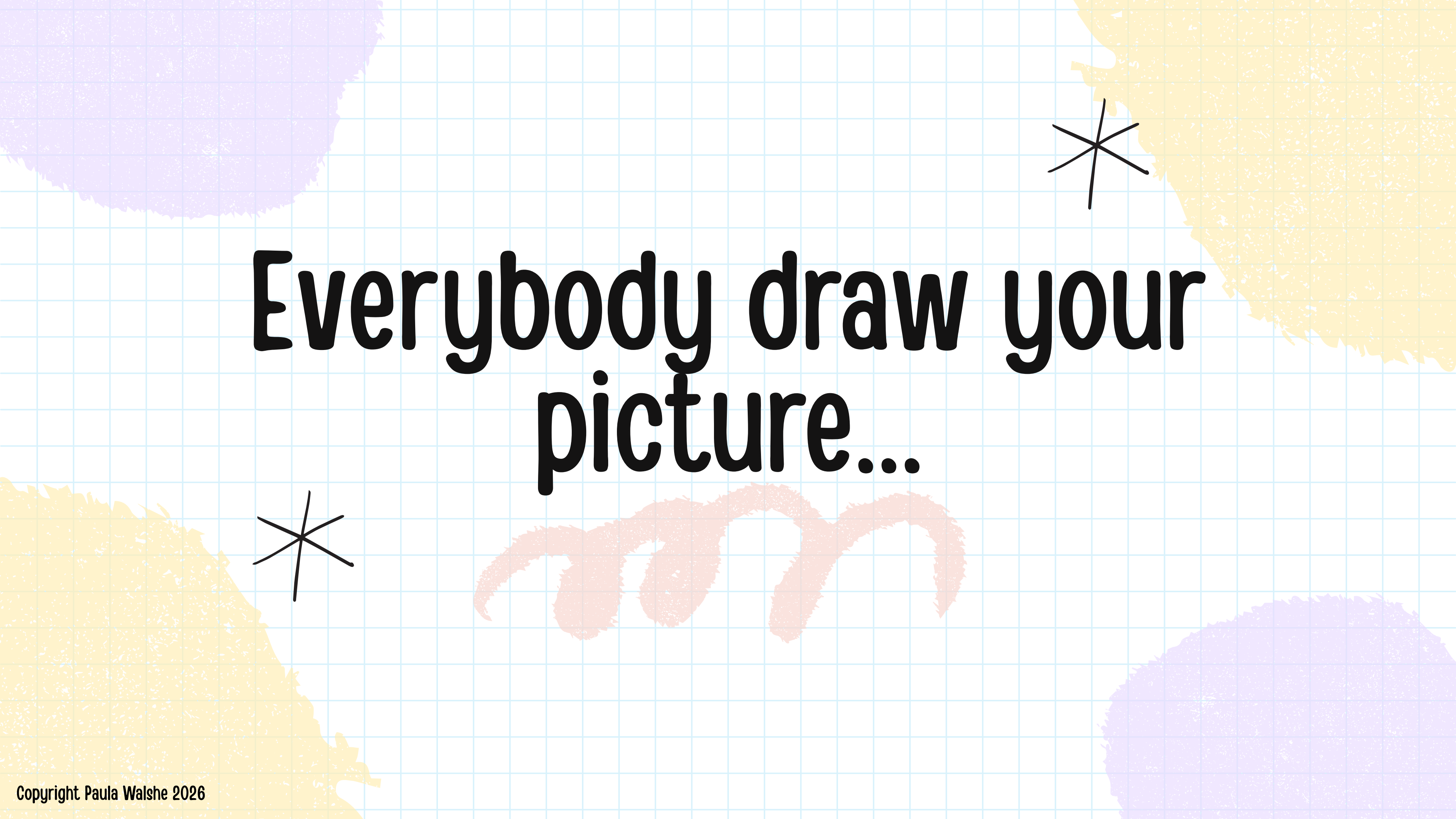
Test it out
with the
children to
help them
understand



Let's Test it Out

AI is a clever tool, not a person – it makes guesses from patterns,
not experiences, feelings or understanding like we do.

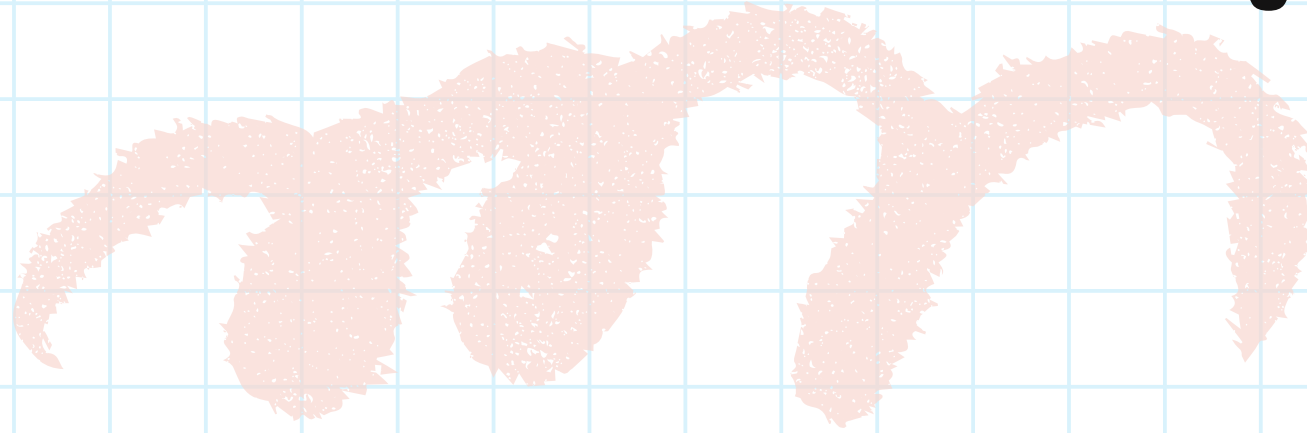
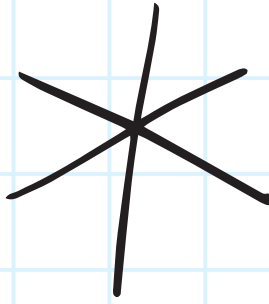
Let's test AI and see if the picture it draws of your pet/favourite
toy is the same as yours!



Everybody draw your
picture...

How would you describe
your picture? Pick 2 words
to describe it best!

Let's give your description
to AI and see what picture
it creates...

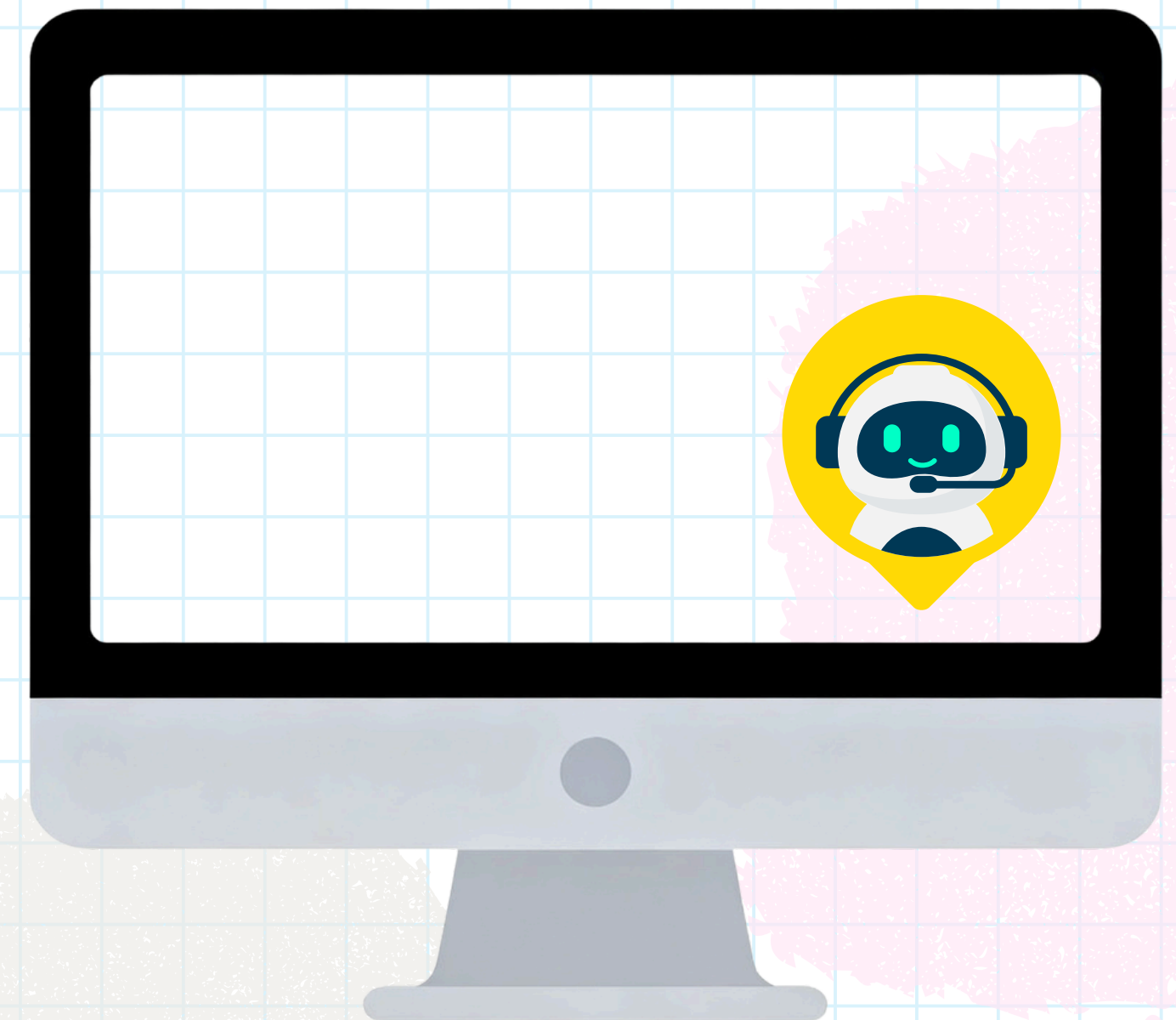


Now let's see if AI
draws the same picture

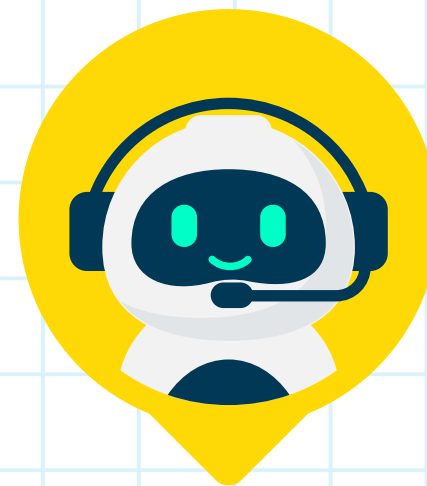
Hello AI...
my pet is a ... the colour of
my pet is...can you please
draw my pet?



Input the child's description
of their picture into AI and
ask it to draw the picture
based on the description



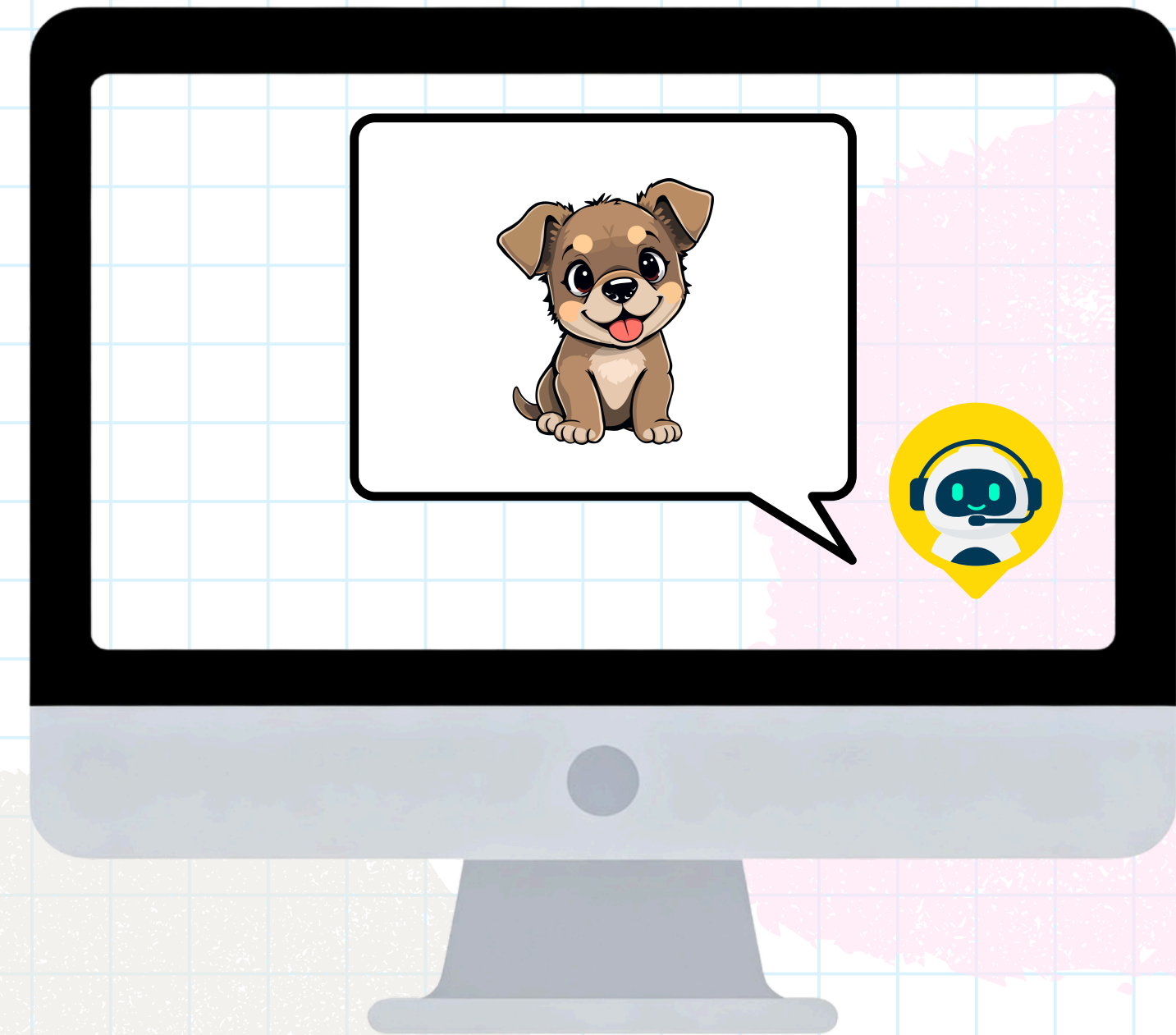
Here is the picture I created of your
pet...



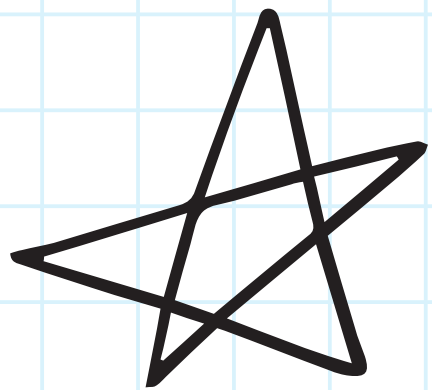
Did AI get it right?

Does the picture look the same as yours? Is the answer right or wrong...
...while we think let's say our thinking rhyme together...

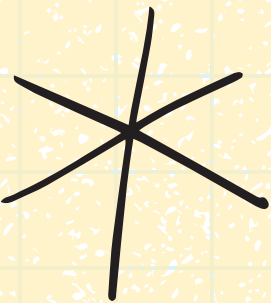
What's on the screen?
Think hard, think long
What's on the screen?
Is it right or is it wrong?



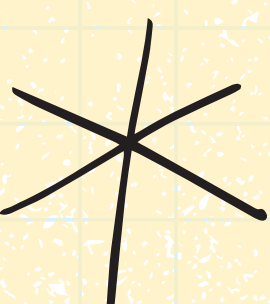
**How is the picture AI created
different to the one you drew?**



**If we ask AI again to create a new
picture how would you describe your
pet/favourite toy this time to help AI
draw a better picture?**



Let's try again...

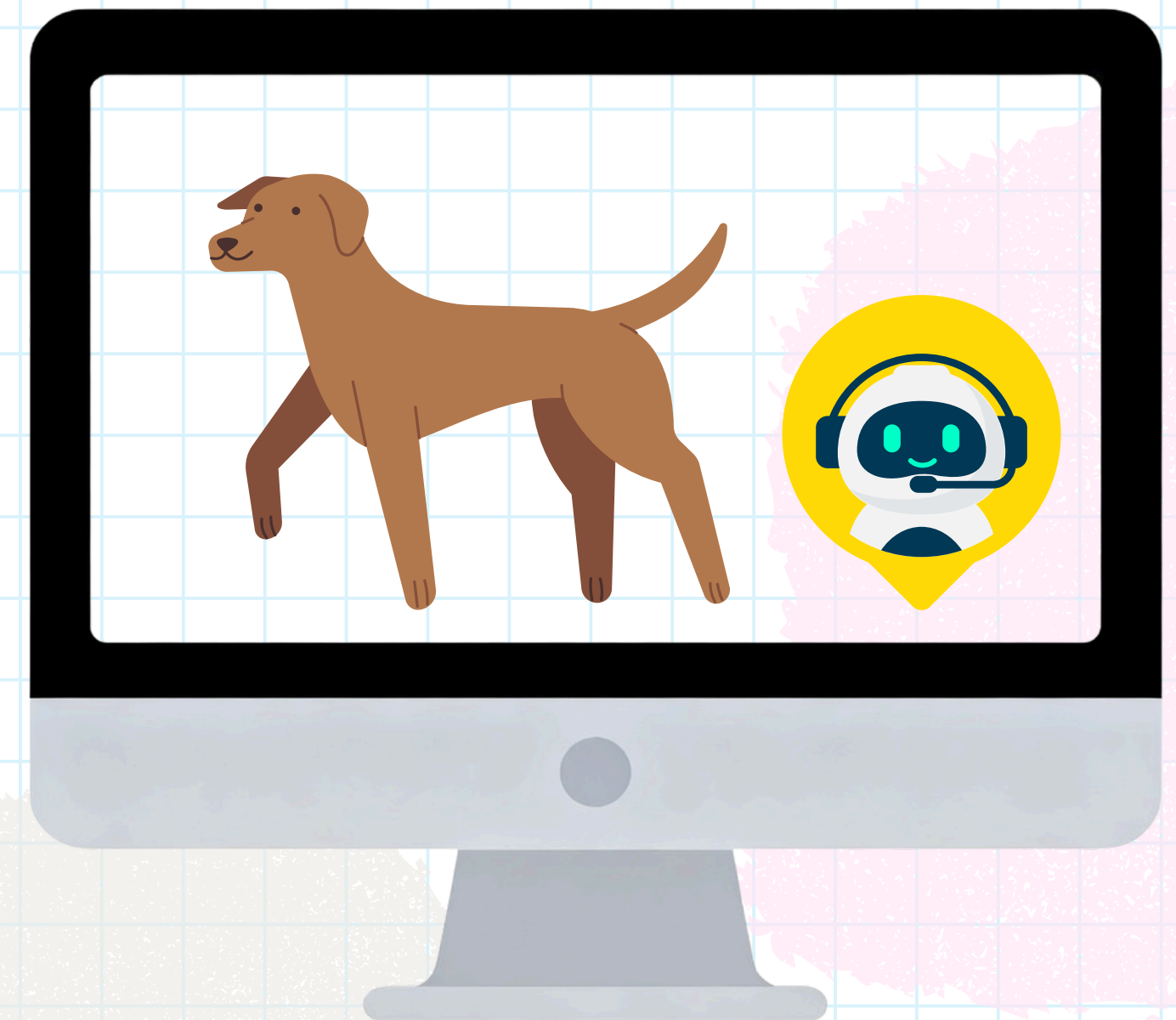


What 4 describing
words would you give AI
this time?

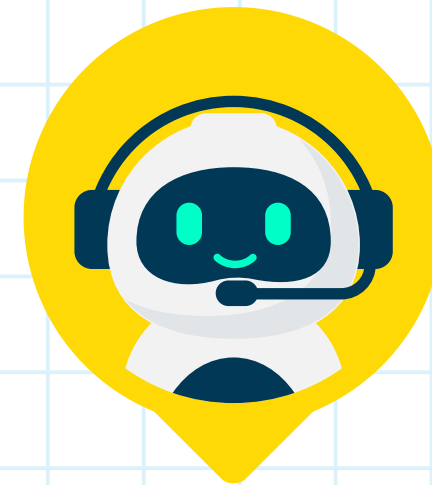
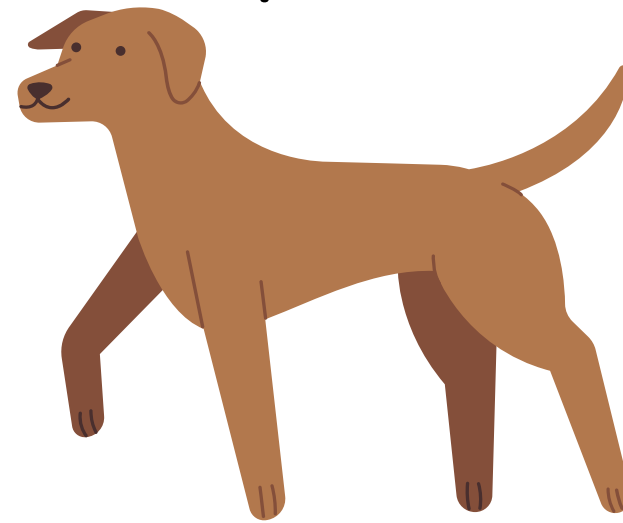
Hello AI...
my pet is a ... the colour of
my pet is... it is big/small...it
has a long/short tail...Can you
please draw my pet?



Input the child's updated
description of their picture
into AI and ask it to draw
the picture based on the
description



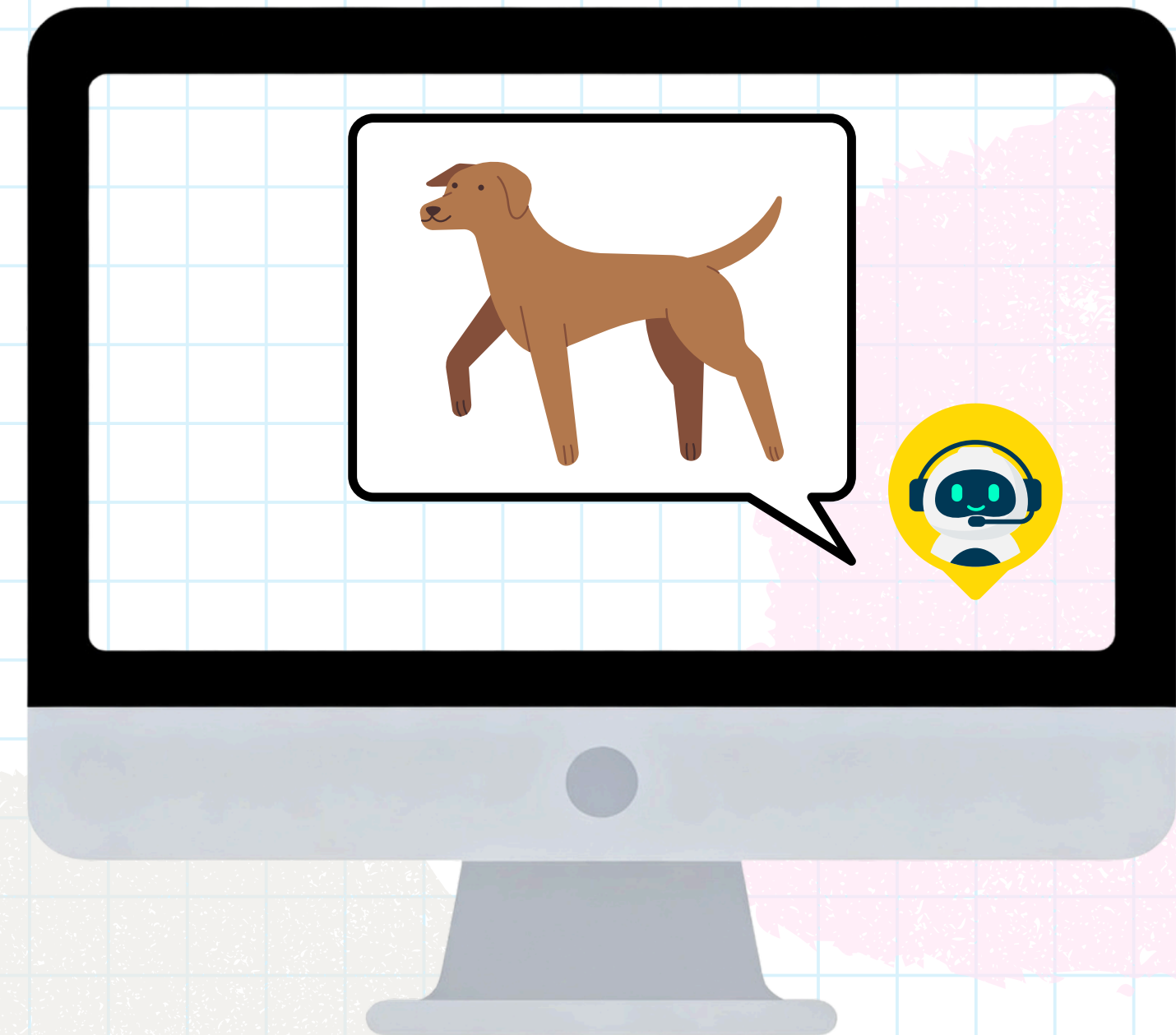
Here is the picture I created of your
pet...

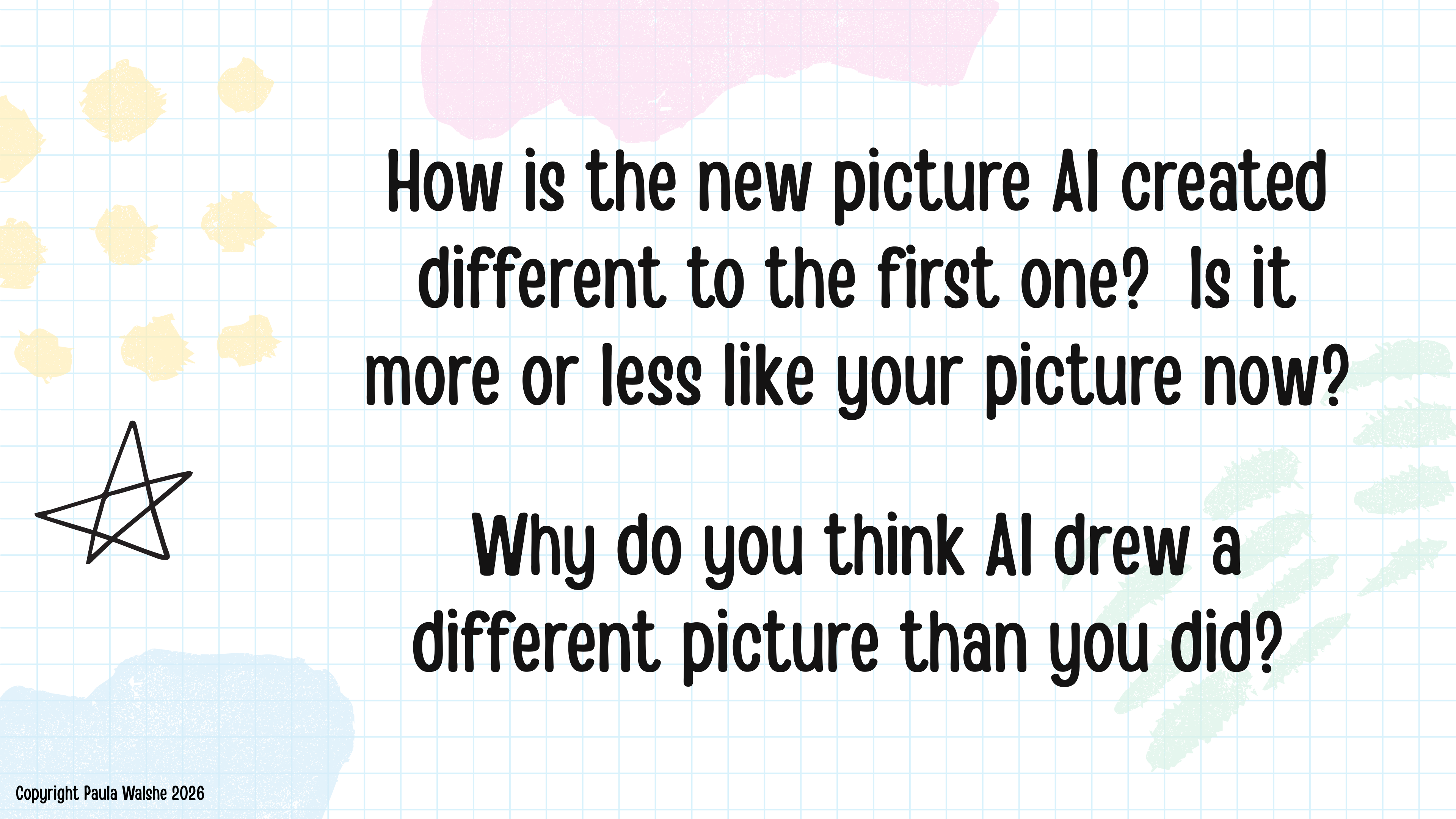


Is AI right?

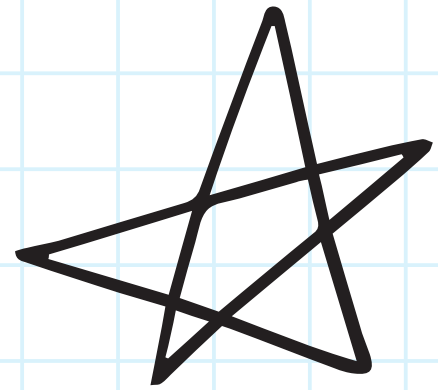
Does the picture look the same as yours? Is the answer right or wrong....
...while we think let's say our thinking rhyme together...

What's on the screen?
Think hard, think long
What's on the screen?
Is it right or is it wrong?



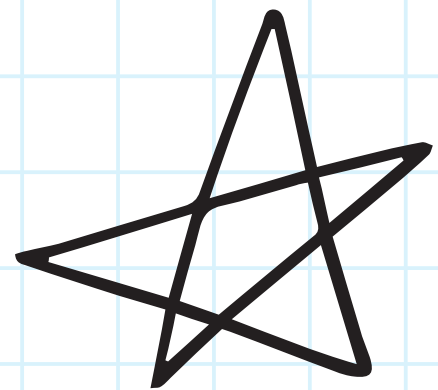


**How is the new picture AI created
different to the first one? Is it
more or less like your picture now?**



**Why do you think AI drew a
different picture than you did?**

**What information could we give AI
to help it create a better picture of
your favourite toy/pet?**



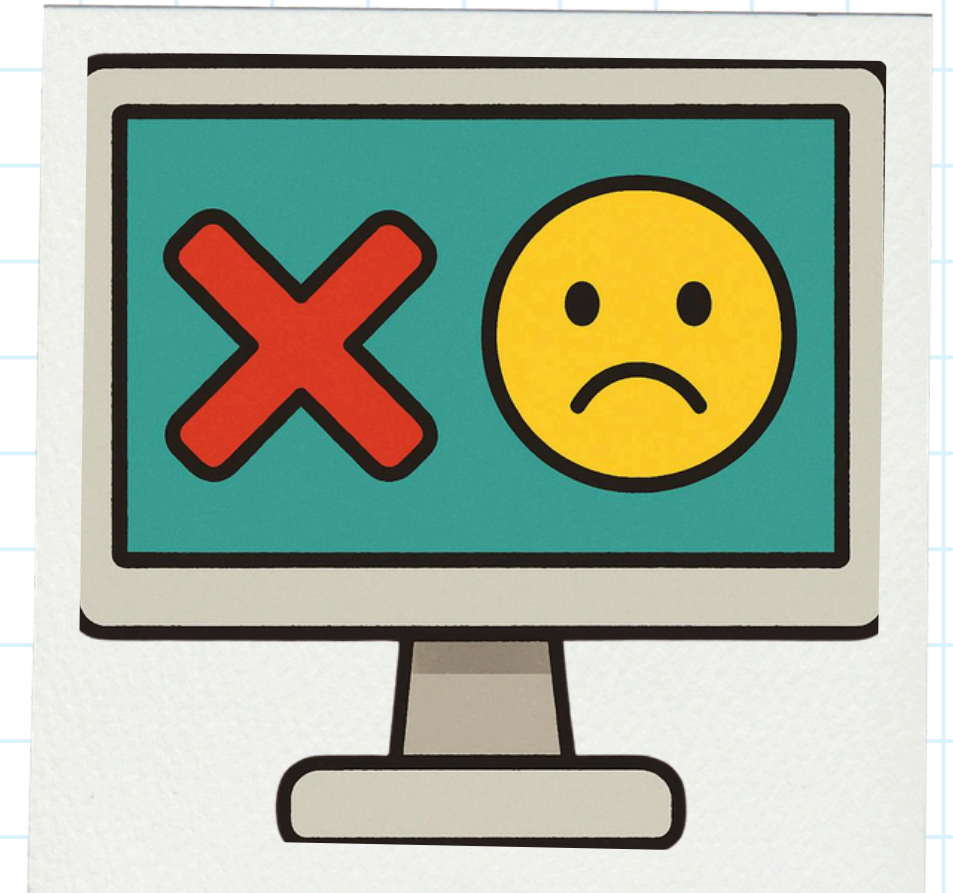
**Has AI ever seen or touched your
favourite toy/pet? If it did would
that make a difference?**

Remember...AI is a clever tool, not a person, it makes guesses from patterns, not experiences, feelings or understanding like we do.



Sometimes AI can be right...
but...

Sometimes an AI can be wrong...



We can say our thinking rhyme and take
some time to figure it out.

AI Role Play – Guessing Game

The children can take turns pretending to be an AI robot.

The other children pick an object in the room and give the 'AI robot' 2 descriptive words.

The child pretending to be the AI robot guesses what item they are describing the children say the thinking rhyme and decide if the answer is right or wrong. See how many descriptive words are needed before the AI guesses correctly.

You could print out a robot mask for the child pretending to be the robot to put on when it is their turn!

AI Literacy Framework

This resource has drawn guidance from the EU Commission and OECD 2025 guidelines 'Empowering Learners for the Age of AI: An AI Literacy Framework for Primary and Secondary Education'.

Paula Walshe has adapted information from these guidelines to develop a resource suitable for children in early childhood education.

Access the framework here: [EU and OECD AI Literacy Framework 2025](#)

References

OECD / European Union (2026). Empowering learners for the age of AI: An AI literacy framework for primary and secondary education. OECD Publishing, Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/65cd27d4-en>