Betty can build just about anything. But she's lonely and longs for a friend—so she builds one! She welds on springs and attaches wheels while her little brother Toby zips around hoping to catch her attention. When Betty's creation goes haywire, Toby surprises his sister in a big way!

With charming illustrations by debut author Julie Hampton, Betty Builds It tells a story of siblings discovering friendship and a shared passion for science together.

Fry Readability: 3
Lexile Measure: 500L

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SUMMARY

Betty is a robot girl who can build just about anything. Not that she gets it right on the first try! But with a can-do attitude, persistence, and a willingness to adjust her goals, Betty makes things happen! Filled with fun and dynamic illustrations, *Betty Builds It* touches on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) subjects and themes of friendship and sibling relationships.

About the Author and Illustrator

Julie Hampton is a children’s book author, illustrator, and architect based in San Diego, California. She has always wanted a robot friend. She likes using art to tell stories that are heartfelt and humorous, and maybe teach a thing or two. You can see more of her artwork at [juliehampton.com](http://juliehampton.com).
PRE-READING DISCUSSION

Before reading Betty Builds It, look at the cover of the book and answer the following:

• What is the title of the book? What do the letters of the title look like on the front cover?
• Look closely at the box on the floor, the robot girl, and the machine she’s looking at. What are some tools and materials you recognize?
• Now look at the back cover of the book, where a little black robot is on the floor. What are the tools and materials you recognize here?
• Compare the front cover to the back cover. How are the tools different? Which robot is playing with more advanced tools? Who would you guess is the older robot?
POST-READING DISCUSSION

Betty and Toby are siblings, with Betty as the older sister and Toby as the younger brother. By the end of the book, they become good friends. Pretend you are Betty and answer the following:

• What is Betty looking for in a friend?
• Do your friends like to do all the same things you like doing?
• Why doesn’t Betty think of Toby as a friend in the beginning?
• Do your friendships grow and change over time?
• Do you have a sibling? If so, are you friends with your sibling? If not, would you like an older or younger sibling to be friends with?
• Think about yourself a year ago. Did you grow up since then, and how do you know? How do robots like Toby grow up in the book?

People, like scientists and engineers, who conduct experiments always have to test things out first. Betty does a lot of testing in the book too.

• Does Betty always build things right the first time she tries?
• When Betty has a problem building something, what does she do?
• Can you find some examples in the book where Betty is testing something she has built?

Betty and Toby are robots, so their home is a little different from a home where humans live. Look through the pages and think about how you live in your own home.

• Do you see any things that are similar to the things in your house? Give examples.
• What things might not be needed in a robot house that you would need in a human house?
• Can you think of a whole room in your house that the robots don’t need?
• What do you think Betty and Toby’s world is like? Do they have robot neighbors or go to a robot school?
• Where do robots go on vacation?
TELL A STORY
Imagine about Betty and Toby building something new together and write a story about it.

• What are they building together?
• In your story, write a description of what Betty looks like. Can you describe Toby, too? How is he different from Betty?
• Think about some words the robot brother and sister might say to each other and add that to your story.

NAME THE TOOLS AND MATERIALS
Betty is surrounded by all kinds of tools and materials in the story, especially in her workshop. Look through the book and notice the tools drawn on the pages.

• How many tools can you find? Is there more than one kind of hammer?
• What do you think these tools do? Which tools do you see Betty and Toby using?
• Can you name some of the materials that things are made of in this book? Examples of materials are:
  - Bricks
  - Concrete
  - Metals
  - Plastic
  - Rubber
  - Wood
  - Glass

• With so many tools and materials around, can you find examples of something that is organic or a living thing? (Hint: look for green!)

LEARN SOME NEW WORDS
Can you find these words in the story and guess their meaning?
- Axel
- Engine
- Install
- Record
- Upgrade

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COUNT THE WHEELS

Counting is very important to Betty and Toby because they need to make sure they have all the things they need. Page by page, look carefully at the illustrations and pay attention to the wheels.

• How many wheels does Toby have? How many wheels does Betty have? Why do you think they need wheels?
• How many wheels can you count on one page? If you are good at counting, then how many wheels can you count in the whole book?
• Did you know zero is also a number? It’s true! Find a page with zero wheels.
• How many wheels does Betty’s toaster friend have? If Betty built two toaster friends, how many wheels would she need?

LEARN ABOUT SUPPORTS

Most things need supports to stand on in order not to fall over, and connect to the ground. Betty and Toby stand on two wheels as their supports, and the toaster friend stands on four wheels. Even you need supports!

• Can you find something in the book that has three supports? How about just one support?
• Look around the room you are in and notice how objects meet the ground. Why do you think they were built that way? How many supports does each item need?
CREATE YOUR OWN ROBOT FRIEND!

Make a list of three things you want your own robot friend to do.

- **Upgraded Parts!** Are there any special tools or materials you need to add your friend so it can do the three things on your list?
- **Recycle!** Can your friend be made of something you already have in your home?

Draw a picture of your robot friend with those special materials. Don’t forget to give your friend a name!

*Bonus! Build the robot friend under adult supervision if the materials are easy to gather and safe to use with glue and tape. Don’t forget to share the creation on social media with #BettyBuildsIt for us to see!*
Can you find the following words?
They might be backwards or diagonal!

BIT(2) NUT SAW BOLT NAIL TOBY TOOL BETTY
CLAMP DRILL LEVEL SCREW(3) HAMMER PLIERS WASHER WRENCH
TOASTER TIN SNIPS DENT PULLER PAINTBRUSH SCREWDRIVER TAPE MEASURE WELDING TORCH WIRE CUTTER
Did You find them all?
Some of the words appear more than once!

BIT(2)  CLAMP  TOASTER
NUT  DRILL  TIN SNIPS
SAW  LEVEL  DENT PULLER
BOLT  SCREW(3)  PAINTBRUSH
NAIL  HAMMER  SCREWDRIVER
TOBY  PLIERS  TAPE MEASURE
TOOL  WASHER  WELDING TORCH
BETTY  WRENCH  WIRE CUTTERS
Betty Builds It
Tool Match

Draw a line from the word to the tool!
What does each tool do?

hammers
saw
mallet
paintbrush
drill
tin snips
wrench set
dent puller
clamp
wire cutters
phillips screwdriver
pliers
adjustable wrench
drill bit
pipe wrench
standard screwdriver
level
Betty Builds It
Tool Match
I think you already know some of these!
Here's what they do!

**Hammers**
Hammers pound in nails!

**Saw**
This kind cuts wood

**Mallet**
A special hammer with a rubber or wood head for whacking things

**Paintbrush**
Give your projects some color with this!

**Tin snips**
cuts sheet metal

**Drill**
makes holes

**Nuts and Bolts**
hold things together

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**Wrench set**
Wrenches (also called spanners), turn things like bolts

**Dent puller**
This suctions out dents in your car or little brother

**Clamp**
holds things tight

**Wire cutters**
cut wire and other tough stuff

**Phillips screwdriver**
tightens or loosens these kind of screws:

**Pliers**
grip so you can pull, twist, or bend

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**Adjustable wrench**
Also called gas grips or monkey wrench, it turns nuts or bolts

**Drill bit**
makes a specific sized hole

**Pipe wrench**
puts together, or takes apart, pipe sections

**Level**
Helps you see if your project is straight!

**Standard screwdriver**
Also called a flat-head screwdriver, it tightens or loosens these kind of screws: