

I, Robot

Isaac Asimov

- 1
- 1 a *Harm*: to injure, damage or have a bad effect on someone or something. This is important within the first law because robots are superior to humans and very powerful. If this rule did not exist, robots would be very dangerous.
 - b *Conflict*: if different statements or suggestions conflict, they cannot all be right or they cannot all happen. This is important within the second and third laws because it makes sure robots obey
 - c *Protect*: to keep someone or something safe. The process of keeping someone or something safe is called protection. This is important because a robot has to keep itself safe.
- 2 She's a robot-psychologist. She is intelligent and has a plain face. She behaves coldly toward people and things around her, but robots excite her.
- 3 The reporter is interviewing Susan Calvin because he's writing an article for *The Interplanetary Press*.
He wants information about her involvement with robots.
- 2
- 1 a Gloria thinks Robbie is her friend because they play games together and she tells him stories. She is very upset when he is taken away.
 - b Grace Weston is frightened of Robbie because she thinks he might hurt Gloria and she doesn't want a machine looking after her daughter.
 - c George Weston thinks Robbie is Gloria's nanny and is unable to hurt Gloria he was made to be gentle and nice.
- 2 Mr Weston arranges for the family to go to New York because Gloria becomes very unhappy.
- 3 Gloria is in the path of a huge tractor and Robbie picks her up and carries her out of the way.
- 4 Students own answer.
- 3
- 1 Powell and Donovan's problem on Solar Station 5 is that Cutie doesn't believe that they created him.
 - 2 Cutie thinks it's illogical that inferior beings like humans made him. He thinks the Converter, a machine, created him. He calls the Converter 'The Master'.
 - 3 Powell and Donovan think that part of Earth will be destroyed during an electron storm, so they must reposition the beam. Cutie controls the beam correctly.
- 4
- 1 Dave (DV-5) is a seven-foot-tall robot made out of metal.
 - 2 Dave is not producing any ore. He goes wrong when he has to make difficult decisions and there are no humans nearby. His sub-robots march in strange formations.
 - 3 Powell and Donovan solve the problem by creating an emergency to see what happens just before the robot goes wrong. They need to find out what order Dave gives to the sub-robots. Powell guesses that Dave can't control six robots at the same time, so he shoots one. With just five robots (five 'fingers'), Powell hopes that Dave will go back to normal.

- 5
- 1 Herbie can read people's minds.
 - 2
 - a Herbie knows Susan Calvin is in love with Milton Ashe. He tells her Ashe feels the same way.
 - b Herbie tells Peter Bogert lies about Alfred Lanning. This makes Lanning angry.
 - c Herbie tells Bogert that his calculations are correct and that Bogert is better at maths than him. He also tells him that Lanning has resigned and Bogert is the next director. Bogert is happy with both answers.
 - d Herbie tells Susan Calvin lies about Ashe. This confuses Ashe because Susan behaves differently toward him.
 - 3 Herbie behaves this way because of the First Law, he is unable to hurt anyone. Telling people the truth sometimes hurts people.
 - 4 Susan Calvin destroys Herbie by giving him a problem without a solution. She's angry he fooled her about Ashe and probably she doesn't want anyone to find out her secret.
- 6
- 1 The Nestors were modified by not having the complete First Law of Robotics impressed in them. It was modified so that the Nestors wouldn't try to save men who were working with radiation.
 - 2 Nestor 10 was lost because General Black told the robot to 'get lost.'
 - 3
 - a The robots sat in the cubicles during the testing. They could not see each other, only the human in the middle of the Radiation room.
 - b Heat radiation was used during the last test, and is harmless to robots.
 - c Gamma radiation destroys robots, but small amounts are harmless for humans.
 - 4 The first test failed because Nestor 10 chose to save the man. The second test failed because none of the robots tried to save the man. This is because Nestor 10 had told all the robots that crossing the electric beams would kill them before they could save the man. This would not be logical behaviour.
 - 5 Only Nestor 10 moved, because only he knew they weren't using gamma radiation and that it wouldn't harm him.
- 7
- 1 Quinn believes Byerley is a robot. He says US Robots must investigate because if Byerley is a robot, his positronic brain must have been made by them. So US Robots are responsible for Byerley's actions.
 - 2 The two ways to prove Byerley is a robot is to look inside him, by X-ray or cutting him open. The other is if he breaks one of the 3 laws, then that proves he isn't a robot.
 - 3 Byerley hits a man. This breaks the First Law of Robotics, and proves he isn't a robot.
 - 4 Quinn's theory was that John, Byerley's teacher, was actually Byerley and had made the robot to replace himself after he had a terrible accident.
 - 5 Calvin thinks the man Byerley hit might have been another robot. If Byerley hit another robot then he wouldn't be harming a human, so he could be a robot.