



ENGLISH PROGRAMME

Check It Out! – P.5

Dear Parents,
Please take time to review with your child in preparation for the Unit Test on Friday 16th February and Monday 19th February, for Reading and Writing respectively.

Fabulous Future

Part I: Reading Comprehension

A: Fiction

I Robot

“Please, Robbie, please give me a ride.” She encircled his neck with rosy arms and hugged tightly. Then, changing moods in a moment, she moved away. “If you don’t, I’m going to cry,” and her face twisted appallingly in preparation...

5 Robbie gave in immediately and unconditionally before this ultimatum, nodding his head vigorously until the metal of his neck hummed. Carefully, he raised the little girl and placed her on his broad, flat shoulders.

10 Gloria’s threatened tears vanished immediately and she crowed with delight. Robbie’s metal skin, kept at a constant temperature of seventy by the high resistance coils within, felt nice and comfortable, while the beautifully loud sound her heels made as they bumped rhythmically against his chest was enchanting.

“You’re an air-coaster, Robbie, you’re a big, silver air-coaster. Hold out your arms straight. – You got to, Robbie, if you’re going to be an air-coaster.”

The logic was irrefutable. Robbie’s arms were wings catching the air currents and he was a silver ‘coaster.

15 Gloria twisted the robot’s head and leaned to the right. He banked sharply. Gloria equipped the ‘coaster with a motor that went “Br-r-r” and then with weapons that went “Powie” and “Sh-sh-shshsh”. Pirates were giving chase and the ship’s blasters were coming into play. The pirates dropped in a steady rain.

“Got another one. – Two more,” she cried.

20 Then “Faster, men,” Gloria said pompously, “we’re running out of ammunition.” She aimed over her shoulder with undaunted courage and Robbie was a blunt-nosed spaceship zooming through the void at maximum acceleration.

From *I Robot* by Isaac Asimov

Glossary

irrefutable impossible to deny or disprove.

ultimatum a final demand or statement of terms, the rejection of which will result in a breakdown in relations.

Seeing stars

In most situations, light helps us see. But when it comes to looking at the night sky, light is actually a kind of pollution.

It hampers our view of some of life's most spectacular sights: stars, planets, and even galaxies. "When I was a little boy, I loved the night sky," recalls Robert Gent
5 of the International Dark-Sky Association, an organization working to reduce light pollution.

"I remember looking up and the sky was filled with stars, and I asked, 'How many are there? How far away are they? Can we visit them?' I became an astronomer because I was amazed by their beauty," he says. "Now in most big cities
10 kids can't see the stars like I did."

Normally, about 2500 individual stars are visible to the human eye without using any special equipment. But because of light pollution, you actually see just 200 to 300 from today's suburbs, and fewer than a dozen from a typical city.

Adapted from <http://kids.nationalgeographic.co.uk/kids/stories/spacescience/lightpollution/>

Glossary

hamper to hinder or impede; to stop you from doing something.

suburbs outlying districts of a city, especially residential areas.

B: Non-Fiction

Part II: Writing

Write a letter to your town or city council to tell them how worried you are about light pollution.

Teacher Matt
English Teacher