

# Dog of the Future

by Estelle Kleinman

April stared at the big box. It was from Uncle Bob. He had moved far away in 3045. That was five years ago. He never forgot her birthday.

She opened the box. Her eyes opened wide. Uncle Bob had made a robot dog for her!

A note was in the box. April read it. She grabbed the robot dog. "I'll call you Joe," she said. She loaded Joe into her speedboat. She headed for Paco's place.

## READ & RESPOND

Monitor and Clarify

**What year does this story take place? What clues in the text helped you to figure it out?**

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Paco didn't think much of Joe. "A bunch of tin and screws isn't the same as a real dog," he said.

"Oink!" complained Joe.

"I guess Uncle Bob still needs to work some things out. Can you come on my boat?" asked April. "Then I can show you why Joe is so great."

"Currently, I have no other plans," Paco said. He hopped on the boat.



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### READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

**Who are the characters in the story? Describe one of them.**

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“Let’s take a trip,” said April. “I’ll show you why Joe is a good dog.”

Joe took the wheel. He steered the boat away from the dock.

“Can he really control the boat?” Paco asked.

“Yes,” answered April. “Uncle Bob says I just have to punch in where we want to go.” Joe had a keyboard on his back. April typed in “Tower Cliffs.”



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### READ & RESPOND

Monitor and Clarify

**Do you understand how Joe is able to control the boat? What clues in the text can help you to understand?**

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The water began to get very rough.

“Joe, I’m getting scared!” Paco cried with terror in his voice.

Joe slowed the boat to a crawl. A few minutes later, the boat stopped.

“That’s not Tower Cliffs,” Paco noted. “It’s Rocky Bluff.”

“Oink! Joe made a mistake,” said Joe.

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### READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

**What problem do Paco and April have? How does Joe react to the problem?**

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“I’ll tell Uncle Bob about the problems. I’m sure he can fix Joe,” said April.

Joe tried again. This time he managed to get to Tower Cliffs. They all stepped onto the beach.

“Just watch the fancy tricks Joe can do,” April said. “He can throw the ball and catch it!”

Paco wasn’t impressed. “I prefer real dogs. They’re full of surprises.”



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**READ & RESPOND**

Literary Elements

**Did the problem get resolved? Explain.**

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Joe picked up the ball. “Should Joe throw right or left? Fast or slow?”

“How disappointing!” said Paco. “This takes the fun out of playing ball.”

“Just throw the ball!” April called.

Joe threw the ball. Then he ran to make the perfect catch.

April stopped and looked around. “What’s that noise?”

Paco said, “I hear yelling and barking!”



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### READ & RESPOND

Monitor and Clarify

**How does Paco feel about Joe? What clues in the text help you to know?**

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A brown dog ran up to April and Paco. His owner, Tina, was not far behind.

April told Tina, “We were just playing ball with my robot dog.”

Tina asked if her dog Max could play. Paco threw the ball. Max ran after it. He dropped the ball at Paco’s feet. Before Paco could get the ball, Joe picked it up. He threw it.

Tina laughed. “Real or robot, these two dogs are a pleasure to watch.”



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## READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

**How does the story end?**

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# Reread and Respond

**1** What happens at the beginning of the story?

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**Hint**

For a clue, see page 106.

**2** After Paco hops in the boat, what does Joe do?

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**Hint**

For clues, see pages 107 and 108.

**3** Do you think Paco changed his mind about Joe? Explain.

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**Hint**

Use clues in the story to make a guess.