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.



READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

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



"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.

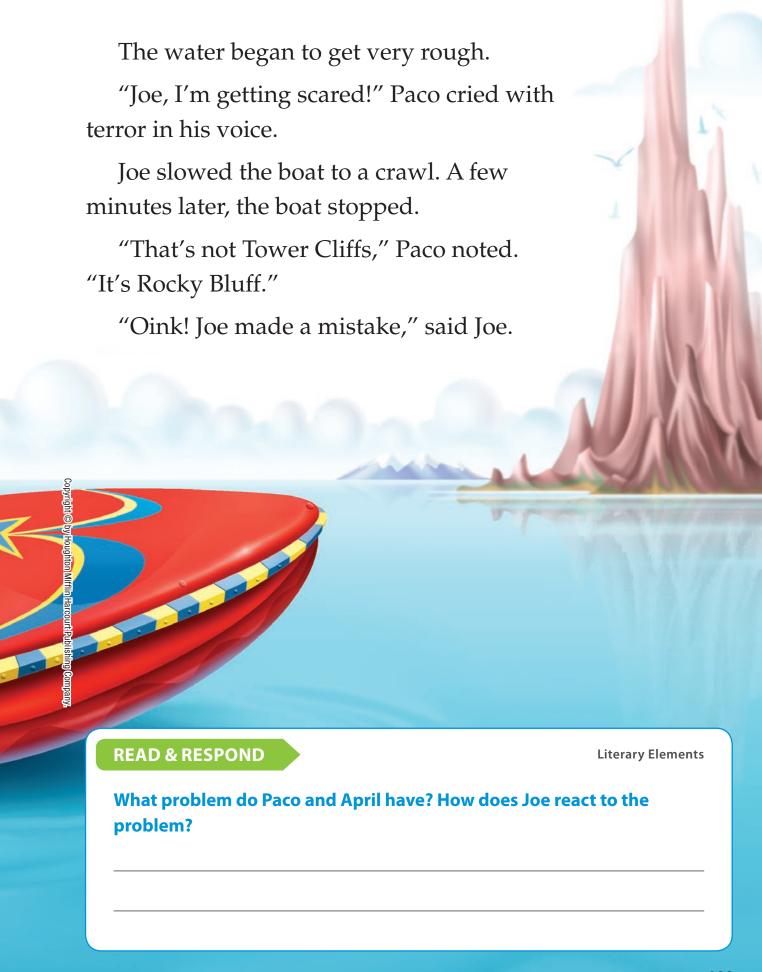
"Yes," answered April. "Uncle Bob says I just have to punch in where we want to go." Joe had a keyboard on his back. April typed in "Tower Cliffs."



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?



"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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Literary Elements

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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!"

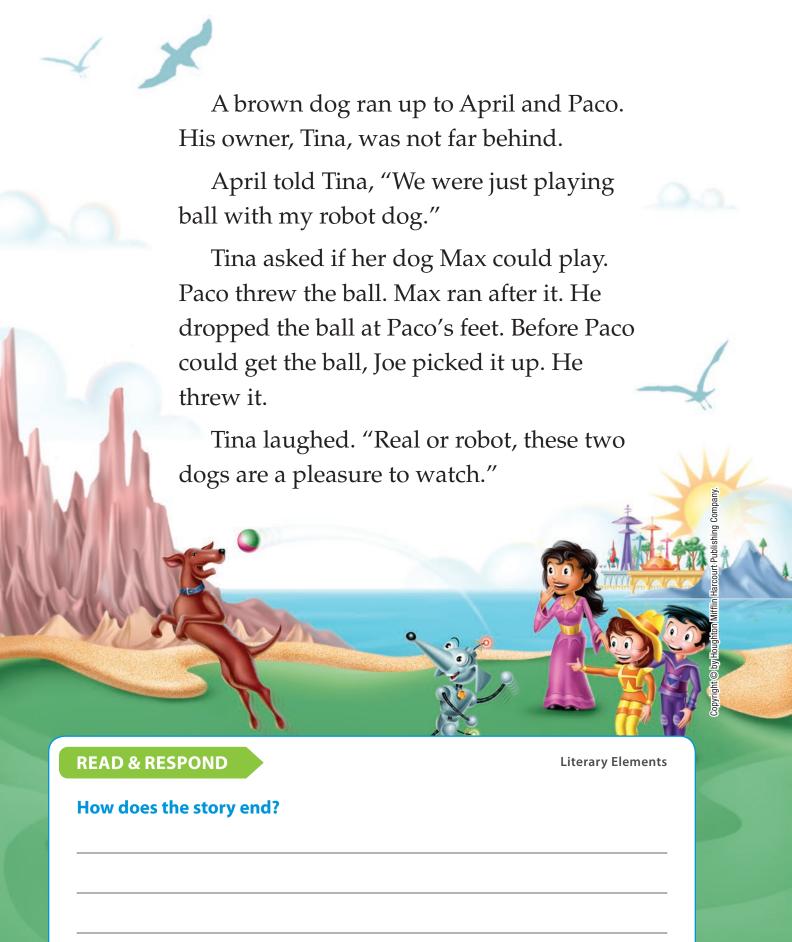




READ & RESPOND

Monitor and Clarify

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



guess.