

Milo's Robo-Bike Adventure

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Chapter 1

The Old Faithful Bike



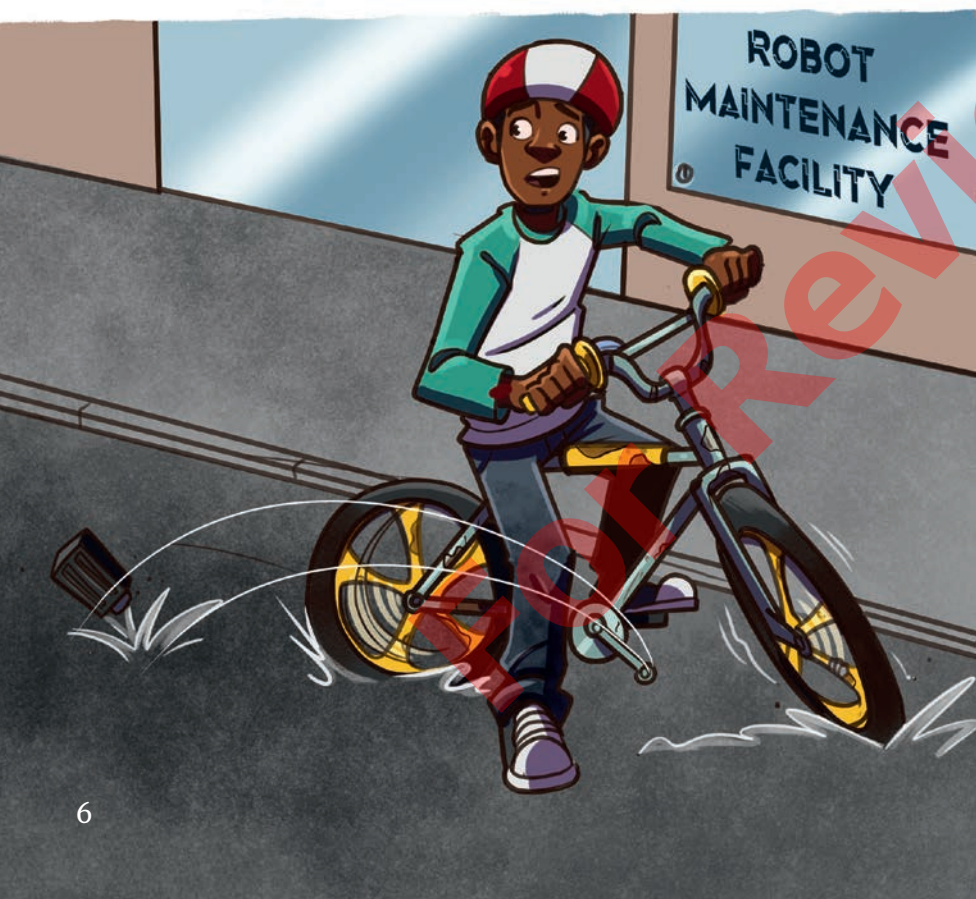
Milo hummed as he rode his bike down the street. There was hardly any traffic, and it was a sunny day with no wind – perfect bike-riding conditions. Milo didn't like windy weather. Wind was the enemy of bike riders. On a windy day, it didn't matter which way he went, he always seemed to be riding into a gale.

His old faithful bike wasn't going smoothly, though. It was making a troubling ticking noise and the seat was broken and really uncomfortable. The handlebars were a bit wobbly, too. Milo was used to it, though. It mightn't be the newest bike in the world, but he'd ridden it everywhere.



Going around a corner, the bike suddenly lurched and Milo nearly fell off. He wobbled and almost ran into the kerb before he steadied himself. He looked down. One of his pedals was missing! No wonder his foot couldn't find it anymore!

He slowed, then stopped, and looked over his shoulder. The missing pedal was back there, on the road in front of a big robot maintenance building.



Milo had ridden past the Central Robot Maintenance Facility hundreds of times and never really taken any notice. It was where all the robots had their services and repairs done, and it was a very, very busy place. The facility's vans whizzed around all over the city, picking up robots that needed servicing and delivering robots that had been repaired. It was a big business.

Milo sighed and wheeled his bike back to pick up the pedal that had fallen off. It looked like he was going to have to walk all the way home and then try to fix his bike. Again.

Milo had spent hours fixing his bike over the last few months. He'd tightened bits that were too loose. He'd loosened bits that were too tight. He'd oiled squeaking bits. He'd straightened bent bits. He'd even fixed punctures. He had to face it, though, his old bike was falling apart.

Chapter 2

Robot to the Rescue

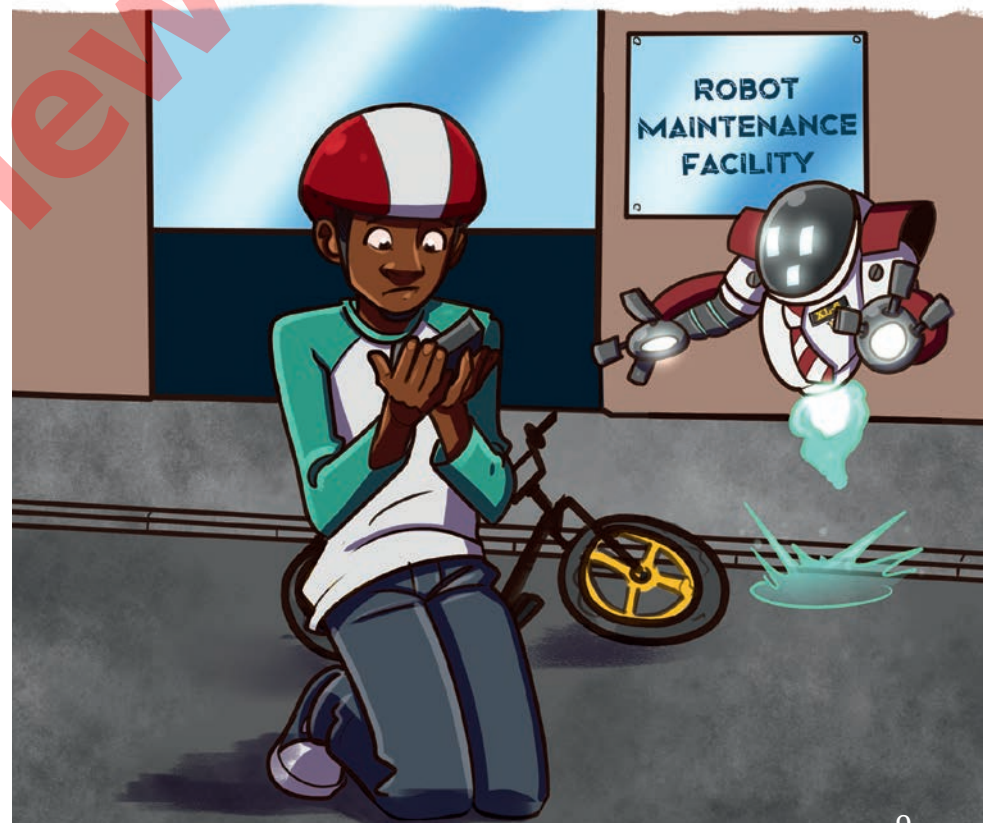


Milo had nearly reached his missing pedal when a van hummed out of the Central Robot Maintenance Facility's chrome door. It glided onto the road, turned left, and ran right over the top of Milo's pedal. The van didn't stop. The robot driver didn't even notice. It kept going up the road away from Milo and disappeared into the distance.

Milo reached his pedal. It was bent and crushed. He picked it up, but it fell to pieces. "Aargh!" he said, as he gathered all the bits. And because he was so upset, he threw back his head and said again, "Aargh!"

The door to the Central Robot Maintenance Facility was still open. A customer service robot zoomed out and stared at the upset Milo, who was cradling his crushed pedal. The robot hurried over. A smart tie hung from the front of its shiny body and it had the name "XL-5" on a badge on its chest.

"Young sir! Are you hurt? I can summon medical assistance!"





Milo held up the remains of the pedal. "It's my pedal. Your van ran over it and now it's ruined."

The robot edged backwards. "Pardon me, young sir. I didn't know that humans had pedals. I'll get help straight away."

"Humans don't have pedals," Milo said to Customer Service Robot XL-5. "The pedal fell off my bike."

XL-5 shrugged. Its shoulders clanked. "You humans are all so different, I thought some of you might have pedals."

"That's okay. Thanks for your concern, but I'd better get home before Mum and Dad start worrying about me."