Robot Rescue



By Rosa Nam
Illustrated by Chris Chalik

TCM Teacher Created Materials

Table of Contents

Chapter One: It's Alive 5
Chapter Two: Calling for Backup . . . 11
Chapter Three: Rescue Mission 15
Chapter Four: Sandstorm 21
Chapter Five: Falling into Place 25
About Us 32

For Review Only



For Review Only

CHAPTER ONE



It's Alive

Fifty kilometers away from mission control, Roy's engine hummed quietly. He continued on his usual path toward the object in the distance. He made his way across the windy desert, navigating boulders, craters, and empty riverbeds. On the clock, it was early morning, but you could never tell, since it didn't get

For Review Only

dark on this side of the planet. Roy was a robot. He looked like an oversize cat, minus all the fur, with wheels and extra arms. He could move on all fours or use two all-terrain wheels to roll around.

As Roy approached the black blob, he stuck two thin arms out of the right side of his body. He picked up the object to take a good look at the specimen.

"Anna, are you seeing this?"

"Wha—Hello?" said Anna into her wristcom.

"Daydreaming again?" asked Roy.

"No," lied Anna.

Actually, she *had* been daydreaming. She had been fantasizing about being the first teenager awarded the Nobel Prize for "outstanding research in space." She was standing onstage while thousands of people clapped for her. But Roy snapped her back to reality. She was supposed to be observing as he conducted his morning survey.

For Review Only

She had followed her parents and 20 of the brightest minds on Earth to the first colonial outpost in deep space. Well, technically she had been given two options—neither of which was all that great. Either follow her parents or attend a boarding school near her great aunt who perpetually smelled like ginseng. She had settled for space. Watching her creation, Roy, explore was her job this month.

Next month, she would move to the hydroponic hanging gardens. Those were on the side of the cliff where the crew had built their base. But until then, she was cooped up in a stuffy bunker.

Anna clicked on the monitor to see Roy's point of view.

"Another dead bug," said Anna in disappointment. "Nothing new."

It was all the same routine now. Anna had found it exciting the first 10 or so times, but now it was pretty boring. Roy would find a bug, scan it

For Review Only

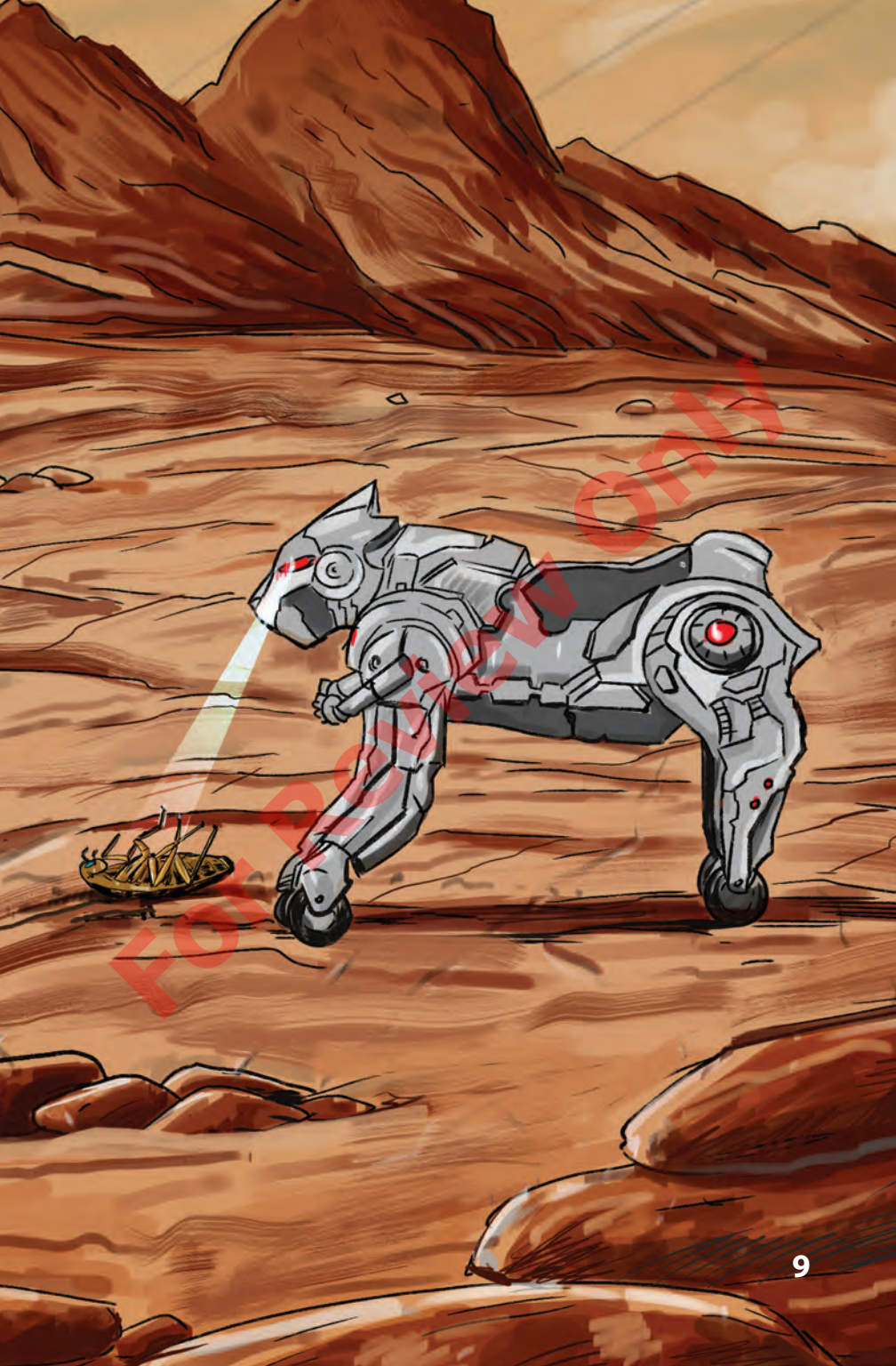
for life, find that it was likely dead, and still bring it back to the lab. The bugs had brown shells as hard as the surface of the planet they lived on. They were either really good at playing dead or they were just dead. Up to this point, it had always been the latter.

Anna had gotten her hopes up once. One bug had appeared to be sleeping; but it had a tiny electrical pulse. Unfortunately, a dust storm had interfered with Roy's instruments. After they had run tests back at the lab, Anna was disappointed to find that the bug was just as dead as the rest.

She had hoped that as the youngest team member—who was really part of the crew because of her parents—she would be able to do something noteworthy. However, all she was really good for was cafeteria duty and staying out of the way of the adults.

"This is different. I detect an electrical pulse," said Roy. He focused the thermal scanner over the bug and

For Review Only


For Review only

waited for the reading. Anna rested her face in her hands and watched Roy, expecting another failure. The screen turned from black to red, and then on the monitor, a long bug with six legs appeared. It wiggled.

Anna bolted upright in her chair. "Do you see that?" she asked.

"Affirmative." Roy carefully tucked the specimen into a bag and dropped it into his storage compartment.

"This is incredible! Look around for others!" Anna waited for a response but only heard static. The monitor suddenly turned hazy like swimming in murky water, and all she could make out were dull rays of light. The effect was disorienting. The speaker screeched suddenly, and Anna turned down the volume.

"Anna, I—" Roy never completed his statement as a large boulder crashed into him with enough force to make Anna jump back from the screen. The camera went pitch black.

For Review Only