



THE HOUSE OF TOMORROW





Leo and his father, Elian, sat surrounded by cardboard boxes.

"We're starting a new chapter as a family by moving to another city!" Elian exclaimed, pointing at a map. Leo felt both excited and nervous. Moving meant a new school, but it also meant they could design their own home. Elian said that the new house should be built with the future in mind. "It needs to be sustainable," Elian suggested. "Our old house wasn't as energy-efficient as this new one will be."

Later that afternoon, Leo helped his mother, Solara, look at house designs on her tablet. "In our new home, energy-efficient appliances must be used," Solara explained. She showed Leo a diagram of a smart kitchen. Leo noticed the sleek designs. "Is this fridge the same as our old one?" he asked. Solara smiled and replied, "No, it uses much less power. Also, solar panels must be installed on the roof to generate our own electricity."





Leo's sister, Navie, joined Solara to discuss the air quality. "A smart ventilation system should be included in the plans," Navie suggested. She had been reading about eco-friendly homes in school. Solara agreed, noting that the air inside the house must be kept fresh automatically. They looked at samples of sustainable wood and recycled glass. "These materials must be preferred for an eco-friendly future," Solara said, touching a smooth piece of bamboo.

During a break, Leo and Navie started talking about their next summer holiday. Navie held a brochure for an all-inclusive resort with giant swimming pools. "Look at this! Everything is included," she said. Leo looked at a different flyer for a small bed and breakfast in the mountains. "I think a resort is more exciting than a quiet house," Navie argued. Leo disagreed, saying, "A bed and breakfast is as comfortable as a big hotel, but it's much quieter."

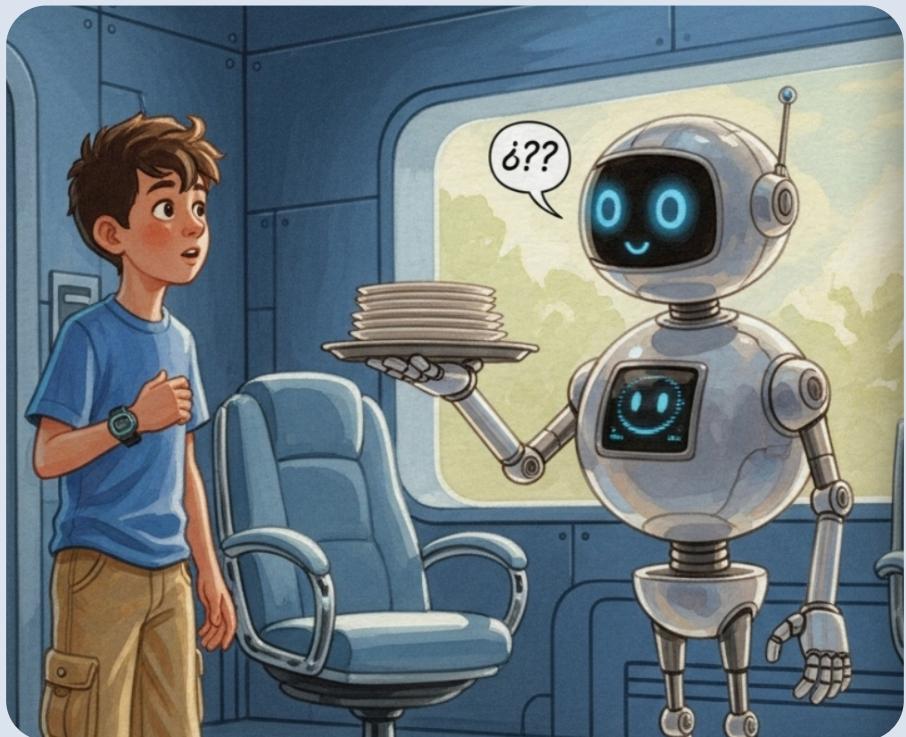


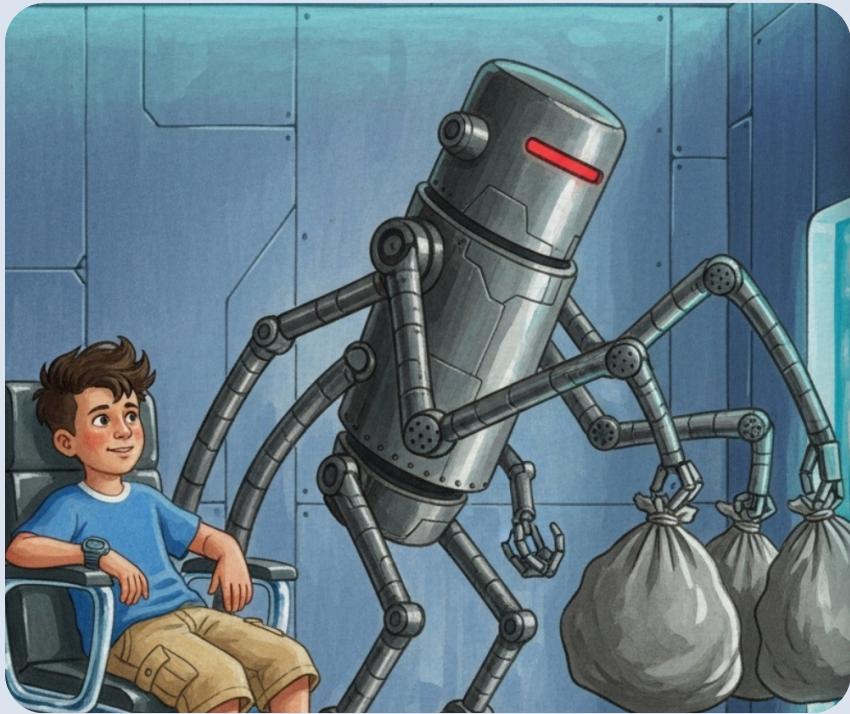


Elian and Solara overheard the children. "We must consider our budget," Elian said. "A bed and breakfast is not as expensive as an all-inclusive resort." Solara added a suggestion: "How about we find a place that uses renewable energy?" They compared the two options. Elian noted that while the resort had more activities, the bed and breakfast provided a local experience that was just as valuable.

That night, Leo fell into a deep sleep and began to dream.

In his dream, he was standing in a kitchen that looked like a spaceship. A shiny, silver robot rolled toward him. "Welcome, Leo," the robot chirped. "In this house, chores are done by machines." The robot took a stack of dirty plates and placed them into a slot. Suddenly, the dishes were sparkling clean. "The washing up should be handled by us," the robot said.





The dream continued as Leo followed a different robot outside. This robot had long, mechanical arms. "I'll take the rubbish out later!" Leo joked, but the robot had already grabbed the bags. "Rubbish must be sorted and removed automatically," the robot buzzed. Leo felt relieved. He didn't have to do anything! He sat on a floating chair and watched the robots work. It was the most relaxing home he could imagine.

Suddenly, a loud voice woke Leo up. "Leo! Wake up! It's time to do chores!" It was Solara. Leo rubbed his eyes and looked around his messy room. There were no robots and no floating chairs. He realized he still had responsibilities. "The rubbish won't take itself out," Solara said firmly. Leo sighed but smiled, remembering his dream. "I'll take care of the washing up, too," he promised.





Later, the family gathered to finish the house plans. "We've decided," Elian said. "Smart systems must be guarded by a central computer." Leo suggested adding a small robot vacuum, just like in his dream. "That's a great idea," Elian agreed. "Even if we don't have robots for everything, our house can still be smart." They all felt relieved that the planning was finally finished.

A few months later, Leo and Navie stood in front of their new home. It was the same as the drawings they had made. The solar panels sparkled in the sun. "The windows should be cleaned today," Navie laughed, handing Leo a sponge. Leo looked at the beautiful, energy-efficient house. It wasn't fully automated like his dream, but it was perfect because it was their home. "Let's get to work," Leo said happily.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In Leo's dream, robots did all the hard work. If you could design a robot for your own home, what specific chore should be done by the robot (e.g., cleaning your room, washing dishes, walking the dog), and why?
- Navie wanted a big all-inclusive resort, but Leo and his parents preferred a quiet bed and breakfast. Which holiday spot do you think is better? Try to use comparisons (e.g., 'A resort is more exciting than...') to explain your choice.



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