

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

You are doing a project on family relationships. You have found some materials that might be useful. Read the following story about family communication.

Text 1 Short story

Error! Error!

While Tina and Gary were doing the dishes in the kitchen, their parents opened the door and dragged in a gigantic box. They excitedly dried off their hands and ran to the front entranceway to see what their parents brought home for them.

5 Mum opened the box and exposed some sort of metal object covered in buttons and knobs. Tina and Gary leaned in close. They heard a low whirring sound, then, all of a sudden, it unfolded itself and stood up. It was a robot!

10 'This is TalkBot 1000,' their mum said. 'We bought it because we have no idea what your slang means anymore. We're hoping it'll translate your ridiculous terms.'

The robot's eyes lit up. 'Yes! I know more than 200,000 words and phrases, so I can help your family communicate better.'

'LOL! It looks like it's from a sci-fi film!' Gary said.

15 The robot's eyes lit up again. 'LOL means ... Error! Error!'

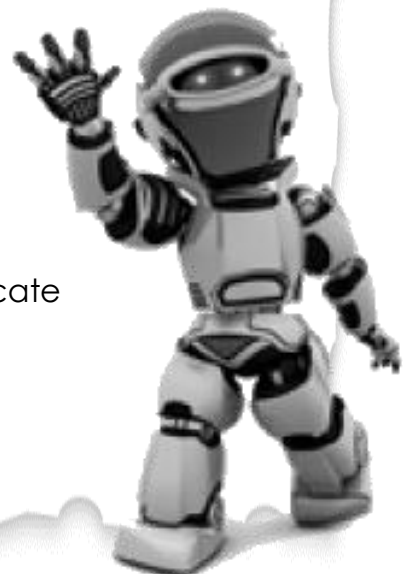
'That doesn't seem right... Let me check the instruction manual.' Dad said, hunting around in the box for the booklet.

Then, Tina poked the robot. 'IMO, it's going to blow its top!'

20 Smoke began to pour out of the robot, and its head shook and rattled. 'IMO means ... Error! Error!'

Mum glanced over at Dad.

25 'It looks like we are going to have to communicate with our kids the old-fashioned way!'



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Comprehension 1 *Your mum wants to know about the story. Read the story and answer her questions. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

1 Why were Tina and Gary excited at the beginning of the story?

2 What was the 'metal object' (line 5)?

3 Find words in paragraphs 2–3 that mean the same as the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| i) revealed | _____ |
| ii) humming | _____ |
| iii) very informal language | _____ |
| iv) silly | _____ |

4 According to the story, are the following statements True **(T)**, False **(F)** or Not Given **(NG)**?

Statements	T	F	NG
i) The robot can stand up on its own.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) Tina and Gary's parents bought the robot to teach them foreign languages.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iii) Tina and Gary's parents never use slang.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



5 Why did the robot break down?



6 What do you think Tina and Gary's mum means by communicating 'the old-fashioned way' (line 25)?

Challenging reading and comprehension

Unit 2

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

- 7 Match each of the slang terms and expressions with its most likely meaning. Write the correct letter beside the term. Two of the meanings should NOT be used.

Slang term/expression

- i) LOL _____
- ii) sci-fi _____
- iii) IMO _____
- iv) blow one's top _____

Meaning

- A laugh out loud
- B in my opinion
- C wireless Internet
- D science fiction
- E explode
- F become confused

- 8 Using information from the story, match each person with one of the quotes below. Choose A–F and write the letter in the box next to each person. Two of the quotes will NOT be used.

QUOTES		QUOTES	
A	'We want to have proper family conversations again, even if it's with a robot's help.'	D	'I wouldn't be surprised if this thing caught fire!'
B	'I don't think technology can solve all our problems.'	E	'I have helped many families in the past.'
C	'I know all the languages in the world.'	F	'The robot looks like it's from the future.'

Tina		Gary		Mum		TalkBot 1000	
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- 9 Complete the following advertisement using ideas in the story. Use ONE word for each blank. Answers must be grammatically correct.

TalkBot 1000 is an intelligent _____ that scientists developed to help families suffering from _____. Its special features include a massive database of _____ and _____, so there is no way family members will not understand one another. How do you know if it is working? It's eyes _____ while it is talking.