

Trouble in Space

Lieutenant Tom Bailey frantically flicked switches back and forth on the control panel. No matter what he tried, he couldn't get the engines to start up again. This was getting serious. If he couldn't get the engines going, Lieutenant Bailey could get stuck out here in deep space!

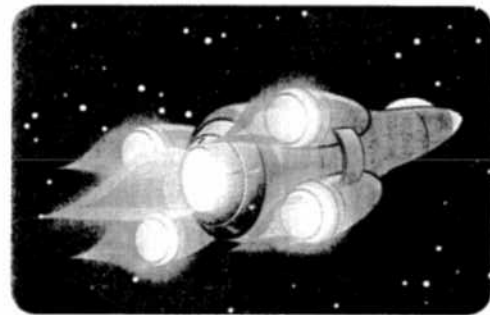
"Otto, please come up here," Lieutenant Bailey called through the intercom. "I need some help with these engines." Squeaks and pings could be heard coming down the hallway. Finally, the ship's robot mechanic, Otto, rolled through the door. The bright cockpit lights glinted off his gleaming metal body. Although they had already been on this journey for two years, Otto looked as shiny as if he had just rolled off the factory assembly line. In calmer moments, Lieutenant Bailey often wondered how Otto kept himself so pristine. Did he have his own secret jar of metal polish hidden away somewhere? "How can I be of service, sir?" the robot asked. His voice was soothing and even.

The robot's voice brought Lieutenant Bailey's attention back to the crisis of the moment. "We need to get these engines started right away!" he barked at Otto.

Otto rolled smoothly to the control panel and began to flip the switches one by one. "All will be well, sir," he said calmly. "There is no need to panic." Otto twisted dials and moved levers, but the panel's red lights continued to flash their warnings.

Lieutenant Bailey drummed his fingers on the panel impatiently. "Maybe you've forgotten," he said, "but when the engines aren't running, the oxygen generator stops as well." He glared at the robot's shiny back. "It may not mean much to you, but some of us need oxygen to live!"

"I have not forgotten," Otto said quietly. "Robots cannot forget. By the way, my sensors detect another ship approaching. It will be here in exactly 11.5 seconds."



MONDAY

Match each word from the story to its definition on the right.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| frantically | • in a wildly excited way |
| glinted | • a dangerous situation that needs attention |
| pristine | • shone by reflection |
| soothing | • calming |
| crisis | • restlessly; with an unwillingness to wait |
| impatiently | • fresh and clean |

TUESDAY

Use details from the passage to describe the problem.

WEDNESDAY

Choose the correct answer.

1. What was the author's purpose in writing this story?

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Ⓐ to frighten | <input type="radio"/> Ⓒ to entertain |
| <input type="radio"/> Ⓑ to inform | <input type="radio"/> Ⓓ to persuade |
2. Which words describe Otto?

| | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Ⓐ impatient, panicky, and frantic | <input type="radio"/> Ⓒ jokey, lighthearted, and friendly |
| <input type="radio"/> Ⓑ calm, soothing, and smooth | <input type="radio"/> Ⓓ forgetful, noisy, and old |
3. Why does Lieutenant Bailey think Otto has a jar of metal polish hidden away somewhere?

| | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Ⓐ Bailey finds the polish in a closet. | <input type="radio"/> Ⓒ Bailey can make oxygen from the polish. |
| <input type="radio"/> Ⓑ Otto uses the polish to start the engines. | <input type="radio"/> Ⓓ Otto is extremely clean and shiny. |

THURSDAY

Write T if the sentence is true. Write F if it is false.

- _____ Humans need oxygen to live.
- _____ Lieutenant Bailey polishes Otto every day.
- _____ This story takes place in a submarine.
- _____ Otto is the ship's mechanic.
- _____ Otto has forgotten how to start the engines.

FRIDAY

How do you think Lieutenant Bailey will react to Otto's last statement? Why?
