

I, Robot

Isaac Asimov

- 1 a Student's own answers. Possible words might include:

space	computer	technology	intelligent	planet	brain	move
metal	engineer	astronaut	science	scientist	space station	

- b Other famous science fiction writers include Arthur C. Clarke and Robert Heinlein. Example of science fiction films include *Star Wars*, *The Matrix* and *Bladerunner*.

The film, *I Robot*, does not tell any of the stories from the book, but some of Asimov's ideas about robotics were used in it. It stars Will Smith and Bridget Moynahan.

2

Who was the first man on the moon?	Neil Armstrong
What was his nationality?	American
In which year did he land on the moon?	1969
What was the name of the first man-made satellite to explore space?	Sputnik I
When did the satellite go into space?	1957
Which country built this satellite?	Russia
What are the names of the planets in the Solar System which have been explored by satellites?	Mercury, Jupiter, Neptune, Saturn, Uranus, Venus, Mars

- 3 As you read, match the robots and main human characters to their descriptions.

- a The famous robot-psychologist **Susan Calvin**
- b A non-speaking robot, made to take care of children **Robbie**
- c A child who missed her 'nanny robot' when he was taken away **Gloria Weston**
- d A robotics engineer who worked with Michael Donovan **Gregory Powell**
- e A very intelligent robot who believed he was made by 'The Master', not humans, and only believed in logic **Cutie**
- f A master robot which controlled six sub-robots and was developed to work in the mines on asteroids, without human supervision **Dave**
- g A robot that was believed to read minds, but really just told people what they wanted to hear **Herbie**
- h The director of U.S Robots **Alfred Lanning**
- i A modified robot whose brain was not impressed with the complete First Law of Robotics **Nestor 10**

j A possible humanoid robot **Stephen Byerley**

k A politician who wanted to show that the other election candidate was a robot **Francis Quinn**

4 a *Examples include:*

Correct predictions	Incorrect predictions
<p>There are many robots doing mechanical jobs for humans</p> <p>We can travel into space</p> <p>Astronauts can spend time in space stations</p> <p>Robots can send messages/controls to other machines/robots</p> <p>Robots/machines can protect and make things safer for humans</p>	<p><i>Robots look and behave like humans and can think and feel.</i></p> <p>Normal people can easily take a day trip into space from New York</p> <p>Robots can read people's minds</p> <p>Robots are more powerful than humans and could take over the world</p> <p>Most robots talk</p> <p>There are no more robots on Earth due to a government ban</p> <p>Nations joined together into large groups, eg The USA integrated into the Northern Region</p>

b *Student's own answers. Possible ways of trying to predict the future might include:* Speaking to scientists, learning from the past, palm reading, tarot cards, reading tea leaves, horoscopes.

5 a *Student's own answer.*

b *Student's own answer.*

c *Student's own answer.*

6 *Student's own answer.*

Answer may mention:

In many ways, she likes robots more than humans and thinks, for example, that they could be good politicians. She had seen how robots have become more complex and powerful machines. By the end of her life, she feels that robots are controlling humans and that they will decide who lives and dies, and she is uncertain about what will happen in the future as a result.

7 a *Student's own answer.*

b *Student's own answer.*