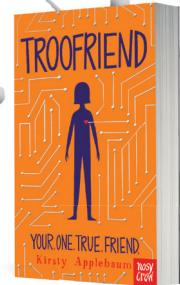


TROOFRIEND

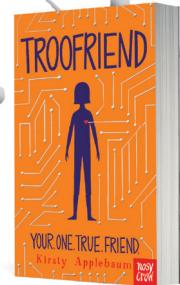
Discussion Notes



- Think about the technology you have at home. How different is technology today to technology 50 years ago? How has technology changed the way we live?
- TrooFriend is written from the perspective of the AI. Discuss how this impacts the story. How might the story differ if it was written from Sarah's perspective?
- What are the differences and similarities between a TrooFriend and a human child? Think about the way they speak, their movements, thoughts and what they understand about human life.
- Imagine that a TrooFriend is being created. You have been asked to write instructions on how the AI should behave. What should they make sure they do and what shouldn't they do to ensure that they will be as realistic as possible?
- Sarah takes her TrooFriend to visit her friend Keanna, but she leaves very suddenly. What do you think happened during this visit? Why was Sarah upset?
- Ivy begins to take some of Sarah's belongings. Discuss the link between our belongings and our identity. What makes them so important to who we are?
- Find examples in the text where Ivy presumes to know how Sarah and other people are feeling. Discuss how she works this out. Is her ability to match facial expressions and actions to feelings 100% accurate? Why/why not?
- How does the perspective of the AI highlight issues with Sarah's school friendships? For example, how people wouldn't sit with Molly because of the shoes she was wearing.
- There are mentions throughout the book of people protesting that 'Android rights are human rights.' Discuss what you think about this – do you agree?
- Read through the section where Sarah first realises that Ivy has feelings and identify language devices that have been used to emphasise how Sarah is feeling here. Think about the length of the sentences, speech used and adjectives.
- Discuss why you think Sarah decides to keep her discovery a secret. What does Ivy mean to Sarah? How do her feelings towards Ivy change throughout the book and why do you think this is?
- Imagine that one of your friends has brought their TrooFriend to school. You have never met one before. What questions would you want to ask them?
- Ivy talks about Miss Jenson and her time in the warehouse throughout the book. What do you think of the relationship between Ivy and Miss Jenson? Look at the language used when Ivy remembers her time in the warehouse, how do you think she feels about this time?
- Sarah decides to run away with Ivy. Brainstorm some adjectives to describe how Sarah is feeling after the phone call from her Dad. Why does she decide to run away? What does she think will happen if they don't?
- Running away doesn't go entirely to plan for Sarah, and Ivy ends up hurting her. Read through this scene closely. Why do you think Ivy hurts Sarah? Discuss how both Ivy and Sarah are feeling in this scene and the actions that lead to this incident happening.
- What lessons have you learnt about technology, friendship and family from TrooFriend?

TROOFRIEND

Activity Ideas



A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

TrooFriend is written from the point of view of the AI. How different do you think the book would have been if it had been written from Sarah's point of view? Choose a section of the book and rewrite it from Sarah's perspective. (For example, when she first meets Ivy or when they run away together). What different things do we get to see or know about when Sarah tells us the story?

MY INVENTION

Jenson & Jenson are searching for their next best inventor. Develop your own invention for the future. Think about what it looks like, its key features, why people should buy it and create a name for it. Can you design something that every household will want? Create an advertisement for your invention: think about the key selling points and develop a slogan that summarises what your invention is for. Present your inventions to the group and conduct some market research. Ask people if they would buy your invention. If they wouldn't – can they tell you why? Are there any improvements you could make?

'ANDROID RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS'

Throughout the book, there are a group of people protesting against Jenson & Jenson, arguing that androids should have the same rights as humans. Choose a side: **the protestors** or **Jenson & Jenson**. Write a speech arguing for your side. Use persuasive language such as facts, pronouns and the rule of three. Run a debate, with people from each side reading their speeches to the group, allowing the other side to respond.

INTERVIEWING AN AI

Split the group in half – with one half playing a TrooFriend and one half playing the news reporter. Run an interview, imagining that the TrooFriend has just been launched and you have been asked to gather material to run a news report. Think about what questions you would ask. How will you gather material for an interesting news story? How do you think the TrooFriend would respond to being interviewed?