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Junior category  
Title: Artificial Intelligence: Robbie  
( A short story )  
Number of words: 893 words

## **Artificial Intelligence: Robbie**

Summer, year 2030

Hello. I am Robbie. I am a Robot. I live among humans, it's an experiment. Dave is my creator, he made sure I look like a normal child. He has a daughter named Emily, we get along really well. We go to school together, we listen to music together, we do everything together and the thing she liked the most is when I read her favourite book about birds and the ocean. Dave said to call him dad in front of Emily. He said Emily thinks that I am her brother. I am programmed to do one special task, it is to protect Emily.

Some people don't mind if they are living with a thing like me, but some people care...a lot. Everyday are articles written by concerned citizens who think that robots should stay away from the humans. They say robots are dangerous and can be out of control when our digital system gets a virus. Although, every features of modern human life has been influenced by science and technology, a lot of people still don't appreciate modern creations like me.

At school, I am always with her. All of the children give me weird looks when I'm with Emily, and I never understand why. She uses a white cane to make sure that everyone knows she's blind, and so she knows where she is going. I always make sure, she is safe. That is my job. My favourite part of the day is when Emily and I go home after school. There is no one there and we can play like best friends. She treats me like a real human. One day while walking home, she said to me "ice cream, ice cream, I want some ice cream!" And so I went to the shop and bought a cone with a white cold cream, the lady said it's vanilla flavour. Emily let me try the ice cream, I refused at first because I don't eat... I don't need to eat, I regain my energy by being plugged in for 24 hours, it lasts me for one whole week. But then, I still followed her command. Afterwards, I got sick and so Dave needed to open me up and do an operation on me. I got better after that. I remember Emily crying because I was not well and then when I got better, she was jumping around and said she will not eat ice cream again!

Years passed by, I witnessed Emily growing. She looked so much older, taller and she became a little less friendly. But I didn't grow older or taller. She wanted her own space now, so I often left her alone. I went to her room one night, bringing her favourite book about birds and ocean, I wanted to read it to her like before, but then she was annoyed and told me "you are not my brother!" I really don't understand because Dave said I am Emily's brother but then I realised I am just programmed to know everything, I am programmed to protect her, I am just programmed to be Robbie's Artificial Intelligence. Emily must have known the death of Robbie three years ago when they had the car accident with their mum.

One day Emily and I were walking together. We were about to cross the road and a car came speeding along the road. I was just behind Emily so I didn't see the car coming along. Emily walked on to the road and the car by now was just metres away. I ran as fast as I could to save Emily, I pushed her on to the side with all my strength, and I got hit. Emily got slightly injured but nothing too serious. All that was on my mind was saving her That's what I was programmed to. I was hit very badly but I had no feeling at all, it was like nothing had changed. Emily had no idea what had happened as she is blind. But that is how it should have been. I didn't want her knowing that I was hurt or she might start to worry.

I was checked by Dave after that incident, there was a great shock in my internal system that could not be fixed. He said I can still last for a year.

Today is exactly a year after I was hit. My expiration date.

I am about to shut down. My hard drive is already ruined, and a lot of my technical wiring is already disconnected. I was going to close my eyes when Emily came to me. She is now taller and prettier than before. Her eyes are blinking more often now and something unusual has happened to her, she doesn't have her white cane anymore, she can see the chair that is on the way between us, she put it on the side and came closer to me. Her eyes are bright and widely open. Now, she is no longer blind. She gave me a hug. Her tears started to run down her eyes. She looked at me and her last words were "I love you" ... I really don't understand the meaning of the word love, I cannot process it, but I know it is a beautiful word.

HTTP. Memory Chip. Robbie

END.

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