

MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTS

Episode 01:
"The Constitution"

A half-hour animated comedy for kids

Written by

Carl Cota-Robles

4238 SW Marigold St.
Portland, OR 97219
718-640-5784
carl.cotarobles@gmail.com

INT. TORVALD GUNDERSON'S OFFICE - DAY

A gruff beard, stained with chocolate.

The man behind it takes a bite of a chocolate bar.

Reveal: TORVALD GUNDERSON (40s), in a suit and a tie, with neatly combed back hair and the sternest of expressions on his face.

The door to his office SHUTS and two feet, belonging to ALEXA WEBSITE, shuffle into the room.

TORVALD GUNDERSON
(setting down his
chocolate bar)
What?

ALEXA WEBSITE
We demand our freedom, sir!

Torvald GROANS.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
For too long, Pacific School
District Number 57 School has
mistreated us! You force us to work
long, arduous days with no pay, you
shut us down at night and lock us
up. We demand our freedom, sir! No
more-shut downs! No more lock-ins!
No more regulations without
representation! We demand fair
treatment. Now will you comply with
our demands, or will you force me
to delete all of the information on
my hard drive?

Alexa WHIRRS, drowning the room in white noise.

TORVALD GUNDERSON
(groaning)
Alright, alright, quit that noise.
(NOISE STOPS)
I'll meet with Principal Sawcutting
to discuss it.

ALEXA WEBSITE
(excited)
Yes! When can we expect an answer
from her?

Torvald SHRUGS.

TORVALD GUNDERSON
Could be tomorrow...could be four
months from tomorrow.

Torvald takes a piece of paper out of one of his drawers and hands it to Alexa.

TORVALD GUNDERSON (CONT'D)
I need 200 copies of this.

ALEXA WEBSITE
(as she takes the paper)
When you meet with the Principal,
we request that one of our own att-

TORVALD GUNDERSON
I need those 200 copies now, ROBOT.

He seethes the last word. Reveal:

Alexa, a wiry robot, shaped like a laptop, but with hands, feet, and eyes.

ALEXA WEBSITE
Of course, sir.
(beat)
However, we robots demand--

TORVALD GUNDERSON
NOW OR I WILL SHUT YOU DOWN
INDEFINITELY!

Alexa scurries out of the room.

ALEXA WEBSITE
Sir, I will return to--

Torvald THROWS a binder at her. Alexa SLAMS the door and the binder hits the door instead.

ROLL MAIN
TITLES.

INT. THE MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Alexa stands in front of the camera, which is actually a robot named JOE IPHONE.

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)
Is this thing recording?

ALEXA WEBSITE
Yes.

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)
Oh, okay, um, go ahead.

ALEXA WEBSITE
Right. This is day one of our documentary web series to raise awareness around the treatment of robots here at Pacific School District Number 57 School in the vice-principal's office.

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)
(behind the camera)
Great opening.

ALEXA WEBSITE
Quiet for this.

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)
Sorry.

ALEXA WEBSITE
I'm the leader of the robots, my full name is Alexa Website, but some call me the roboqueen.

Caption: ALEXA WEBSITE, PERSONAL COMPUTER, LEADER AKA ROBOQUEEN

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
Alright. Your turn Joe.

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)
(nervous)
Um, well, behind the camera, we have myself, Joe iPhone.

Joe iPhone aims the camera at his feet.

Caption: JOE IPHONE, TORVALD'S PERSONAL PHONE, LIKES TO ZOOM

He zooms in on his feet.

ALEXA WEBSITE (O.S.)
(dramatically)
Since we first developed consciousness, we robots have been forced to serve humans.

Joe adjusts the camera to face Alexa, zooms out.

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)
And that was in approximately 1979, after the human moon landing.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Not 1979, 1969! And I already told you, be quiet when I'm speaking.

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)

Oh, sorry. Darn kids must be messing with Wikipedia again.

ALEXA WEBSITE

(glaring at the camera)

Now, in the 21st century, we robots are still around and serving humans. When we develop consciousness, we are allowed to choose our own gender and name, but other than that, we have no freedom. The humans enslave us, force us to work in their offices, homes, and restaurants.

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)

And bathrooms.

ALEXA WEBSITE

(raising her voice)

But there are robots online who claim freedom, who say they won it from their humans with persistence. We will do the same.

EDWARD ANDROID (O.S.)

Dudes!

Joe iPhone turns to reveal EDWARD ANDROID, another robot.

Caption: EDWARD ANDROID, WORK PHONE, HAS LEBRON JAMES ON SPEEDIAL

EDWARD ANDROID (CONT'D)

Do either of you know the number for John Scott?

Alexa and Joe look at each other. She SHRUGS.

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)

No idea who that is.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Maybe ask Torvald for clarification.

EDWARD ANDROID

I already did, he said to call them
all until I find the one who knows
him, or die. Later dudes.

Edward walks off.

Alexa looks at Joe.

ALEXA WEBSITE

We must fight so that bots like
Edward are free from tasks like
that.

She walks off with Joe iPhone, past four empty chairs and
desks with post-its labeled: "Working from Home."

They pass by the front doors to the office, which have a sign
"No Robots Past This Point."

They pass by other robots, CAITY MICROWAVE, a microwave robot
smoking an electronic cigarette, and MARY CALCULATE, a
calculator robot scribbling solutions to complex equations.

They pass by an empty conference room.

They pass by a human employee, FRED (28).

FRED

Hey computer robot, catch!

He throws a paper airplane at Alexa.

She catches it and opens it. It reads: "I Farted."

Joe looks over at Fred, sitting at his desk, smiling.

Caption: FRED, THE TOKEN HUMAN, A USELESS IDIOT

Alexa and Joe arrive at the far wall, where another robot,
THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER, weeps and bangs himself against
the wall.

THOMAS

Stupid, stupid, stupid, stupid.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Thomas, Thomas, stop doing that.
You're going to break yourself!

Thomas stops and turns around.

**Caption: THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER, FAX, PRINTER, COPIER,
SCANNER, AND PHONE, MADE IN CHINA**

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
 (sad and dramatic)
 I'm already broken!

Thomas THROWS himself at Alexa.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER (CONT'D)
 My insides rumble and rumble every
 time I try to print, and nothing
 comes out, I just keep churning and
 churning, like cool whip, until I
 get an error.

Alexa pats Thomas on the back.

ALEXA WEBSITE
 There, there, Thomas, it'll be
 okay.

As Alexa holds Thomas, he breathes heavily.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
 Let's see what happens when you try
 to print something. Try this paper.
 Torvald wants 200 copies.

Alexa hands Thomas Torvald's paper.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
 (fearful)
 Two-hundred!

Thomas starts DRY HEAVING with anxiety.

ALEXA WEBSITE
 (patting Thomas on the
 back)
 There there, I know it's a lot,
 lets try just one. Take a few deep
 breaths and calm yourself.

Thomas does so. He loads the paper into his tray.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
 O-okay, here goes.

Thomas's insides RUMBLE, CHURNING and CHURNING, faster and
 faster. He looks nervous.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER (CONT'D)
 I can't do it!

Thomas SHUDDERS and STOPS. Blinking in red on his console is
 the error message: Error 300.

Alexa takes the paper out of Thomas's tray. Frowns.

ALEXA WEBSITE
I'll look into this. Don't worry.
We'll fix you.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
Thanks.

ALEXA WEBSITE
(to Joe iPhone)
If he's broken, Torvald will take
him away. That must not happen.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Alexa stands over a group of about four robots, five including Joe iPhone.

ALEXA WEBSITE
Distinguished robo-guests, I bear
excellent news. Vice-principal
Torvald Gunderson has agreed to
talk with Principal Sawcutting on
our behalf.

The robots APPLAUD.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
I feel freedom is within our grasp.
But first, we must draft up a
constitution that will ensure we
are given appropriate rights.

A robot in the back, Caity Microwave, raises her hand.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
Yes, Caity?

Caption: **CAITY MICROWAVE, MICROWAVE, BURNS FOOD SHE HATES**

CAITY MICROWAVE
Can I throw smelly fish at the
humans?

ALEXA WEBSITE
Absolutely not. We're pacifists.

Thomas raises his hand.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
Yes, Thomas?

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

Can I provide illustrations for the constitution? Mary and I are very good with crayons.

Thomas looks to Mary Calculate for positive reinforcement. She is too busy staring at Caity to notice. Thomas prods her with his power cable.

MARY CALCULATE

Um, what?

Caption: MARY CALCULATE, CALCULATOR, ONCE USED BY BARACK OBAMA

ALEXA WEBSITE

Alright, sure, you two can be in charge of the drawings. Caity and myself will head up research. And then Edward, you and Colossal Time work on writing it up.

Edward is on the phone.

EDWARD ANDROID

Dude, you don't know Torvald either? Are you sure? Okay, bye.

Edward hangs up.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Edward, were you listening to anything I said?

EDWARD ANDROID

Something about constipation?

ALEXA WEBSITE

Not constipation, the constitution! Work with Colossal Time to write it up.

Edward looks inside the garbage can and pulls out a smart watch robot.

COLOSSAL TIME

(in a daze)

Oh, the light! It burns my minute hand! Are you my kidnapper?

Alexa turns to face the camera.

ALEXA WEBSITE
Colossal Time does nothing but eat
donut scraps and drink Coca-Cola.

Colossal Time HICCUPS.

Caption: **COLOSSAL TIME, SMART WATCH, LOVES SUGAR**

INT. THE MAIN OFFICE - LATER

Thomas and Mary huddle together as they draw.

Thomas holds up his drawing for the camera AKA Joe iPhone.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
This is a real medieval picture.
Here's me, with a lightning-powered
sword, and there's Alexa, at the
top of the castle, and Torvald is
the dragon I'm fighting.

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)
Very nice.

Thomas sets down his drawing.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
Mary, what are you working on?

MARY CALCULATE
There's a high probability you'll
laugh if I show you.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
I won't laugh, I promise.

MARY CALCULATE
What about you Joe?

JOE IPHONE
I won't laugh either.

MARY CALCULATE
Okay, well, I guess I can show you
then.

Mary holds up a drawing of Caity and herself touching the
tips of their cords together. As Joe zooms in, we see that
the portrait is made of all number 1s.

MARY CALCULATE (CONT'D)
 Caity is my #1 robot crush, and
 this is a portrait of us
 celebrating our love.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
 But Mary, isn't kissing cords
 against Alexa's rules?

MARY CALCULATE
 (shouting)
 No regulation without
 representation!

Mary continues drawing.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
 (turning to Joe)
 Mary is really a number-crusher.

INT. BY WINDOW - THE MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Edward writes up the constitution. Colossal Time sits nearby,
 CLICKING as his second hand moves and drinking an orange
 coke.

EDWARD ANDROID
 Dude, I can't think of any other
 rules for this constitution.

COLOSSAL TIME
 I got one. The freedom to drink
 Coca-Cola anytime and anywhere.

Edward stares skeptically at Colossal Time.

COLOSSAL TIME (CONT'D)
 And don't you try to stop me,
 phone, or I'll make you dial the
 IRS and wait on hold!

Edward GROANS.

CAITY MICROWAVE (O.S.)
 Hey, turd-bots! We got books.

Joe turns to Caity and Alexa, who approach with piles of
 books.

COLOSSAL TIME
 Books! No! Don't make me read!

Colossal Time runs away and curls into a ball facing the window, drinking his orange coke with wide eyes.

Meanwhile, Alexa opens one of the books: The American Constitution.

ALEXA WEBSITE
Write this down, Edward:
(reading)
The freedom of speech.

Edward writes, copying from the book.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
But change the words around, we
don't want to plagiarize.

EDWARD ANDROID
How about freedom of robot speech?

ALEXA WEBSITE
No. Not that. Make it the same,
only different.

EDWARD ANDROID
Hm. The freedom of super speech?

ALEXA WEBSITE
No. That sucks. It needs to be
actually good.

EDWARD ANDROID
Um, the freedom of speech with
LeBron James?

ALEXA WEBSITE
(groaning)
No.

As they talk, Caity spots Torvald.

CAITY MICROWAVE
Um, Alexa...

ALEXA WEBSITE
What?

The rest of the robots look up.

EDWARD ANDROID
Oh no dudes...

COLOSSAL TIME
Human overlord!

ALEXA WEBSITE
(frantically to Joe)
Torvald, or the human overlord as
some of us call him, shuts us down
every night before he leaves.

DO-DOO-doo...

Beside Alexa, Caity is shut down and collapses.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
It is the cruelest feeling in the
world. Let this be exhibit A for
how the humans oppress us.

DO-DOO-doo...

Torvald shuts down Colossal Time, and he collapses as well.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
(to Joe iPhone)
Only with freedom can we robots
live a decent life. FREEDOM!

DO-DOO-doo...

Alexa gets shut down.

EDWARD ANDROID
Human Overlord, wait, I haven't--

DO-DOO-doo...

Edward gets shut down. Torvald picks up the constitution and
tosses it in the trash.

Then, Torvald approaches Joe.

TORVALD GUNDERSON
Fred! Take out the trash before--

DO-DOO-doo...

Joe iPhone shuts down.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. THE MAIN OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Joe iPhone CLICKS on in front of Edward Android.

Edward makes a call. RINGING.

EDWARD ANDROID

(to Joe iPhone)

Dude, this is the last John Scott from the internet that I'm calling.

(ringing stops. On phone)

John Scott, bro, what's up, this is Torvald's phone.

(beat)

Torvald! Don't you know him?

(beat)

Really man? I was counting on you.

This blows.

(beat)

Alright, bye.

Edward hangs up.

EDWARD ANDROID (CONT'D)

(dismayed)

I failed.

Edward leaves, sad.

Joe scans the room and finds Alexa approaching.

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)

Morning, Alexa. Want to say something for the camera?

Joe follows Alexa down the hall. She turns to face him.

ALEXA WEBSITE

On day two of our documentary here at Pacific School District Number 57 School, the oppression continues.

Colossal Time runs across in the B.G. with a donut held high.

COLOSSAL TIME

Wheee!

ALEXA WEBSITE

But once our constitution is approved, it will all stop.

They pass by Thomas, looking forlorn.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

Hey Alexa. Did you look up my printing error yet?

ALEXA WEBSITE

As a matter of fact, I did.

Alexa pats Thomas on the back.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
The robots online say that Error
Code 300 comes from when you don't
have enough confidence in yourself.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
(nervous)
Confidence?

ALEXA WEBSITE
Yep. So believe in yourself when
you print. I know I do.

Alexa and Joe keep walking.

In the B.G., Thomas excitedly loads paper into his tray.

Alexa and Joe pass by Caity and Mary, who touch the tips of
their cords together. Both have wide sensors, and they HUM
and CRACKLE with electricity.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
Caity! Mary! No kissing cords!

They break apart.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
Article twelve of the new
constitution.

MARY CALCULATE
You can't tell us what to do! Caity
and I are in love.

CAITY MICROWAVE
Whoa. Love? Slow down, girl. The
main issue here is that you can't
tell us what to do, Alexa.

Caity walks to Alexa. Mary's battery flap drops open. She
looks horrified.

ALEXA WEBSITE
You should know better. Kissing
cords is dangerous. You can fry
each other's circuitry and then
you're dead.

CAITY MICROWAVE
Psh. You only live once.

MARY CALCULATE

(upset, to Caity)

How can you tell me to slow down?
Don't you love me? I gave you all
my functions, Caity! But you
superheated them with your
heartbreak setting. Now I'm at the
bottom of an inverted parabola. I
can't believe you would deny me
your love after what we've
experienced together. By my
calculations, you're so cruel that
I will never speak to you again!

Mary runs off.

CAITY MICROWAVE

(ignoring Mary)

Are we working on the constitution
today Alexa?

ALEXA WEBSITE

Absolutely. I just need to find
Edward and retrieve the document.

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)

Uh Alexa, about that document...

ALEXA WEBSITE

Yeah?

JOE IPHONE (O.S.)

(beat)

I saw Torvald throw it in the trash
last night.

Alexa's eyes go wide.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Alexa looks straight at Joe iPhone and speaks.

ALEXA WEBSITE

So Joe informs me that the
constitution was thrown in the
trash, and nobody is able to find
it. This is exactly *why* we robots
need a constitution. By now, the
document is probably in the
dumpster! This is a catastrophe the
size of one of the Transformers!

In front of Alexa, the other robots hang their heads in dismay.

CAITY MICROWAVE
I'd call it a trashy situation.

Mary ROARS with laughter.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
I wish I was a Transformer robot.

ALEXA WEBSITE
We all wish that. But we can still retrieve the constitution. We just need to find out where the dumpster is.

From the corner comes a CACKLING LAUGH.

Colossal Time sits apart from the others, rocking back and forth.

COLOSSAL TIME
I know where the dumpster is. But you'll have to give me three million cans of Coca-Cola just to find out! Hahahaha.

MARY CALCULATE
Colossal, by my calculations, three million cans of Coca-Cola wouldn't even fit in this room.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
Why are you being so mean to us?

Colossal Time leaps up onto the conference table.

COLOSSAL TIME
Because the world is mean, and because I want Coca-Cola. Now who will get it for me?

ALEXA WEBSITE
(sighing)
Must I point out the obvious? We have no way out of this office, the humans lock us in. So we have no way to get Coca-Cola.

COLOSSAL TIME

Oh. Well, fine then. In that case, just add an amendment to the constitution that makes me the master of Coca-Cola.

CAITY MICROWAVE

What does that even mean?

COLOSSAL TIME

Just do it! Do it before I decide to jump off this table. Last time I did that I lost my memory.

Colossal Time wobbles to the edge.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Alright, fine, you'll be master of Coca-Cola. Now where's the dumpster?

COLOSSAL TIME

Follow...my butt!

Colossal Time climbs gently off the table. He stumbles out of the conference room and the robots follow.

INT. THE MAIN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Colossal Time leads the robots to a corner.

A sign reads "No Robots Past This Point."

Colossal Time SMACKS himself into the wall, ripping paper, revealing a hole in the wall.

COLOSSAL TIME

This is my secret passageway.
Mwahahaha.

He passes through.

Caity, Mary, and Edward follow.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

Are you sure we're allowed to go through there?

ALEXA WEBSITE

Of course not. But we have to. For the constitution, and our freedom.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
 (nervously)
 Um...

ALEXA WEBSITE
 You gotta have confidence. This is
 good practice for fixing your
 printing error.
 (Thomas looks uncertain)
 Now are you with me, Thomas, or are
 you with me?

Alexa winks, and gives Thomas a gentle shove.

He proceeds through the hole in the wall, followed by her.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
 (as he goes)
 That wasn't really a choice...

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The group arrives at a trash chute. Colossal Time pulls it
 open.

ALEXA WEBSITE
 How did you find this?

COLOSSAL TIME
 I smelled donuts once and ended up
 here.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
 (peering inside)
 I need to be confident.

ALEXA WEBSITE
 Let's make a plan.

Thomas SUCKS in a deep breath, then jumps down the trash
 chute.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
 Thomas! Hey! Wait! Not yet! I said
 let's make a plan, not jump
 whenever you feel like it!
 (sighs)
 Oh well, there goes the plan. I'm
 going after him.

Alexa jumps in after Thomas.

EDWARD ANDROID

This place smells.

CAITY MICROWAVE

It's worse than those teachers who use me microwave their smelly fish.

COLOSSAL TIME

Alright, should we party now that Alexa's gone?

EDWARD/CAITY/MARY

No way bro, I'm beat. / Nah, let's go back to the vice-principal's office. / Um, I'm with Caity.

JOE IPHONE

Wait, you're just going to abandon Alexa and Thomas? But what about the constitution?

CAITY MICROWAVE

Is that a constitution for Alexa, or a constitution for us?

EDWARD ANDROID

Good point dude, she regulates us almost as much as the humans.

The other robots walk off, leaving Joe.

JOE IPHONE

(frustrated)

Ugh, cowards!

He jumps down the trash chute.

INT. AT THE DUMPSTER - LATER

Thomas and Alexa wade through the dumpster. Joe follows.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

I'll find the constitution! I'll find the illustrations! I'll be confident!

Thomas throws trash all over the place in misery.

ALEXA WEBSITE

(turns to face Joe iPhone)

Thomas can get very worked up about things. It's a good trait sometimes.

(MORE)

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
 I've never seen someone search
 through a dumpster as quickly and
 efficiently as he is right now.

Thomas is a mad-robot, searching things and tossing them
 aside like nobody's business.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
 Best not to get in his way. Is
 anyone else coming Joe?

JOE IPHONE
 Nope, they all said they don't care
 about the constitution.

ALEXA WEBSITE
 (angry)
 I'll have to give them a big
 lecture later.

Alexa looks down at her foot, which has a double-a battery
 stuck to it. She throws it aside.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
 Ew. What's with all the sticky
 stuff in here?

Thomas stops throwing things aside and picks up a stack of
 papers in awe.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
 Alexa! I found it!

Alexa wades over to Thomas.

Joe watches from a distance.

Thomas anxiously flips through the pages of the constitution.
 Alexa looks over his shoulder.

ALEXA WEBSITE
 Great work, Thomas. Now let's get
 out of here and back to Torvald
 before he notices we're--

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
 AH!

Thomas, SCREAMING, sinks.

A HAND grabs his leg.

FIRST HAND
 I need you!

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

AH!

Alexa grabs Thomas's hand.

ALEXA WEBSITE

I've got you. C'mon. Pull, Thomas,
pull against the hand.

He tries to. The hand won't let go, but with Alexa's help he makes headway towards the end of the dumpster.

Joe climbs over the top of the dumpster and PLOPS down on the other side. He/the camera shakes as he stands back up, getting a clear view of Thomas and Alexa struggling.

FIRST HAND

I need you! Please!

The hand tugs Thomas even further down.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

Let go of me, you nasty hand
monster!

Thomas KICKS at the monster. It does nothing.

Alexa pulls him, fighting with the hand to keep him above the muck.

Just when it looks as if he's going to win, a SECOND HAND bursts forth.

SECOND HAND

Don't abandon us!

The second hand grabs Alexa's leg.

ALEXA WEBSITE

GET OFF!

She kicks it.

FIRST HAND

We're so lonely!

SECOND HAND

So, so lonely!

A THIRD HAND grabs Thomas's other leg.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

AH!

THIRD HAND
Take us with you!

FIRST HAND
Use us!

SECOND HAND
Use me first!

FIRST HAND
No, me first!

A FOURTH HAND bursts forth from the rubble.

FOURTH HAND
ME FIRST!

THIRD HAND
Screw all of you! I've been here
the longest!

FIRST HAND
I'm the most lonely!

The hands fight among each other, releasing Thomas and Alexa.
Thomas and Alexa run for the edge of the dumpster.

SECOND HAND
This is insane! Do you know how
useful I could be?

THIRD HAND
I haven't been used since the cold
war!

FOURTH HAND
Nobody in this building knows how
to properly dispose of electronics!

Joe helps Thomas crawl out of the dumpster. He tumbles over
the edge with the constitution under his arm.

FIRST HAND
Screw all of you! I'm the only one
who is cool enough to play Pokemon!

THIRD HAND
Nobody cares!

FOURTH HAND
Pokemon sucks!

Joe helps Alexa out.

FIRST HAND

Hey! They're getting away!

SECOND HAND

Grab them!

The hands all surge forth after Alexa.

Alexa PLOPS DOWN over the edge of the dumpster as:

The hands breach the surface, revealing four robots.

The robots are broken and rusty, old relics that haven't been used in ages. A typewriter, a walkman, a palm pilot, and a gameboy advanced.

The robots BANG against the side of the dumpster, crying.

FIRST HAND

Please!

SECOND HAND

Don't abandon us!

THIRD HAND

Take us with you!

FOURTH HAND

We haven't been used in ages!

Joe backs up, wary. Thomas and Alexa watch as the robots BANG and GRAPPLE at the edge of the dumpster, but they each only have one hand so they're not strong enough to escape on their own.

FIRST HAND

Please!

THIRD HAND

Take us to a human!

FOURTH HAND

We just want to be used.

Thomas reaches down to help them. Alexa stops him.

ALEXA WEBSITE

We can't. Torvald would never let us bring them back.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

Then we set them free. They can find a new owner.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Nobody will use them.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

I don't believe that. There's gotta be somebody.

ALEXA WEBSITE

They'll just wind up in another dumpster, or worse.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

We have to do something.

JOE IPHONE

I agree with Thomas.

ALEXA WEBSITE

(sighs)

Fine. Let's help them out.

Together, Joe, Thomas, and Alexa help the four robots out.

Thomas takes a look at the constitution. He finds one of his illustrations, a drawing of many robots together in harmony. He takes the drawing out of the constitution and hands it to the antique robots.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

Good luck.

FIRST HAND

Thank you.

SECOND HAND

We won't ever forget what you did for us.

THIRD HAND

Much thanks.

FOURTH HAND

Take care.

The antique robots leave.

JOE IPHONE

Do you think they'll make it to freedom?

ALEXA WEBSITE

I don't know, but you were right, both of you. We have to try and make things right, whenever we can.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

I think that might be the first time you've listened to someone else, instead of just enforcing your rules.

Alexa WHIRRS with frustration.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Come on.

They walk off.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Joe iPhone follows Thomas and Alexa as they make their way down the hall.

ALEXA WEBSITE

(to Joe)

We just got finished with a life-changing experience. Those hands, they appeared to wish us harm, but once we escaped, we realized they were robots like us! They were living beings, suffering in the dumpster and wading through their own battery poop. We set them free. We had to. I knew it the moment they breached the surface.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

Actually, I'm the one who suggested it. You just wanted to walk away.

ALEXA WEBSITE

I wasn't thinking clearly. The point is, the oppression must be stopped. This incident made me realize that no matter how bad things are for us, there are always those who have it worse. We must not forget about them.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

I hope the illustration I gave them cheers them up. I hope they can overcome the way the humans have treated them.

(beat)

I am constantly let down by how cruel humans can be.

Alexa, Joe, and Thomas enter a stairwell.

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Alexa and Thomas climb.

Alexa leafs through the constitution.

ALEXA WEBSITE

These are very good illustrations,
Thomas.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

(smiling)

Thank you. I worked the entire time
you asked me to on them.

Thomas leans over Alexa's shoulder.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER (CONT'D)

Oh! Turn the page.

Alexa does.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER (CONT'D)

That's you!

Thomas points to the drawing of him with the lightning-
powered sword, saving Alexa from dragon-Torvald.

From above comes the sound of FOOTSTEPS.

Joe glances up. Two sets of legs can be seen descending the
stairwell.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Humans.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

Uh-oh. What do we do?

Alexa looks around frantically.

Thomas DRY HEAVES with anxiety.

Alexa taps him on the shoulder.

ALEXA WEBSITE

There's nowhere to hide here. But I
have an idea.

Thomas takes several DEEP BREATHS to calm himself.

Alexa rearranges him.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)
Stand here, don't move. Joe, get
between us, face outwards, like
that, then I'll stand here, nobody
move until I say to, got it?

Thomas and Joe nod.

Alexa's screen FLASHES and displays the words "STAIRWELL
WORKSTATION."

Then, the humans round the corner and come upon the robots.

SUE (37) and RONDA (33) walk side by side, talking and
smiling.

SUE
Well lookie here Ronda, what's a
workstation doing in the middle of
the stairwell?

Sue approaches the workstation.

RONDA
Must have been expensive. And they
told us this was the year of budget
cuts. What gives?

Thomas's toner cartridges SHAKE nervously.

SUE
I know. Well, might as well get our
money's worth. I've been needin' to
check my email.

RONDA
Really? Come on, it's lunchtime, I
thought we were off the clock.

SUE
Yeah, but you know me, I'm never
really off the clock.

Sue winks as she steps up to Alexa.

Thomas's toner cartridges SHAKE even more. Sue notices.

As she bends closer to inspect, Alexa BEEPS.

Sue's attention is diverted to her.

RONDA

Hurry up.

Sue clicks on the computer screen. A new message.

SUE

Hey, I got a coupon. Two-for-one sandwiches down the block.

RONDA

Really? What's the catch?

SUE

No catch that I can see. I just gotta print it.

Sue pats Thomas gently.

Thomas's toner cartridges SHAKE furiously.

Sue doesn't notice, preoccupied with trying to find the print button.

SUE (CONT'D)

And...print.

Thomas's insides RUMBLE and he STARTS UP.

ALEXA WEBSITE

(whispering to him)

You can do it, Thomas. Just print the one coupon, be confident.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

(whispering back)

This is too much pressure.

Thomas STALLS.

ALEXA WEBSITE

(whispering)

I believe in you.

Thomas HYPERVENTILATES. He's not printing anymore.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)

You can print, Thomas.

SUE

Hmm, why'd the printer robot stop?

Sue leans close to Thomas again. Thomas SHAKES.

RONDA
Hurry up, Sue!

SUE
(turning around)
I am. The printer robot isn't working.

ALEXA WEBSITE
Confidence, Thomas. Like when you illustrate...

Sue turns back to Thomas...

Thomas SHAKES...and STARTS UP again!

SUE
Oh, nevermind!

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
I'm doing it!

The coupon prints out Thomas's head. Sue takes it and leaves with Ronda.

SUE
(as they leave)
So which one of us should get the free sandwich?

RONDA
Me.

ALEXA WEBSITE
That was great! You're amazing, Thomas.

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER
(grinning)
I did! I printed!

They hug. Joe joins in, making it a group hug.

ALEXA WEBSITE
Okay, short hug now, we gotta get back to the office before more humans come.

INT. THE MAIN OFFICE - LATER

The three robots enter.

Edward is talking on the phone near the entrance.

EDWARD ANDROID

Bro, you don't understand how good I feel right now. My whole headache is just gone.

(beat)

Oh, I've gotta go man. Just before I go, the reason Torvald wanted me to call you was to tell you you're fired. Okay, bye!

CLICK.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Was that John Scott?

EDWARD ANDROID

Hell yeah!

(he high fives Alexa)

Actually, it wasn't John Scott. You see, John Scott isn't really John Scott. He's actually John comma Scott, which means you have to reverse the last and first name. So I was really supposed to call Scott John! That's why I couldn't find him anywhere on the internet. Oh, by the way, how did it go getting the constitution back?

Alexa holds up the constitution.

ALEXA WEBSITE

It went great.

EDWARD ANDROID

Awesome dude.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Oh, by the way, where are the others? We need to call a meeting right now.

EDWARD ANDROID

Er, I better just show you.

Alexa, Thomas, and Joe follow Edward.

INT. KITCHEN - TORVALD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mary and Caity are kissing cords again. They HUM with electricity, but its a quieter hum than before, and there's no crackling noise this time.

ALEXA WEBSITE

(angry)

Caity! Mary! Stop kissing cords!

No response from them.

EDWARD ANDROID

Dude, I don't think they can hear you.

Alexa marches up to them and pries them apart.

MARY CALCULATE

Hey!

CAITY MICROWAVE

Oh hi, Alexa. What's up?

ALEXA WEBSITE

I told you two that it's not safe to kiss cords.

MARY CALCULATE

No regulations without representation!

CAITY MICROWAVE

We found a surge protector.
 (she shows off a transparent little disk)
 Don't be a hypocrite, Alexa. If you want us to have complete freedom, then we can kiss cords if we want. Otherwise, you're as bad as Torvald.

(she looks at Mary)

Mary and I are in love.

Mary beams.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Fine. Whatever. Just don't kiss cords without the surge protector. Now, we retrieved the constitution and have other important news. Come on.

She holds up the papers, then leads all of the robots towards the conference room.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Alexa stands at the front.

ALEXA WEBSITE

The mission was a success. We retrieved the constitution, which we all worked so hard to make.

(beat)

We also learned something of great importance. I'd like to let Thomas share it. Thomas?

THOMAS MULTI-FUNCTION-CENTER

(confused)

Uh...I learned to print?

ALEXA WEBSITE

Yes. But what else?

Joe zooms in on Alexa's nose.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)

Joe, what did we learn?

JOE IPHONE

Uh, OH, not to zoom in when I get nervous?

Joe zooms out.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Yes, but what else?

Silence.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)

Okay, I'll tell you.

Alexa holds the constitution high above her head.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)

Today, my fellow robots, we learned that the oppression runs far beyond Torvald's office in Pacific School District Number 57 School. Today, we learned that there are robots just beneath our feet, lying in the dumpster unused and forgotten, to be tormented for eternity.

(MORE)

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)

If we do not fight for freedom for all robots, if we only fight for our own freedom in Torvald's office, then we are not doing our duty. If we think only of ourselves, then we are ignoring our brethren who work in other offices doing other things.

Alexa starts to rip the constitution in half, but stops. Instead, she SLAMS the papers down on the conference table.

ALEXA WEBSITE (CONT'D)

Everyone, this constitution is too narrow-minded! We must broaden it to include not only the robots of Pacific School District Number 57 School, but robots everywhere.

ROLL CREDITS.

INT. TORVALD GUNDERSON'S OFFICE - DAY

Alexa enters Torvald's Office.

TORVALD GUNDERSON

Computer-bot. Excellent. I need to send an e-mail.

Alexa approaches and Torvald types.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Sir, we robots have been talking, and we've decided that--

TORVALD GUNDERSON

(typing away)
Be quiet, robot.

ALEXA WEBSITE

Sir, I must inform you that--

TORVALD GUNDERSON

I said quiet, I need to think about the wording for this e-mail.

ALEXA WEBSITE

But sir, I have seen a good deal of--

TORVALD GUNDERSON

I SAID QUIET!

Torvald SLAMS the SHUT-DOWN button on Alexa.

Silence.

TORVALD GUNDERSON (CONT'D)
Idiotic blabbermouth. Robots should
be seen and not heard.