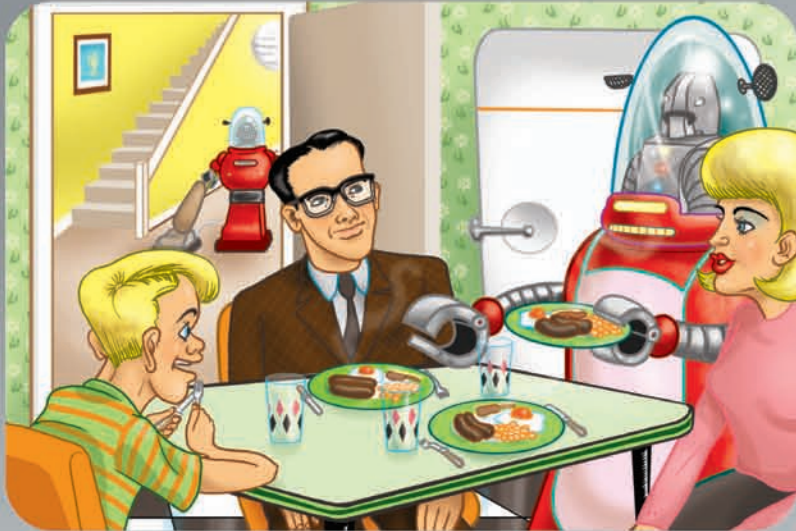


20th century view of robots



The idea of making robots to work for us took off with scientific advances made in the 20th century. By the middle of that century some people thought that robots would be doing many everyday tasks for us by AD 2000.

Others thought that robots would learn how to think for themselves. Science fiction writers wondered what would happen if robots tried to take over the world – or the universe!



What do you think?

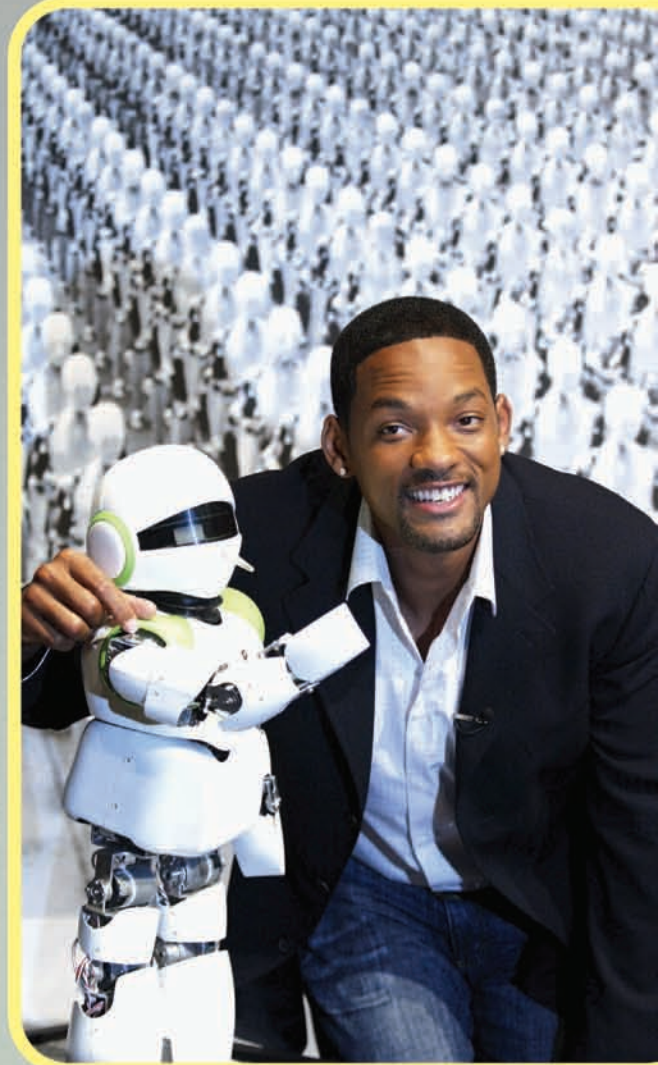
The Three Laws of Robotics were written by science fiction writer Isaac Asimov in the 1940s:

- 1) A robot may not harm a human being, or, by doing nothing, let a human being come to harm.
- 2) A robot must obey the orders given to it by human beings, except where an order would be against the First Law.
- 3) A robot must protect itself, as long as this is not against the First or Second Law.

We don't need these rules yet because robots don't think for themselves.

If robots get clever, do you think they should be made to work to these rules?

Throughout this book you'll find boxes like these with questions about robots' rights for you to think about.



Will Smith starred in a film version of Isaac Asimov's book, *I, Robot*.