

UNIT 7 TWEENBOTS

Name: _____

Class _____

No. _____

Date _____

TWEENBOTS

Imagine the busy streets of New York City, an enormous place with millions of people. Every day, the streets are **congested** with people going about their daily lives. Now imagine a small robot in the middle of all of those people rolling down a busy **sidewalk**. Most people would not even notice the ten-inch smiling robot, called a Tweenbot, rolling along the street. This strange machine may interest some people, while others would ignore it completely. A researcher interested in studying how helpful people really are uses such robots in her experiments that take place on the streets of New York.

The Tweenbots experiment is the idea and creation of Kacie Kinzer. Kinzer's idea was to make a robot that could navigate the city and reach its destination only if it was aided by **pedestrians**. Tweenbots rely on the kindness of warm-hearted strangers. Made simply of **cardboard**, wheels, and a device to turn the wheels, the Tweenbots face many dangers on the city streets. They could be run over by cars or **smashed** by **careless** kids. Kinzer thought her little robots might even be seen as some kind of **terrorist** device. The only real protection a Tweenbot has is its friendly smile. In addition to that, each of Kinzer's robots is fitted with a flag that displays instructions for the robot's destination. The only way these robots will reach their final point is if someone lends them a hand. Tweenbots are essentially a social experiment aimed at providing people a chance to show how caring they are.

On a daily basis, people in New York City are often in a hurry to get around. However, the Tweenbots, through their inability to look after themselves, took people out of their normal **routines**. The people who noticed the helpless little robots were actually interested in helping the Tweenbots find their way home. Tweenbots move at a constant speed and can only go in a straight line. If one was to get stuck, or was going in the wrong direction, it would be up to strangers to free it or turn it in the right direction. Surprisingly, no Tweenbot was lost or damaged, and each one arrived at its target in good condition. In fact, most people treated the robot in a gentle **manner**, and some even treated it as though it were a small living being.

Even if you were in a rush to go somewhere, would you stop and help a Tweenbot successfully reach its destination?



SPLASH!

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Choose the best answer.

1. What is this reading about?

- a. A place to buy robots
- b. A new kind of toy
- c. An experiment
- d. An interesting idea for the future

2. What is a Tweenbot?

- a. A Person from New York City
- b. A ten-inch smiling robot
- c. A pedestrian
- d. A very large machine

3. How did a Tweenbot get to its final destination?

- a. With the help of other Tweenbots
- b. With the help of kind pedestrians on the street
- c. With the help of Kacie Kinzer
- d. With the help of other robots in New York City

4. Which of the following statements is NOT correct?

- a. Most Tweenbots arrived at their destination damaged or broken.
- b. Most people treated the Tweenbots in a gentle manner.
- c. Tweenbots could not navigate the city on their own.
- d. Tweenbots move at a constant speed and can only go in a straight line.

5. What can be inferred about the Tweenbot?

- a. They were useful for research.
- b. They were ignored by most people.
- c. They were helpful for pedestrians.
- d. They did not work as planned.



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Fill these idioms in the reading.

rely on

be fitted with

lend(someone) a hand

1.If you see someone who needs help, it is always nice to _____

2.Each jewelry box _____ a special gold lock.

3. Our club _____ the money we collect from our members each month.

Fill in the blanks with the correct words or phrases.

rely on

arrive

destination

inability

lend a hand

navigate

rely on

routines

The Tweenbots experiment is the idea of Kacie Kinzer. Tweenbots are small machines that _____ the kindness of strangers to _____ and help them reach their final destination.

Surprisingly, some pedestrians took the time to stop and _____

a Tweenbot. Each robot's _____ to turn means that it needs the help of people to _____ the sidewalks of New York. With a person's help, a Tweenbot can continue in the right direction to _____ successfully at its _____.

This experiment shows that people are quite helpful and don't mind being distracted from their normal _____ to help a small robot in need.

