

DISCUSSION GUIDE

for *Lila and the Lost Robot*

*This guide was designed for parents and teachers to help them discuss themes about AI technology and ethics raised by the book *Lila and the Lost Robot*, written by Heidi A Campbell. Below are questions that can be used to discuss these issues, such as how robots and humans are both similar and different, and what it means to live in a world with AI. Points below each question provide direct quotes or a summary of related ideas raised in the book to help facilitate discussion.*

WHAT HAD LILA HEARD AND THOUGHT ABOUT ROBOTS BEFORE SHE MET TECHY?

- She did not know much.
- That “robots can be bad and dangerous.”
- Robots might “make people lazy and lonely” by doing all their work for them.

WHAT DID LILA LEARN ABOUT ROBOTS?

- “Techy’ s hand felt strange, cold & hard,” which is very different holding a human hand.
- Robots are designed to “make the world a better place” by helping and working alongside humans.
- “Robots may never be able to replace the love and care humans share.”
- Humans and robots have different core values.

WHAT WAS TECHY DESIGNED TO DO?

- He is made to be a “human helper robot.”
- Techy was “designed to find information” and “solve certain problems”.
- Techy was created to “complete tasks to help make (human) lives better”.



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WHAT ARE TECHY'S CORE VALUES?

- Robots are designed to complete tasks in the “most efficient, fast and accurate way” possible.
- He makes choices based on facts he is given or information found in his memory banks.

WHAT ARE HUMAN CORE VALUES, ACCORDING TO TECHY? ACCORDING TO LILA?

- Humans value “care and concern for others and the environment.”
- Lila was taught to “consider how what I do affects others and the world” around her.

HOW ARE HUMANS DIFFERENT FROM ROBOTS?

- Humans sometimes make choices based on their feelings. Robots make choices based on facts.
- Human decision-making can seem “inefficient and illogical” to robots, who are designed to think differently.
- Humans want “relationships and connection” with each other.

ACCORDING TO LILA AND TECHY, WHAT DO ROBOTS & HUMANS NEED TO HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP ?

- “Robots need to learn more about humans” so that they can “better relate to (human) values and choices.”
- Both “need to find balance between technology progress” and human belief in “preserving the world around us.”
- They need “to learn more about each other” and “respect each other’s differences” so they can live together.