Sample of Cover and Selected Pages

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CODE READER™

Making Difficult Words Easy

Code Reader Books provide codes with "sound keys" to help read difficult words. For example, a word that may be difficult to read is "unicorn," so it might be followed by a code like this: unicorn *(YOO-nih-korn)*. By providing codes with phonetic sound keys, Code Reader Books make reading easier and more enjoyable.

Examples of Code Reader™ Keys

Long a sound (as in make):
a *(with a silent e)* or **ay**
Examples: able *(AY-bul)*; break *(brake)*

Short i sound (as in sit): **i** or **ih**
Examples: myth *(mith)*; mission *(MIH-shun)*

Long i sound (as in by):
i *(with a silent e)* or **y**
Examples: might *(mite)*; bicycle *(BY-sih-kul)*

Keys for the long o sound (as in hope):
o *(with a silent e)* or **oh**
Examples: molten *(MOLE-ten)*; ocean *(OH-shen)*

Codes use dashes between syllables *(SIH-luh-buls)*, and stressed syllables have capital letters.

For more Code Reader sound keys, see pages 146 and 147.

THE ROBOTONS AND THE HYDRA *(HY-druh)* MONSTER

BY ORIOL CANOSA · ILLUSTRATED BY JORDI SUNYER

TRANSLATED FROM THE CATALAN BY ANDREW MCDOUGALL

TREASURE BAY

The Robotons and the Hydra Monster

A Code Reader™ Chapter Book
Blue Series

This book, along with images, text, and English translation, is published under license with Edicions Bromera, S.L.U. The book was originally published by Edicions Bromera in 2022 as
Els Robotots i l'Hidra de Lerna © Edicions Bromera, 2022
Text by: Oriol Canosa, 2022
© Illustrations by: Jordi Sunyer, 2022
© Translation into English: Andrew McDougall

Additions and revisions to the English text in this edition:
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Published by Treasure Bay, Inc.
PO Box 519, Roseville, CA 95661 USA

Printed in China

Library of Congress Control Number: 2024944829

ISBN: 978-1-60115-738-6

Visit us online at: CodeReader.org

PR-1-25

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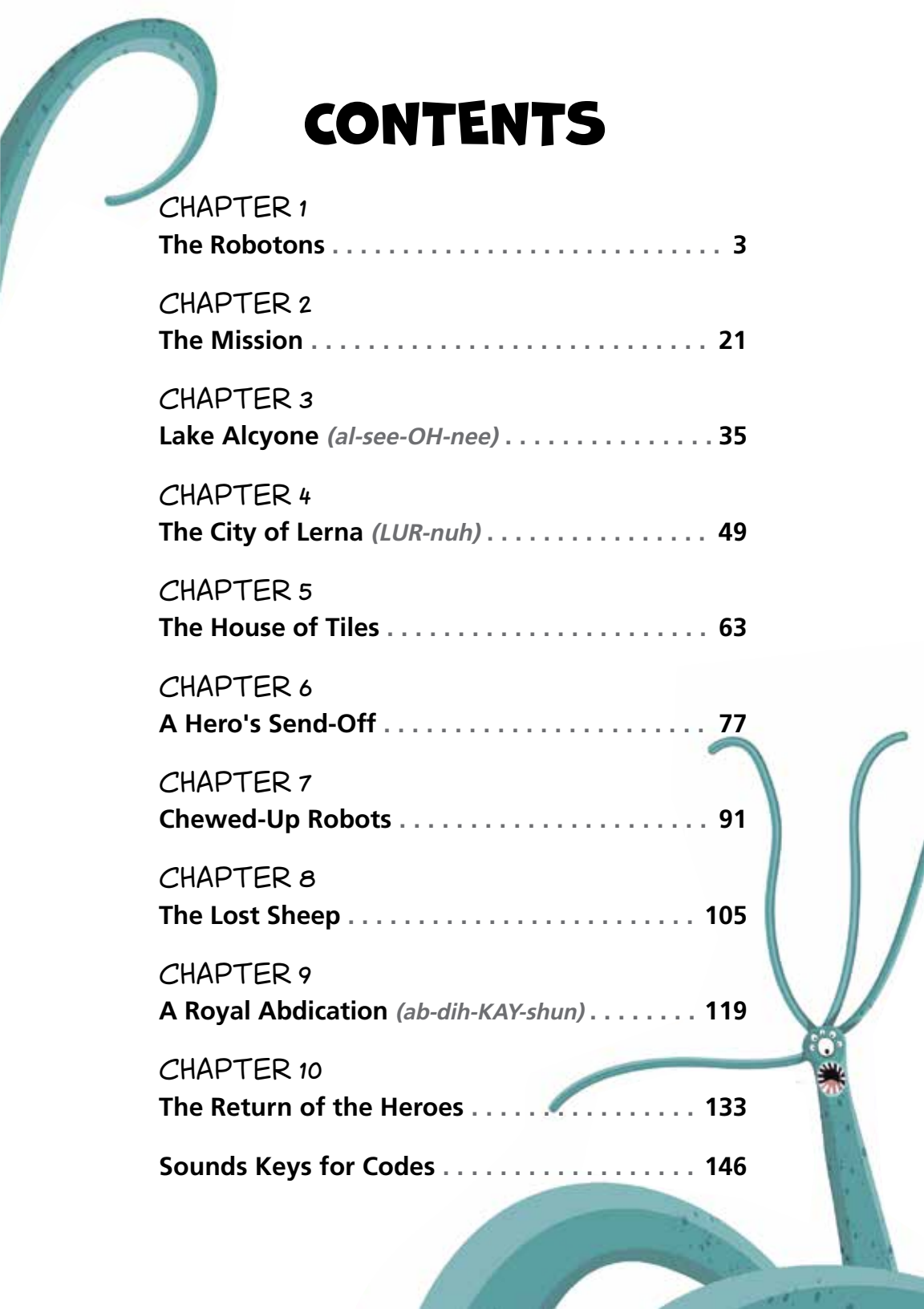

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THE ROBOTONS

The universe *(YOO-nih-vurs)* is endless.

Astronomers *(uh-STRAH-nuh-murz)* say it contains 100 billion *(BIL-yun)* galaxies. One of those galaxies, called the Milky Way, is made up of 300 billion stars.

And around one of those stars, called the Sun, orbit eight planets and a load of smaller objects, like satellites, dwarf planets, and comets.

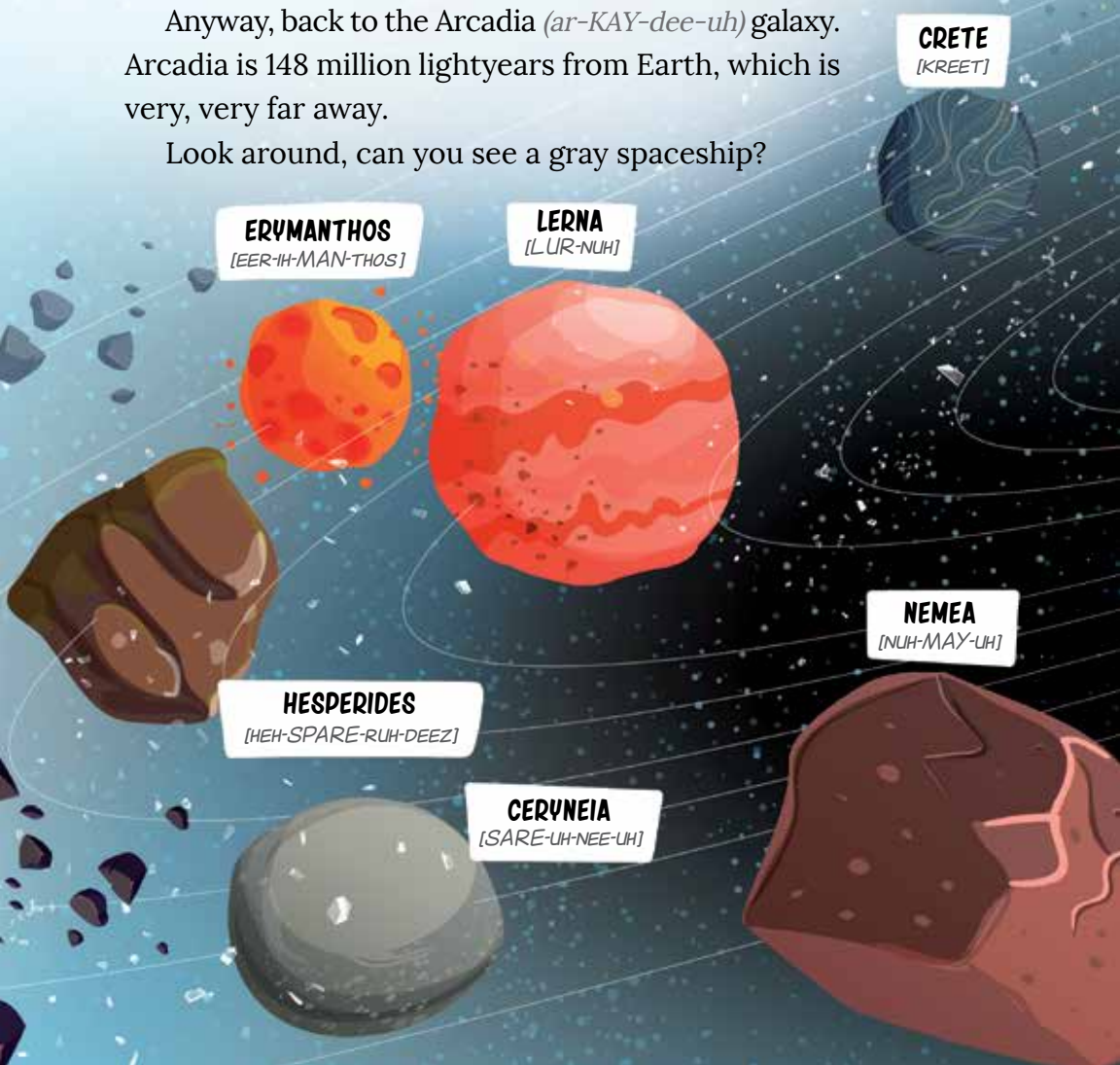
The third-closest planet to the Sun is called Earth, which is full of friendly creatures *(KREE-churz)*, such as lemurs *(LEE-murz)* and snails.

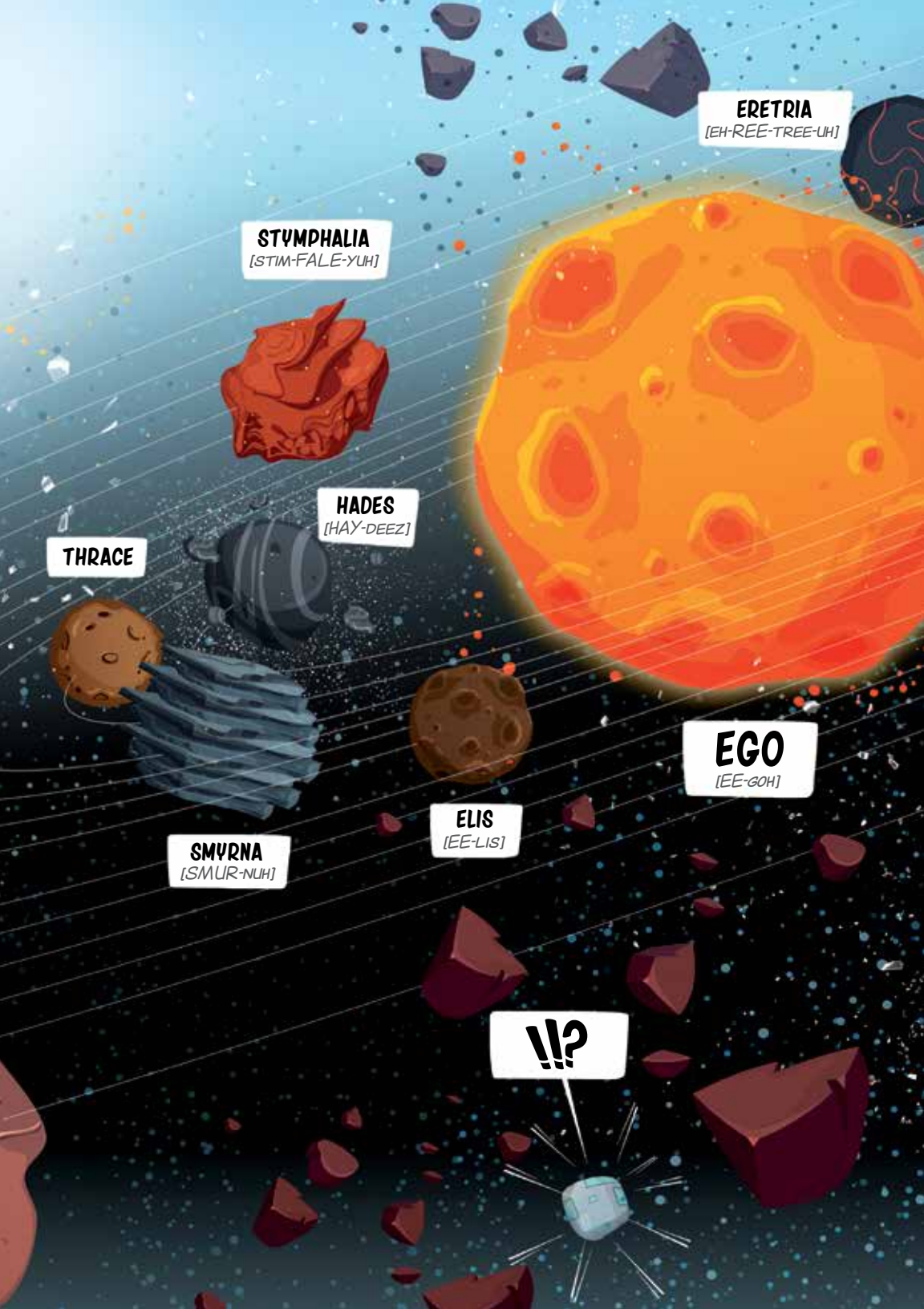
But I don't know why I'm telling you all that now, because our story starts very far from here, in the Arcadia *(ar-KAY-dee-uh)* galaxy.

Our story also takes place in the future. For some reason, people in the future are quite fond of using names that come from Greek mythology *(mih-THAH-luh-jee)*. We don't really know why. We also don't know why Greek names are so difficult to read. You certainly *(SUR-ten-lee)* won't be able to sound out the names with any skills you learned in school. Fortunately *(FOR-choo-net-lee)*, this is a Code Reader™ book. So, we're going to do our best to help you with all the strange names.

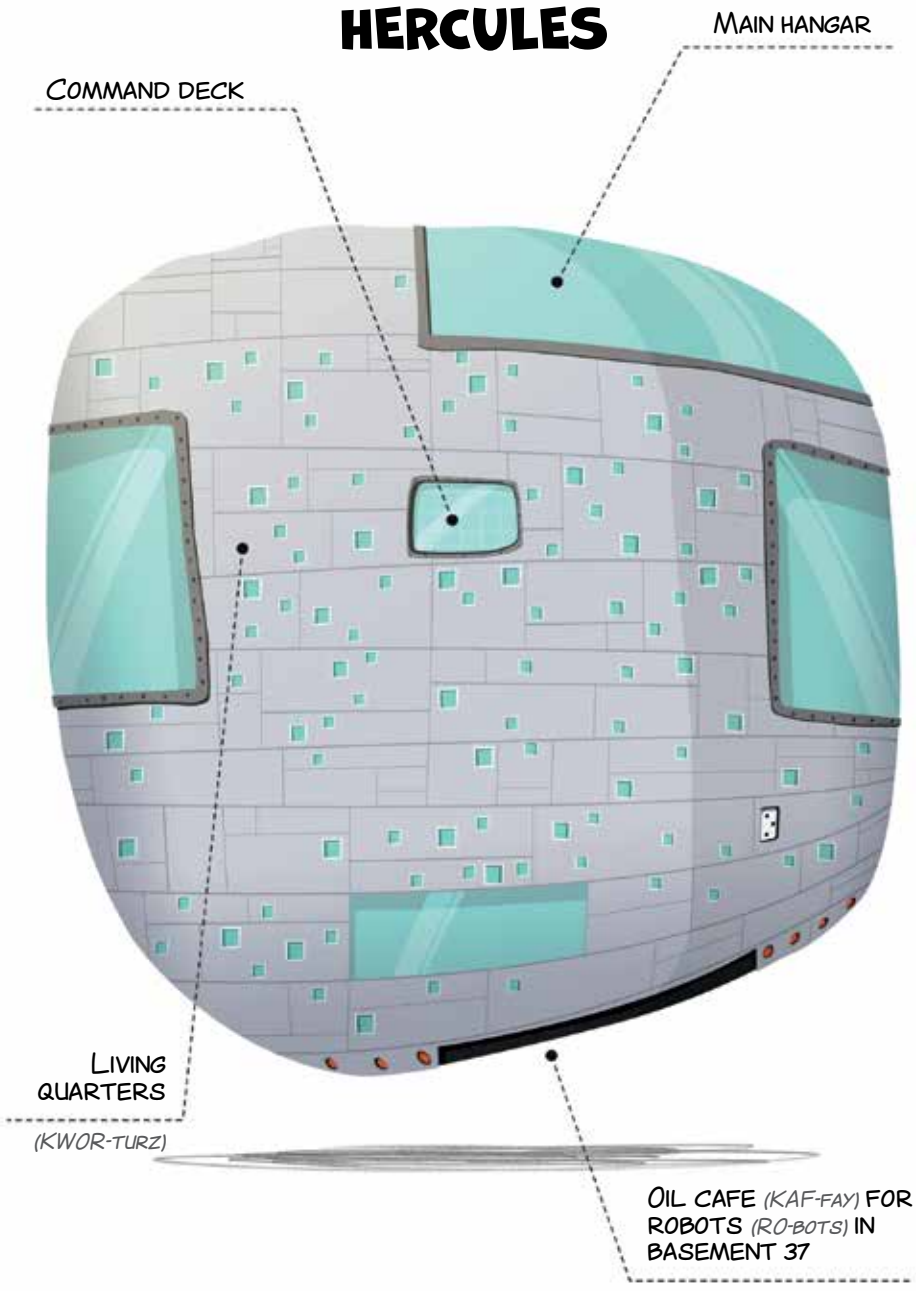
Anyway, back to the Arcadia *(ar-KAY-dee-uh)* galaxy. Arcadia is 148 million lightyears from Earth, which is very, very far away.

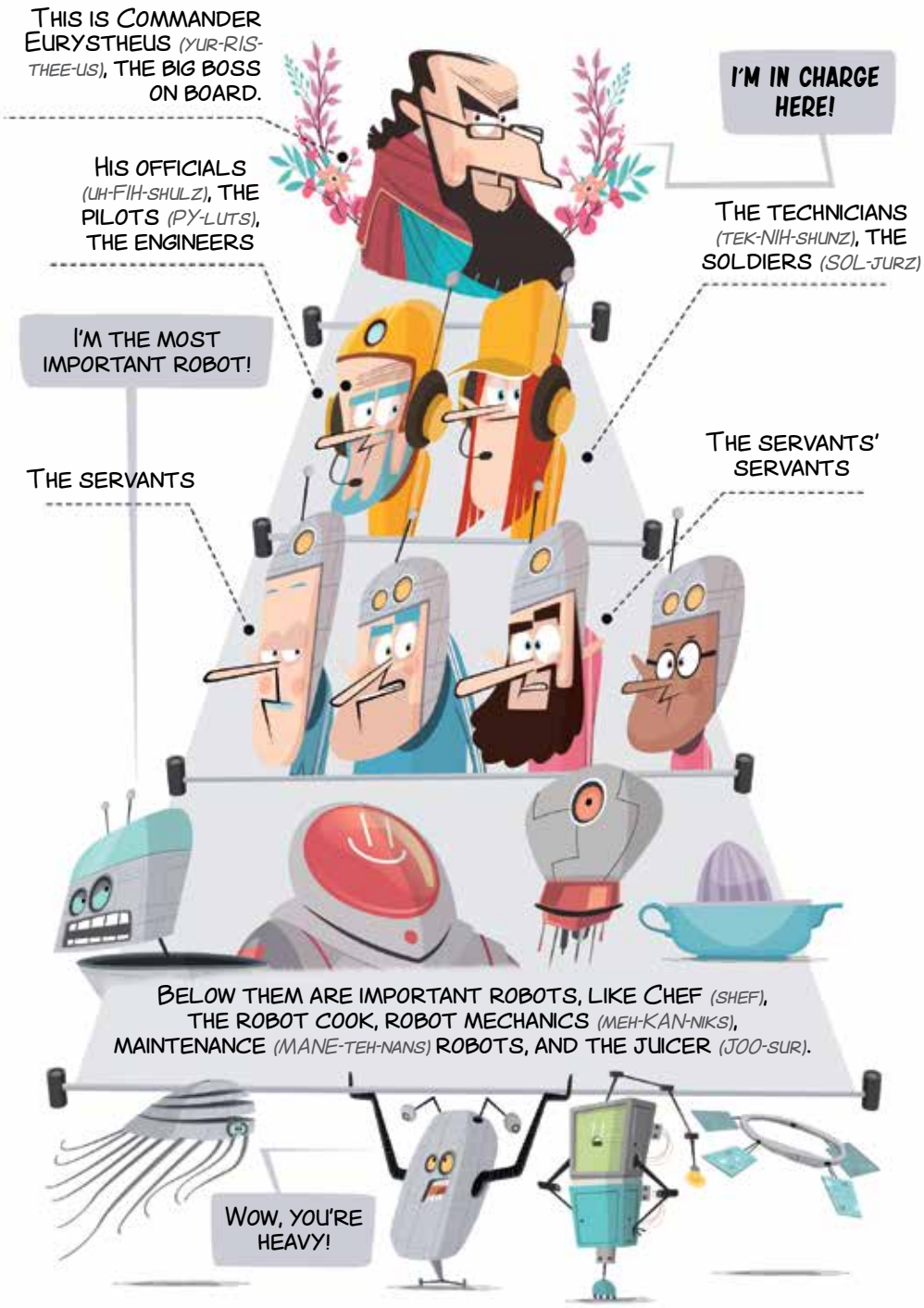
Look around, can you see a gray spaceship?




ERETRIA
[EH-REE-TREE-UH]
STYMPHALIA
[STIM-FALE-YUH]
HADES
[HAY-DEEZ]
THRACE
EGO
[EE-GOH]
ELIS
[EE-LIS]
SMYRNA
[SMUR-NUH]
!!?

That gray thing is *Hercules* *(HUR-kyoo-leez)*, a rundown ship where planet Earth's Space Navy sends all the slackers they want to get rid of.





AND AT THE VERY BOTTOM OF THE CREW ARE THE ROBOTONS (RO-BO-TAHNZ). THEY ARE EVEN BELOW THE JUICER.

These are the Robotons *(RO-bo-tahnz)*:

POPPY

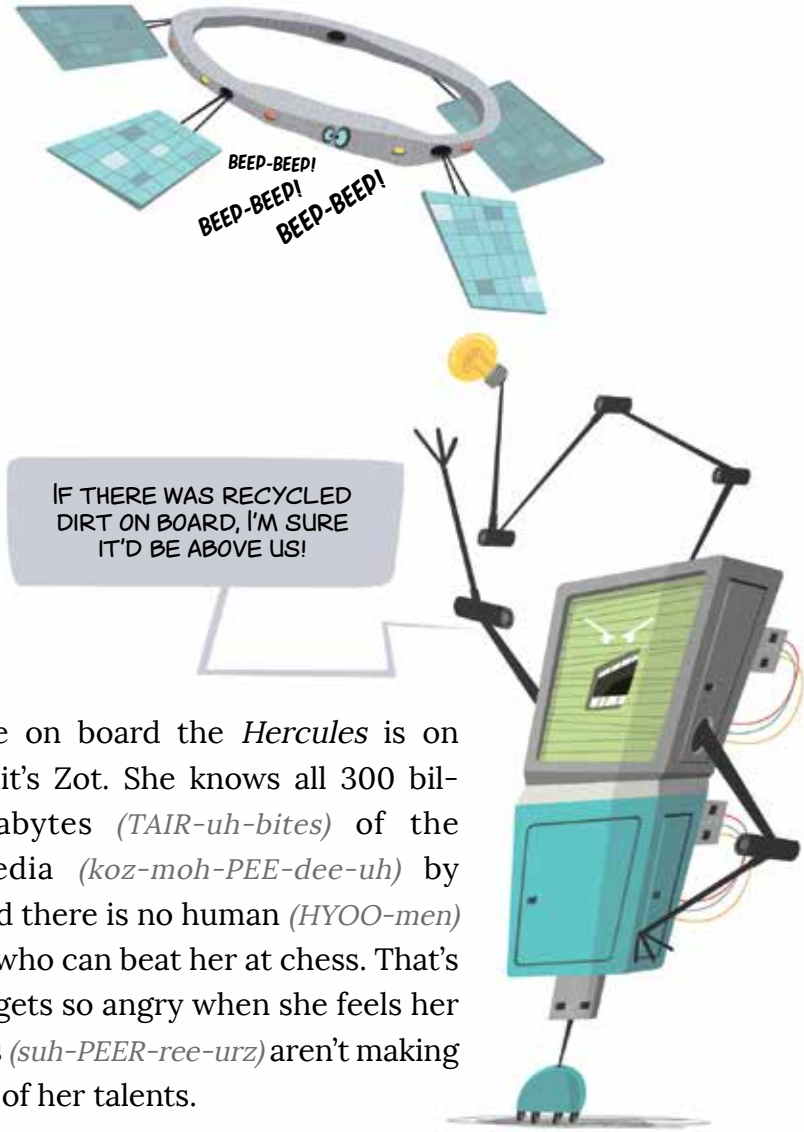
The most stressed robot in the Known Universe. She is in serious *(SEER-ree-us)* need of a vacation *(vay-KAY-shun)*.

ROB

Robots are known for being very sharp, but Rob is proof that the Republic of Earth's cyber *(SY-bur)* workshops produce a bit of everything. That said, he makes up for it with muscles *(MUH-sulz)* of steel and a heart of silver.

BEEP

Some robots just have bad luck and Beep is one of them. If anyone is going to get hurt, it will probably be him. Luckily, he can count on Zot's knowledge *(NAH-lej)* to repair him. No one is too sure what his skills are, and as he can't speak, he can't tell us.

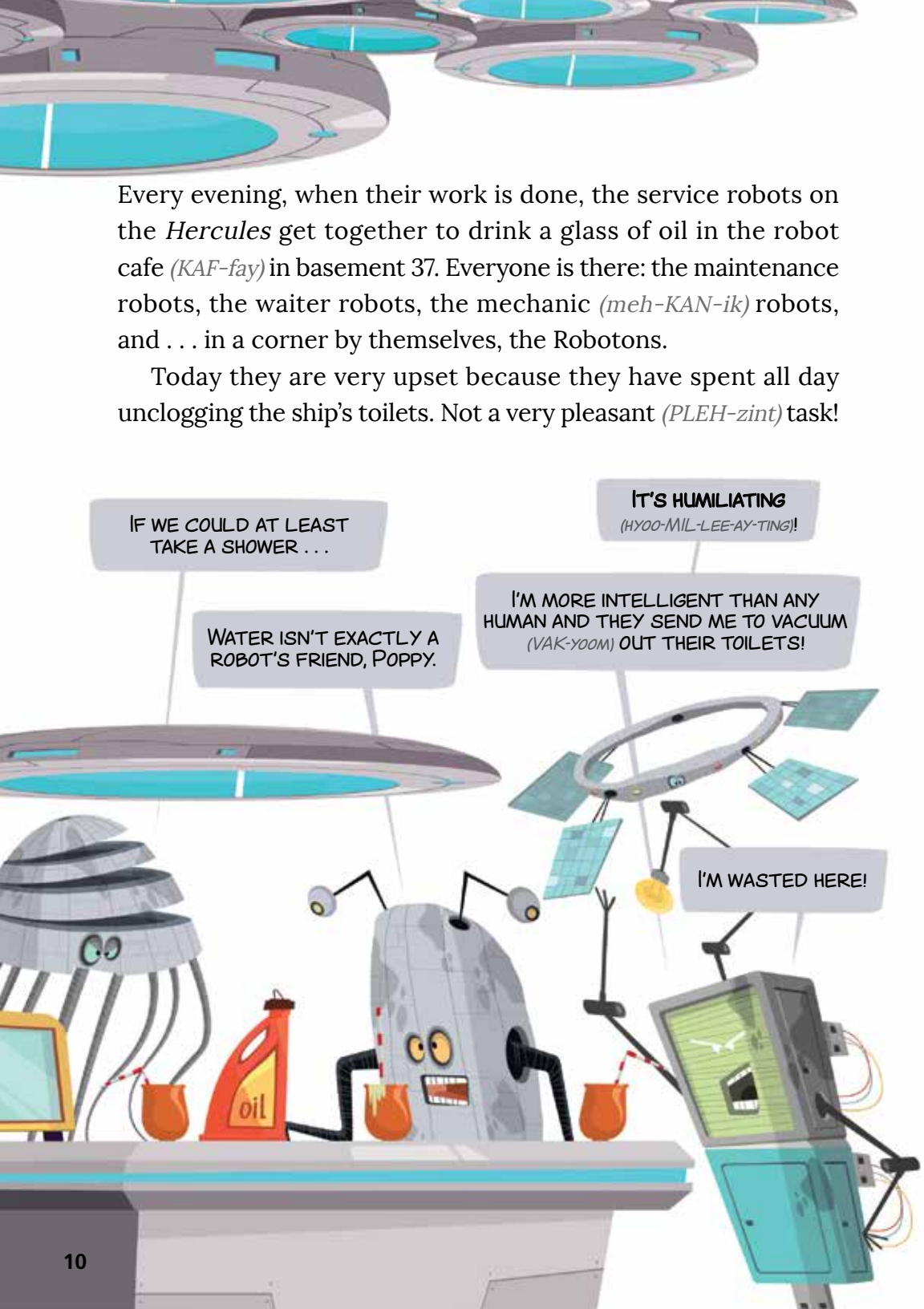


ZOT

If anyone on board the *Hercules* is on the ball, it's Zot. She knows all 300 billion terabytes *(TAIR-uh-bites)* of the Cosmopedia *(koz-moh-PEE-dee-uh)* by heart, and there is no human *(HYOO-men)* or robot who can beat her at chess. That's why she gets so angry when she feels her superiors *(suh-PEER-ree-urz)* aren't making the most of her talents.

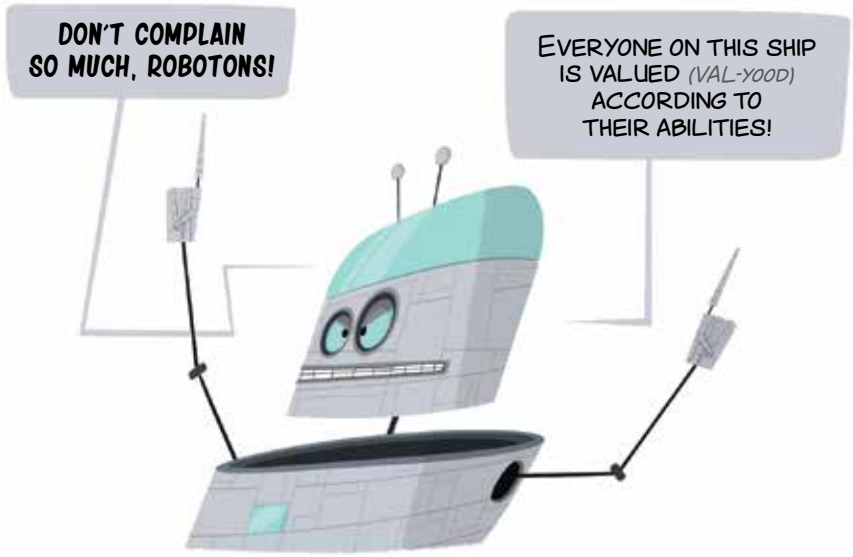
Every evening, when their work is done, the service robots on the *Hercules* get together to drink a glass of oil in the robot cafe *(KAF-fay)* in basement 37. Everyone is there: the maintenance robots, the waiter robots, the mechanic *(meh-KAN-ik)* robots, and . . . in a corner by themselves, the Robotons.

Today they are very upset because they have spent all day unclogging the ship's toilets. Not a very pleasant *(PLEH-zint)* task!

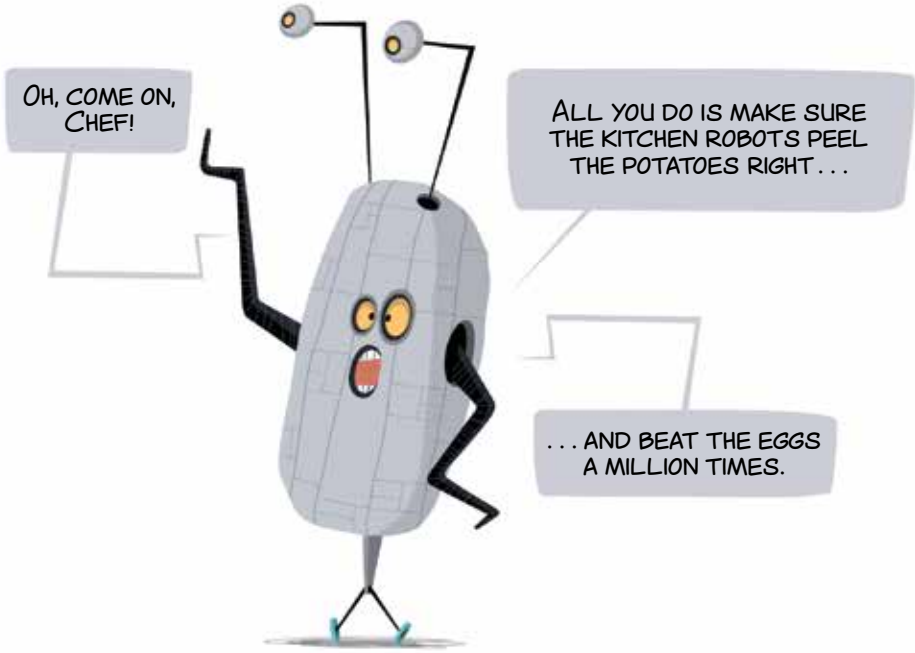


The Robotons don't have a specific *(speh-SIF-ik)* job. They're just told to do the things no one else wants to do—all the unpleasant, tiring, dangerous *(DANE-jur-us)*, dirty, thankless, repetitive jobs in places where it's too hot or too cold, at any time of the day or night, and without any thoughts of their safety.

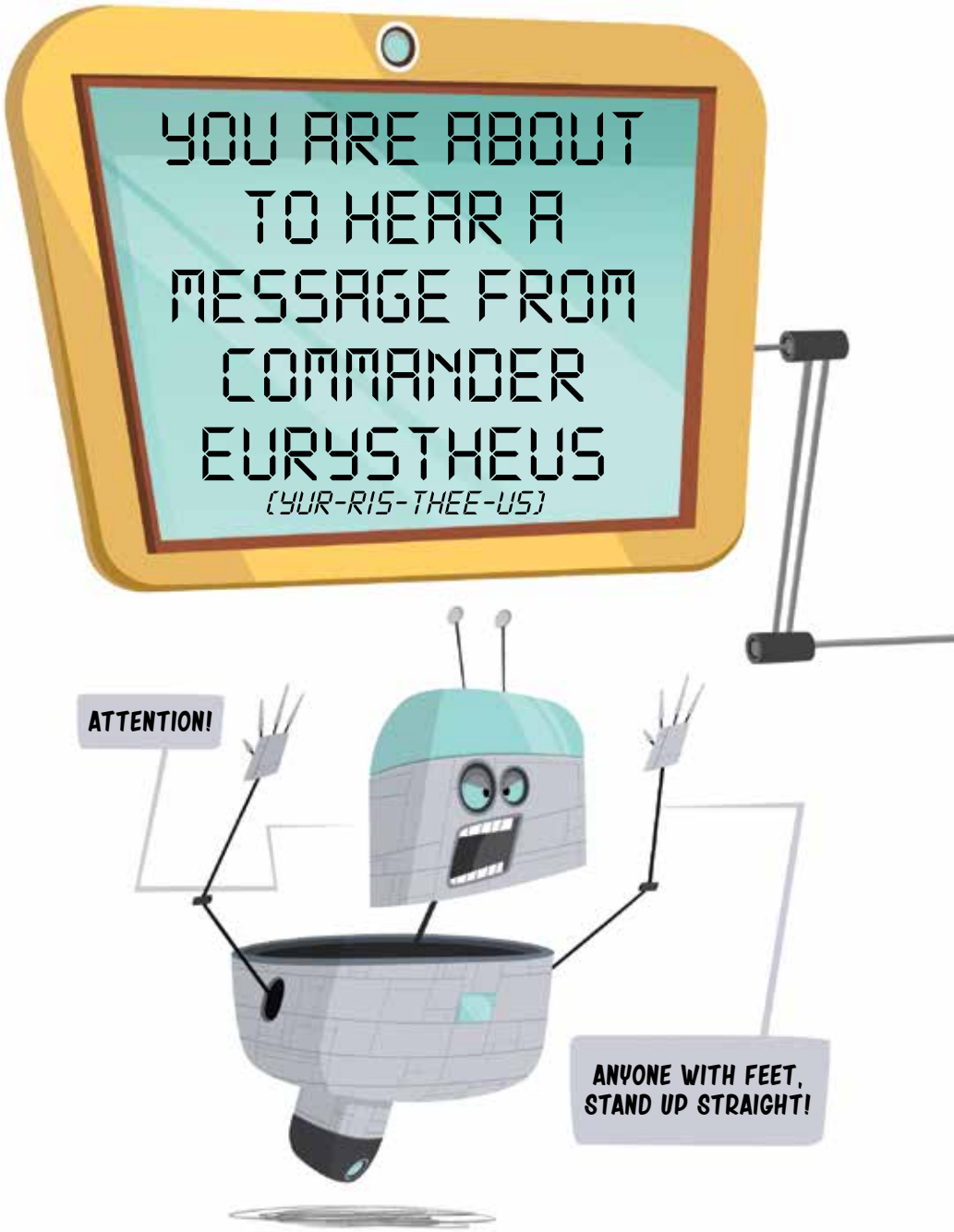
Luckily, as robots don't have feelings, the Robotons don't mind doing these kinds of jobs.

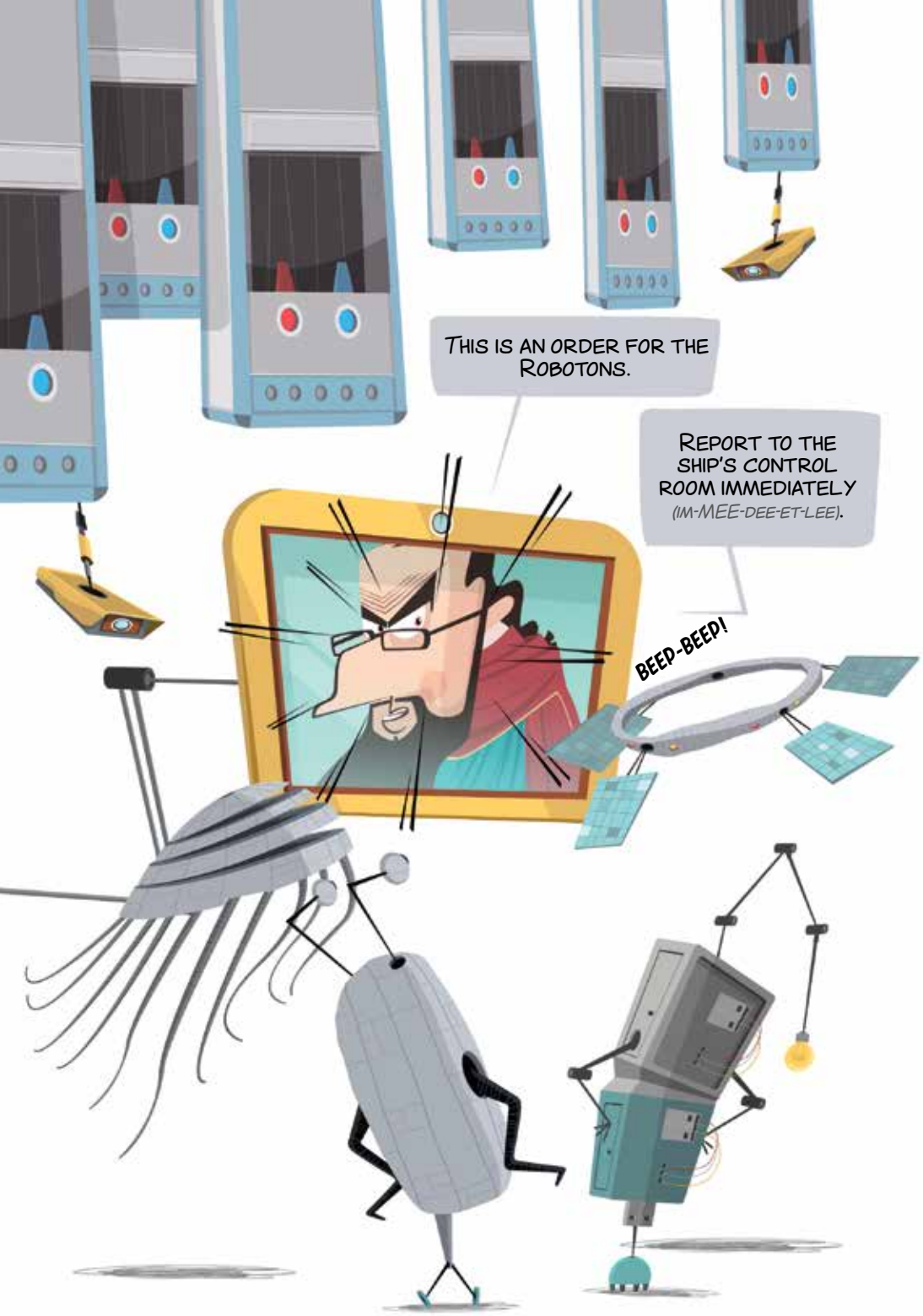


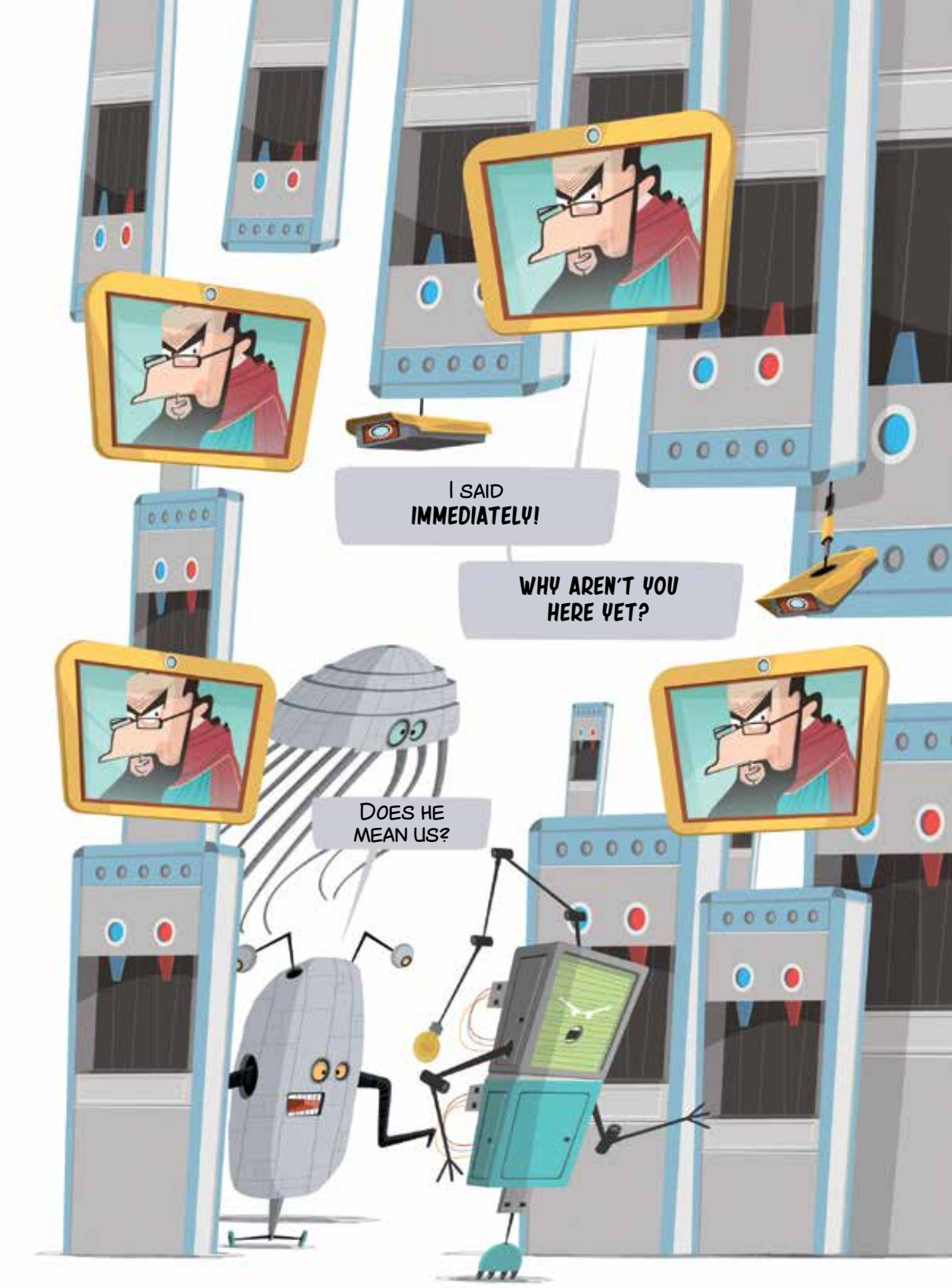
This is Chef *(shef)*, the head of the *Hercules*'s robotic kitchen. He is arrogant *(AIR-ro-gent)* and bossy with the other robots and stinks of garlic. But he makes the best potato *(puh-TAY-toh)* omelette *(OM-let)* in this part of the universe and thanks to that he has the highest rank of all the robots on the ship.

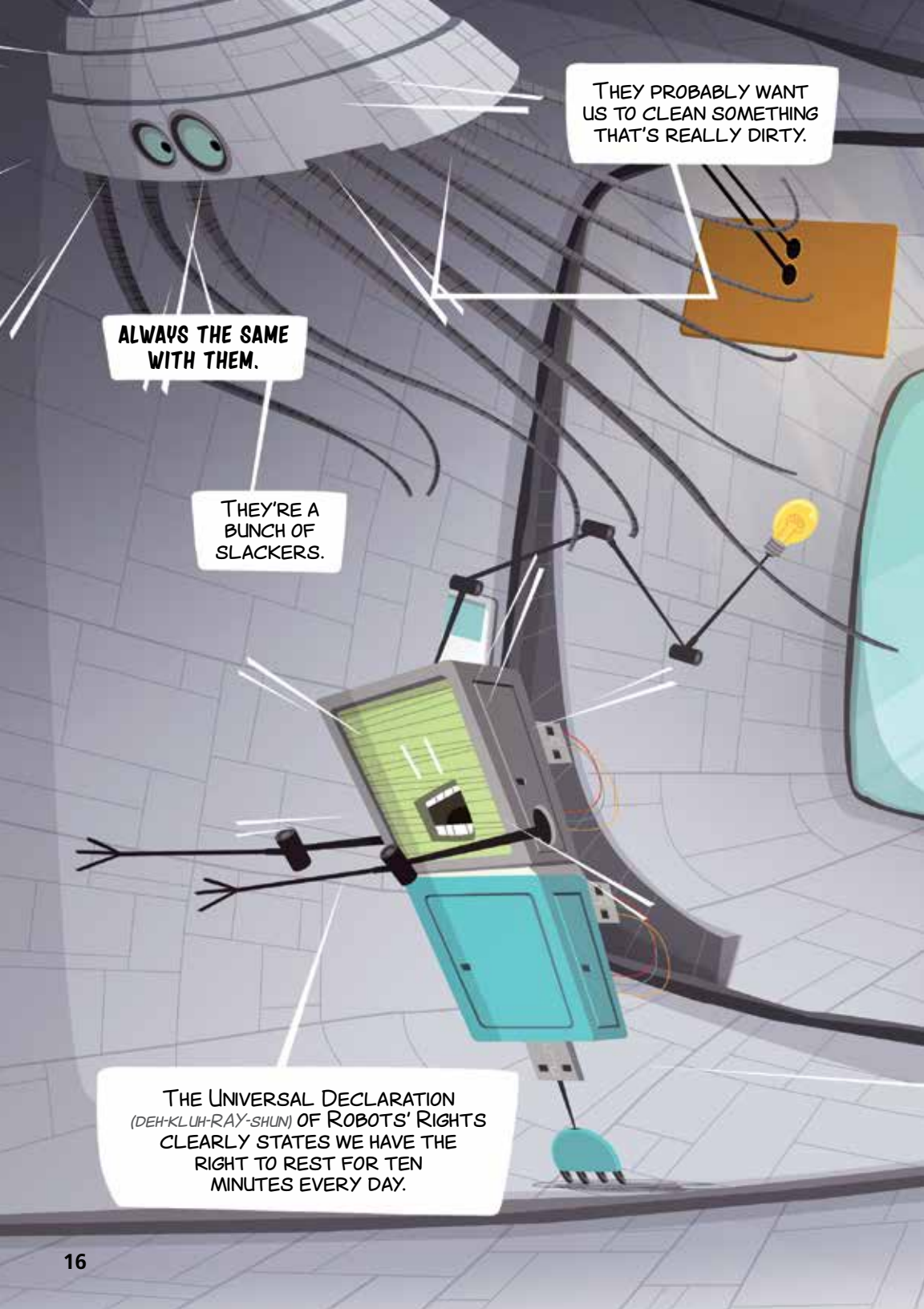


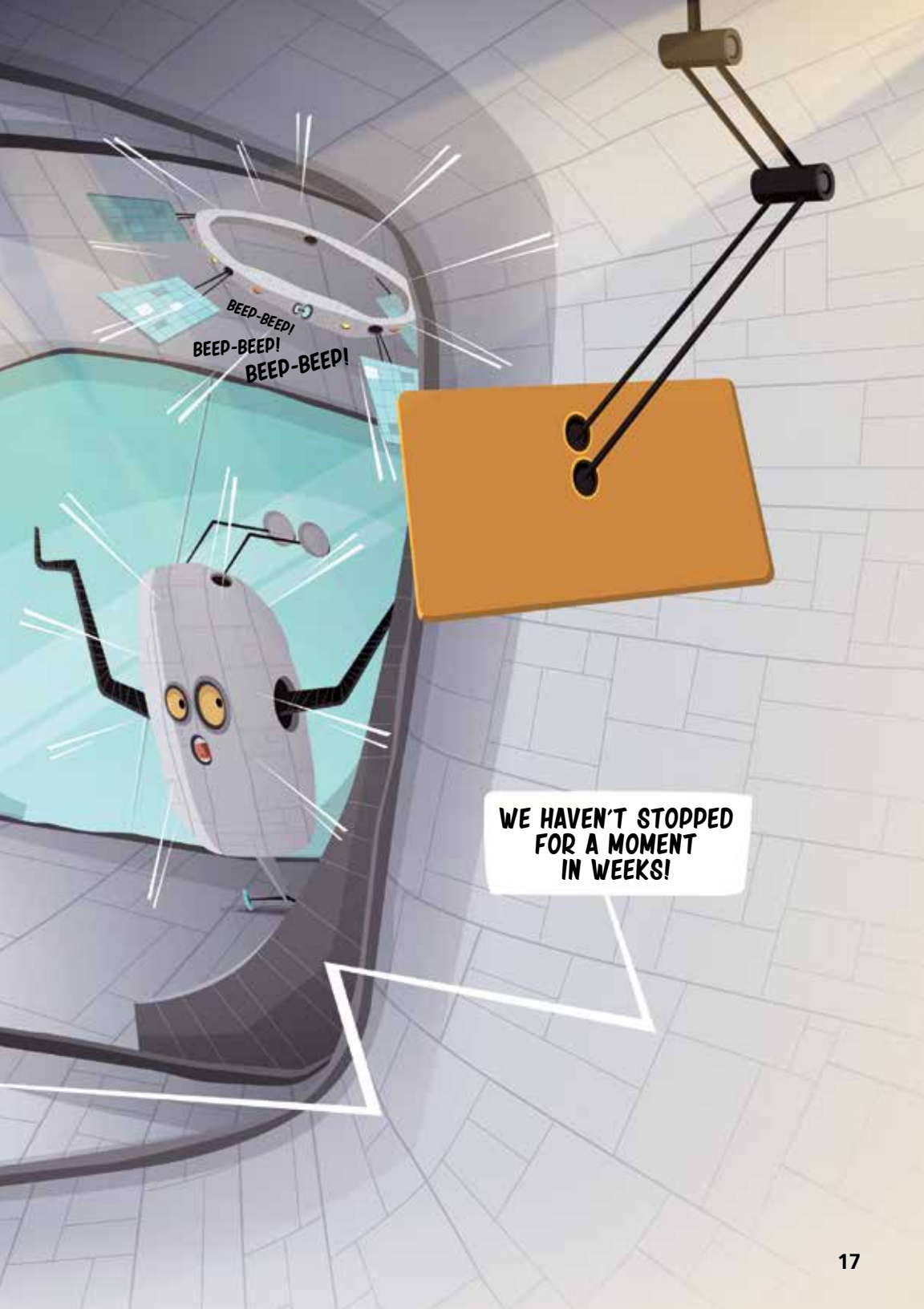
Suddenly, the big screen in the cafe turns on and a message *(MEH-sij)* appears:

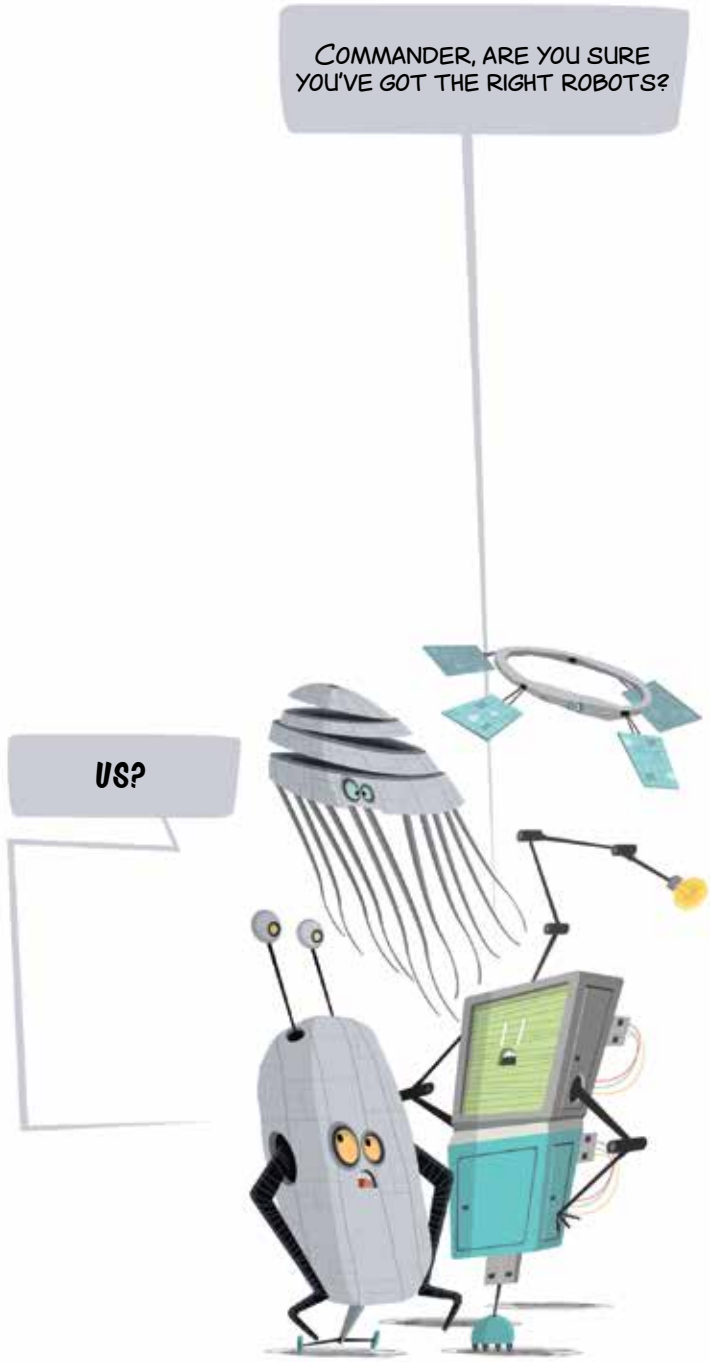



This is an order for the Robotons.
Report to the ship's control room immediately (im-MEE-dee-et-lee).
BEEP-BEEP!


I SAID IMMEDIATELY!
WHY AREN'T YOU HERE YET?
DOES HE MEAN US?


THEY PROBABLY WANT US TO CLEAN SOMETHING THAT'S REALLY DIRTY.
ALWAYS THE SAME WITH THEM.
THEY'RE A BUNCH OF SLACKERS.
THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION (DEH-KLUH-RAY-SHUN) OF ROBOTS' RIGHTS CLEARLY STATES WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO REST FOR TEN MINUTES EVERY DAY.


BEEP-BEEP!
BEEP-BEEP!
BEEP-BEEP!
WE HAVEN'T STOPPED FOR A MOMENT IN WEEKS!

It's the first time that the Robotons have gone into the control room. They know the kitchens, bathrooms, machine *(muh-SHEEN)* rooms, and store rooms inside out, but they have never been in the room where important things are decided and officials *(uh-FIH-shulz)* give the orders.

The Robotons suddenly feel very small and nervous *(NUR-vus)*.