

The Masters of the Universe

(The Professor and his companion, Dora, have just carried out an emergency landing following a narrow escape from an encounter with the Solarmen.)

Dora: *Where are we Professor?*

Professor: *London, about 1955 I think. It's hard to tell. Not all the systems are functioning correctly.*

Dora: *What's that noise?*

Professor: *Gunshots by the sound of it. Look at the video screen to see if you can see what is going on. I just need to reconfigure the systems to get everything working again.*

Dora: *No use, the video link is also down, I'll open the door and have a look.*

Professor: *Be careful Dora, I can't leave in the middle of this delicate process...*

Dora: *But it sounds like someone's in trouble.*

(Dora opens the door, carefully steps outside and looks around. The Timeship has landed close to a high wall near the bank of the River Thames. The gunshots are now much clearer.)

Professor: *What can you see out there?*

Dora: *Nothing as yet, it's dark and misty. I think something is going on just at the other side of this wall.*

(Dora climbs the wall and peers over the top. She whispers loudly back to the Professor.)

Dora: *Soldiers! British soldiers! And they are firing at what looks like a human sized pepper pot on wheels, a sort of robot with two eyepieces sticking out of its head. It's amazing, the bullets are just bouncing off.*

Professor: *Roboids, from the Planet Skar. They are intent on destroying all non-roboid life in the universe to achieve total domination.*

Roboid: *Destroy! Destroy!*

(An electronic beam shoots from the Roboid's arm and the six soldiers collapse on the floor.)

Dora: *I'm going to help. One, two, three, jump.*

(Dora jumps off the wall and lands immediately behind the Roboid.)

Roboid: *Under attack! Under attack! My sensors detect an alien presence.*

Dora: *Try and catch me, tin man!*

Roboid: *Rotate! Rotate! Detect alien presence and destroy! Destroy!*

(Dora dodges behind a wastepaper bin just as the Roboid opens fire. The professor arrives to help).

Roboid: *Destroy! Destroy!*

Professor: *This way Dora! Run up those steps as fast as you can. Roboids want to be masters of the universe but they can't even climb steps!*

(Dora races up the steps. The Roboid switches to hover mode and glides up after her.)

Dora: *I thought you said they couldn't climb steps!*

Professor: *They didn't used to be able to! Quick, over here, I've got an idea.*

(The Professor and Dora race over to some railings, which are being repainted. The workmen had disappeared.)

Professor: *Grab a tin of paint. When I count to three aim for the left eye stick, I'll go for the right one. O.K.?*

Dora: *Right.*

Professor: *No, left!*

Dora: *Right, left! I know what I mean!*

Professor: *One, two, three...*

Roboid: *Impaired vision! Impaired vision! Destroy! Destroy! Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!*

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Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

The Professor and Dora had just landed in London when they heard a noise outside. The Professor said it was

1 **traffic.** **a plane.** **gunshots.** **an explosion.**

The

2 **timeship** **door** **computer** **video link**

was not working so Dora went outside to look. She saw British

3 **policemen** **soldiers** **sailors** **airmen**

firing at a 'pepper pot on wheels'. The Professor said it sounded like a

4 **Robot** **Robin** **Rotor** **Roboid**

from the planet Skar. The Professor told Dora to run up some steps to escape. The Roboid glided up after her using

5 **hoover** **flight** **climbing** **hover**

mode. The Professor threw paint at the

6 **right** **write** **wrong** **left**

eye stick. The Roboid could not see what it was trying to destroy.

Section B

1 When and where did the Professor and Dora land?

2 What was the problem with the timeship when they first landed?

3 What did Dora see when she climbed the wall?

4 What does the phrase 'total domination' mean?

5 Why do you think Dora called the Roboid 'tin man'?

6 Why did the Professor encourage Dora to run up some steps?

7 How do you think Dora felt when the Roboid followed her up the steps?

8 What do you think happened to the Roboid at the end of this passage?
Give reasons for your answer.

Section C

Either:

Write a short playscript describing how the Professor and Dora get back to their timeship and head off on their next adventure.

Or:

Write a short description of what you believe a 'Roboid' could look like.
If time allows, add an annotated drawing to your work.