

Lesson

23

✓ TARGET VOCABULARY

currently  
loaded  
managed  
pleasure  
terror

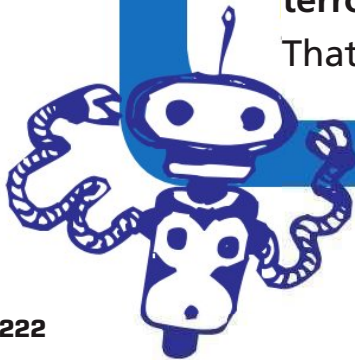
# Science Fiction



Science fiction stories are about things that **currently** cannot happen. People may be **loaded** onto a spaceship. They may be flown to another planet. They may travel through time.

Writers have **managed** to make these ideas seem real. We can imagine different worlds through their stories.

We read these stories for **pleasure**. It's fun to think about different places and times. We even enjoy feeling **terror** if there are evil space creatures. That can be fun, too!



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1 People may be \_\_\_\_\_ onto a spaceship and flown to another planet.

2 We may feel \_\_\_\_\_ when we read about evil space creatures.

3 We read science fiction stories for \_\_\_\_\_.

4 What are you currently studying in social studies?

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5 What is the most difficult thing that you have managed to do this year?

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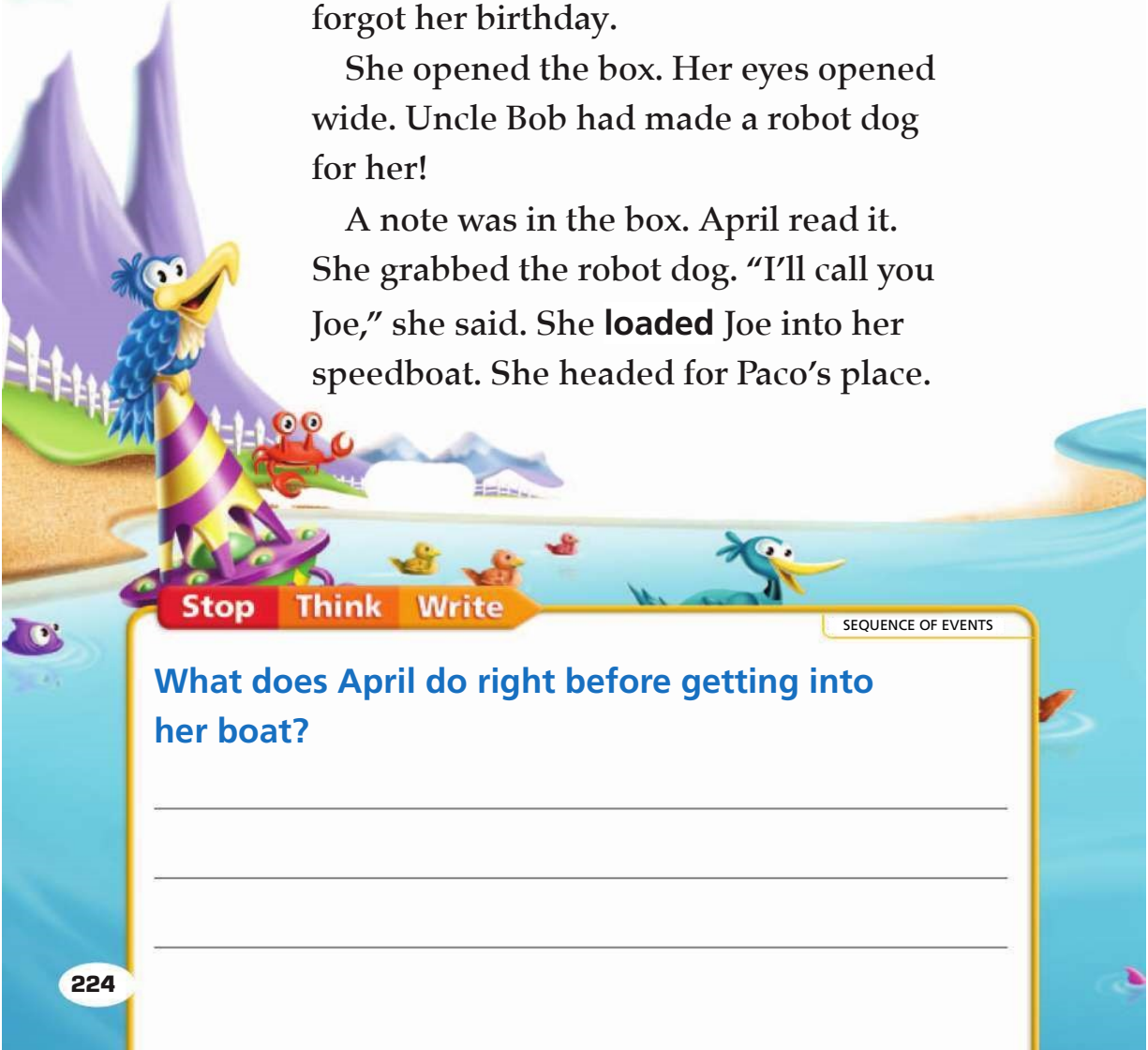
# Dog of the Future

by Estelle Kleinman

April stared at the big box. It was from Uncle Bob. He had moved far away in 3045. That was five years ago. He never forgot her birthday.

She opened the box. Her eyes opened wide. Uncle Bob had made a robot dog for her!

A note was in the box. April read it. She grabbed the robot dog. "I'll call you Joe," she said. She **loaded** Joe into her speedboat. She headed for Paco's place.



Stop Think Write

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

What does April do right before getting into her boat?

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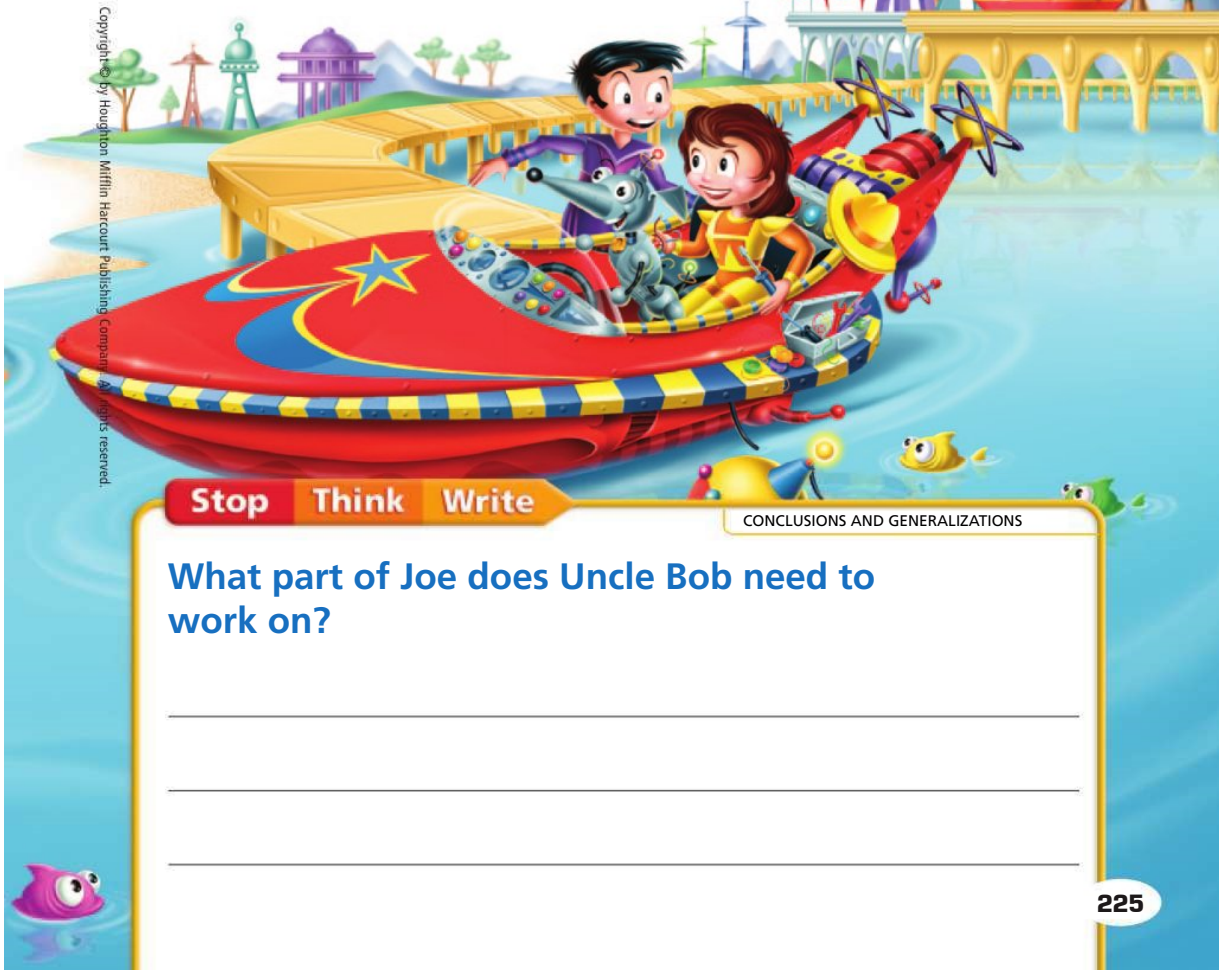
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Paco didn't think much of Joe. "A bunch of tin and screws isn't the same as a real dog," he said.

"Oink!" complained Joe.

"I guess Uncle Bob still needs to work some things out. Can you come on my boat?" asked April. "Then I can show you why Joe is so great."

"**Currently**, I have no other plans," Paco said. He hopped on the boat.



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**Stop Think Write**

CONCLUSIONS AND GENERALIZATIONS

**What part of Joe does Uncle Bob need to work on?**

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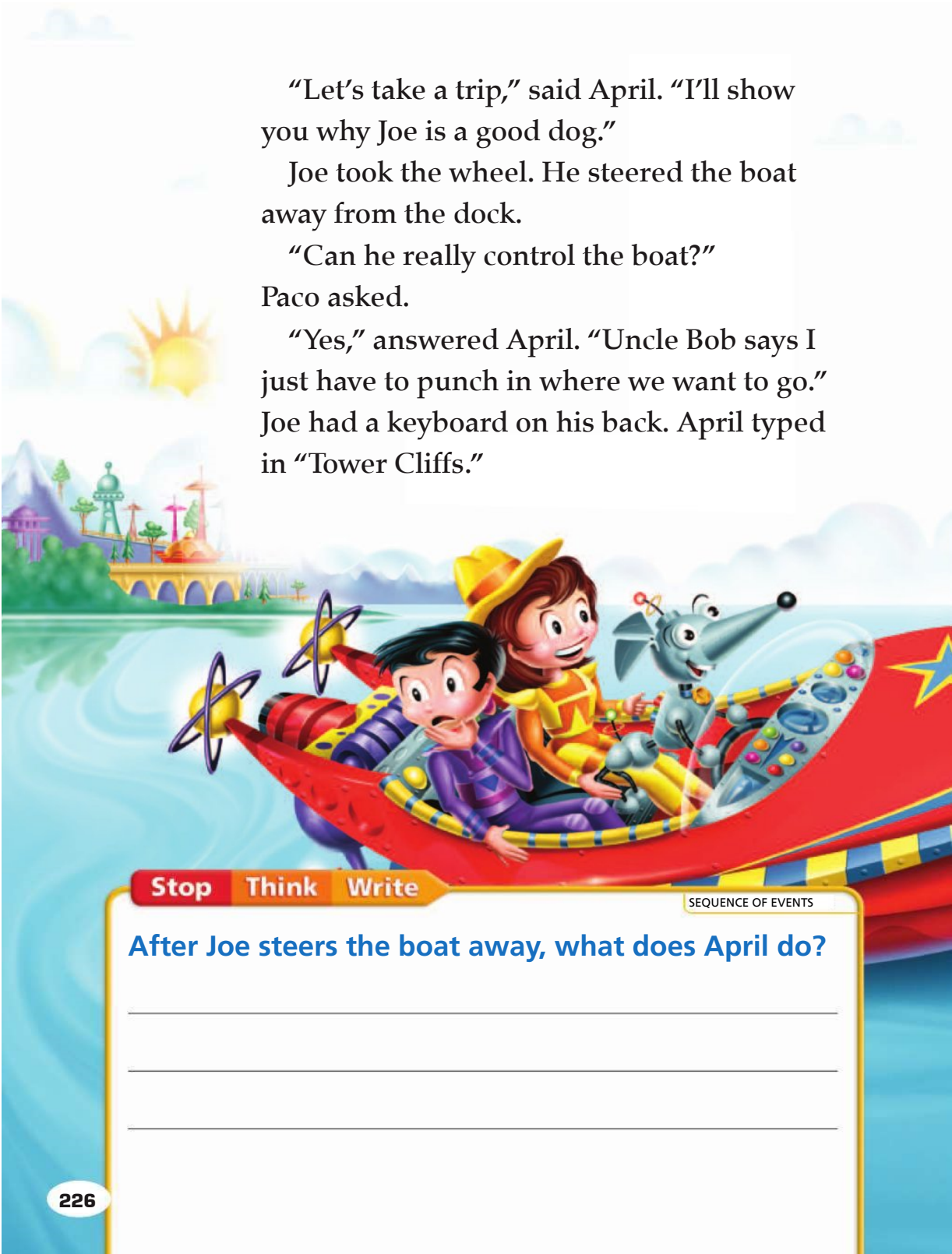


“Let’s take a trip,” said April. “I’ll show you why Joe is a good dog.”

Joe took the wheel. He steered the boat away from the dock.

“Can he really control the boat?” Paco asked.

“Yes,” answered April. “Uncle Bob says I just have to punch in where we want to go.” Joe had a keyboard on his back. April typed in “Tower Cliffs.”



Stop Think Write

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

After Joe steers the boat away, what does April do?

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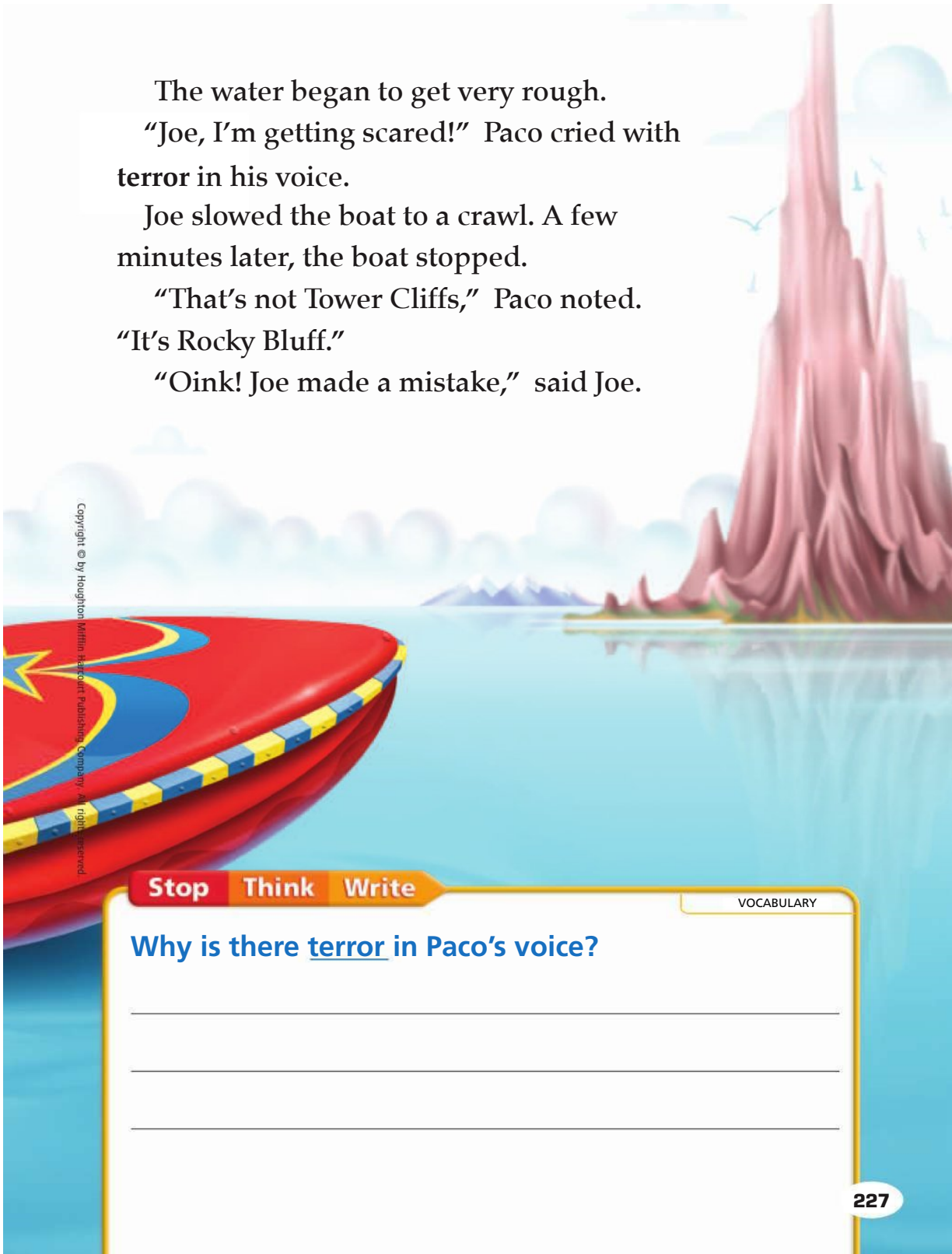
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The water began to get very rough.  
“Joe, I’m getting scared!” Paco cried with  
**terror** in his voice.

Joe slowed the boat to a crawl. A few  
minutes later, the boat stopped.

“That’s not Tower Cliffs,” Paco noted.  
“It’s Rocky Bluff.”

“Oink! Joe made a mistake,” said Joe.



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Stop Think Write

VOCABULARY

Why is there terror in Paco’s voice?

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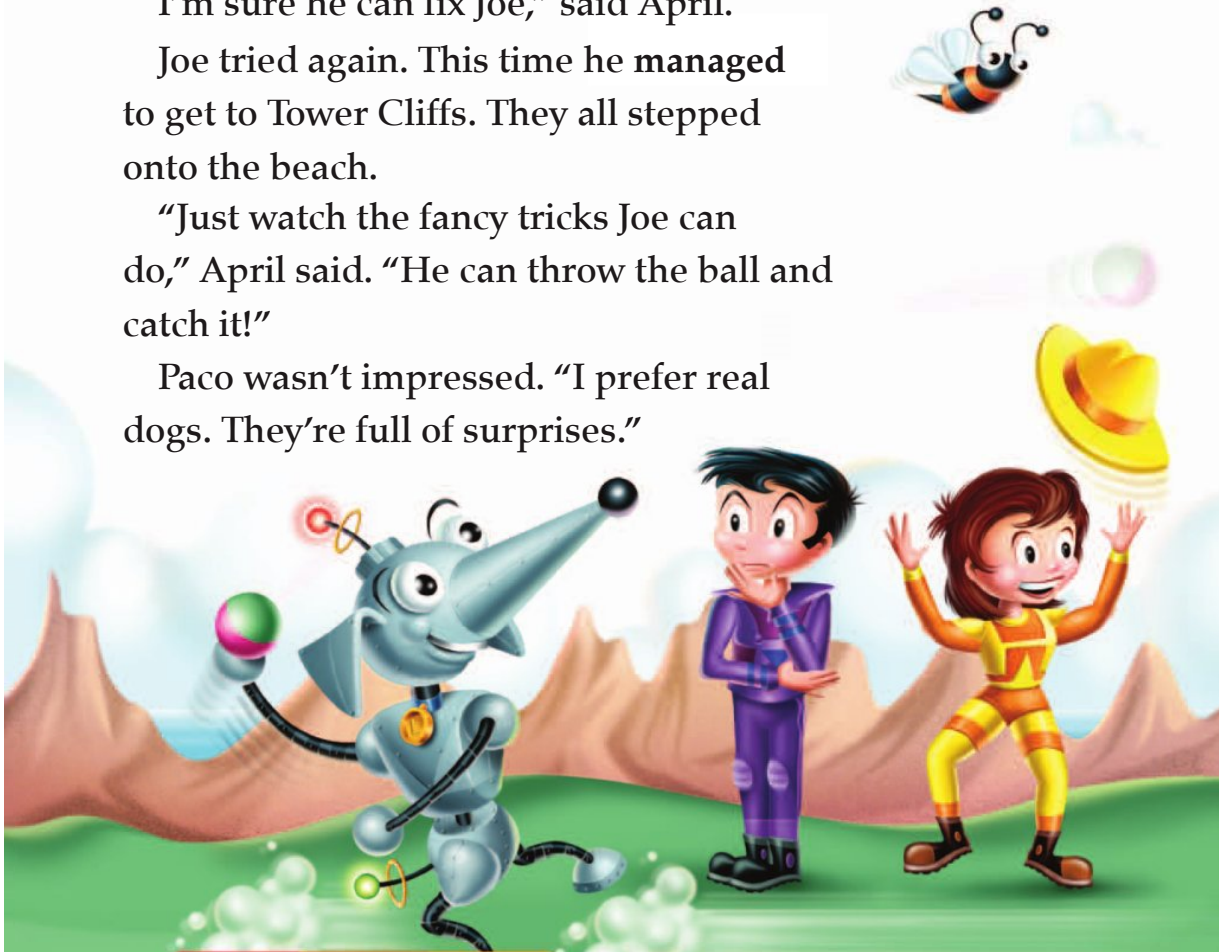
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“I’ll tell Uncle Bob about the problems. I’m sure he can fix Joe,” said April.

Joe tried again. This time he **managed** to get to Tower Cliffs. They all stepped onto the beach.

“Just watch the fancy tricks Joe can do,” April said. “He can throw the ball and catch it!”

Paco wasn’t impressed. “I prefer real dogs. They’re full of surprises.”



**Stop Think Write**

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

**How are April and Paco different?**

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Joe picked up the ball. "Should Joe throw right or left? Fast or slow?"

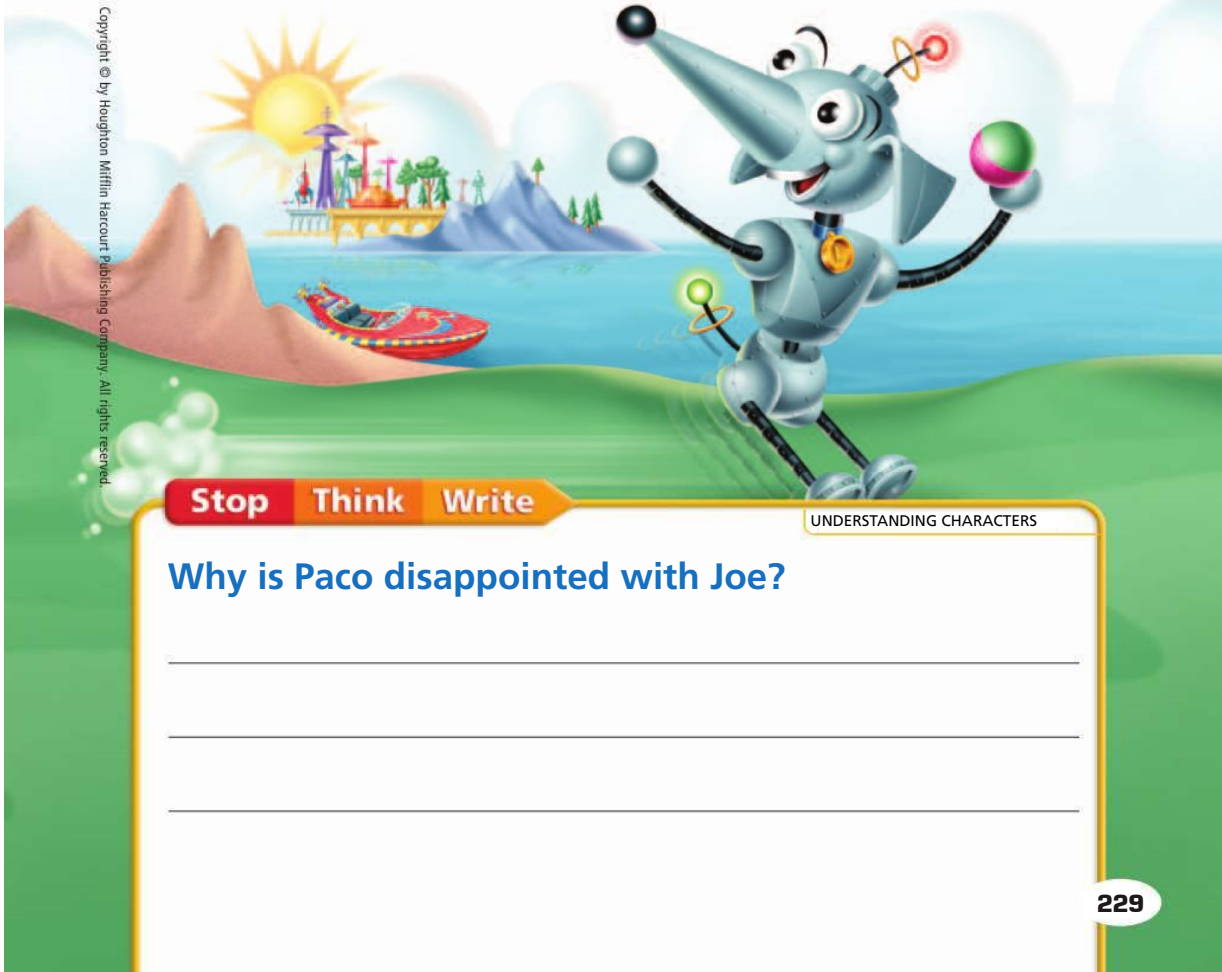
"How disappointing!" said Paco. "This takes the fun out of playing ball."

"Just throw the ball!" April called.

Joe threw the ball. Then he ran to make the perfect catch.

April stopped and looked around. "What's that noise?"

Paco said, "I hear yelling and barking!"



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Stop Think Write

UNDERSTANDING CHARACTERS

Why is Paco disappointed with Joe?

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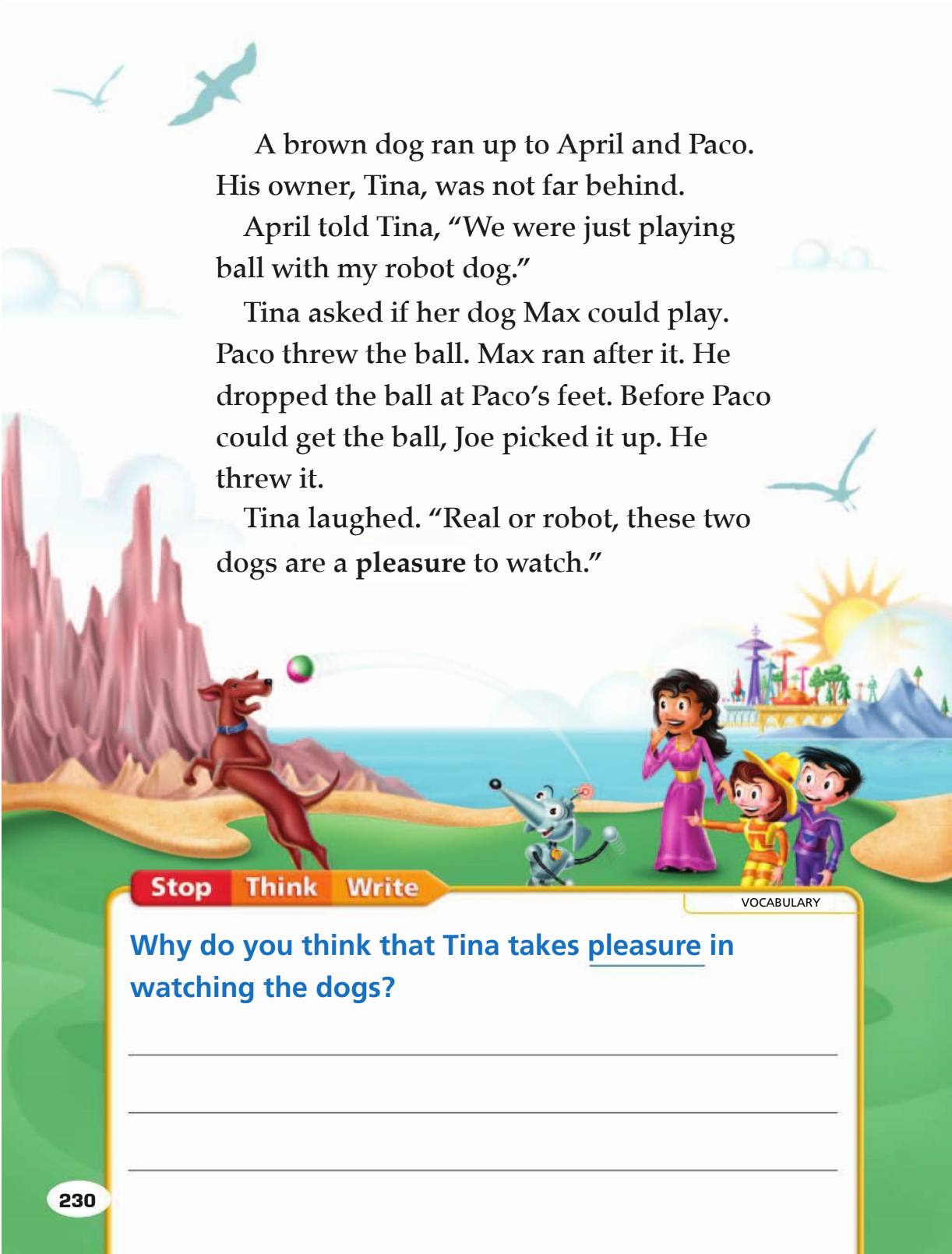


A brown dog ran up to April and Paco.  
His owner, Tina, was not far behind.

April told Tina, "We were just playing  
ball with my robot dog."

Tina asked if her dog Max could play.  
Paco threw the ball. Max ran after it. He  
dropped the ball at Paco's feet. Before Paco  
could get the ball, Joe picked it up. He  
threw it.

Tina laughed. "Real or robot, these two  
dogs are a **pleasure** to watch."



Stop Think Write

VOCABULARY

Why do you think that Tina takes pleasure in  
watching the dogs?

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## Look Back and Respond



### Hint

For a clue, see page 224.

**1** What happens at the beginning of the story?

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**2** After Paco hops in the boat, what does Joe do?

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**3** How does the story end?

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### Hint

For clues, see pages 225 and 226.

### Hint

For a clue, see page 230.

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