Alumni Association 2008 Retrocogitator Puzzle Challenge
Robot Poems—Honorable Mentions

Little known fourth law
A Roomba must vacuum floors
(First three allowing)

By: Lisa Wu '05
Team: The Hammer is my...

----------------------------------------------

Tin Man
Metal hands
Metal feet
Metal chest
Metal seat
Metal fingers
Metal thumb
Metal belly
Metal bum
Metal ears
Metal eyes
Metal hips
Metal thighs
Metal feet
Metal shins
In a fight,
Metal wins

By: Benjamin Balas '02, PhD '07; Erin Conwell '03; Anne Baker '02; Seth Kleinerman (grad student)
Team: Absentee Thinker

----------------------------------------------

O O
What What
Is a thing called a Bot?
Is it a worm that will
Bite if not caught?
What O what
Can you do with a bot?
Add it to ox to make
Wrinkles
Become
Naught?
Or pair one with Tom to peep into the pot?
A bot'll a cot'll console with a cot.
But if on the scene a trip
You have got, and nails
And/or ears you sadly
Have not, then friends
I advise you to invest
quite a lot
in a spanking new
e function
al Grei-
Row-
Bot
by a Dalek:

DALEKS DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THIS "POETRY."
ART IS FOR THE WEAK. WE ARE BEYOND YOUR
SILLY "EMOTIONS." AND WE DO NOT RHYME.
WE EXTERMINATE!
WE ELEVATE!
WE ... BUGGER. THAT RHYMED, DIDN'T IT?
BLOODY ENGLISH LANGUAGE.
SO MANY WORDS RHYMING.
THE DALEK LANGUAGE DOES NOT "RHYME."
IT WOULD BE BEAUTIFUL
IF WE HAD BEAUTY.
BUT WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF YOUR "BEAUTY."
WE UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF
EXTERMINATE!
EXTERMINATE!
EXTERMINATE!
THIS IS BECAUSE THE DALEK RACE IS SUPERIOR TO ALL.
WE ARE PERFECT, AS IS OUR LANGUAGE.
"EXTERMINATE" IS THE PERFECT WORD.
FOUR PERFECT SYLLABLES.
IF WE CARED ABOUT SYLLABLES.
BUT I DO NOT HAVE ANY MORE TIME TO WASTE
TELLING YOU WHY I AM SUPERIOR.
I MUST GO EXTERMINATE
SOME INFERIOR SPECIES.
AND THEIR BLOODY RHYMING LANGUAGES. OKAY?

...I OBEY.

By: Diane Christoforo '05, Hubert Hwang '07, Edwin Karat PhD '99, Thomas Mack '01
Team: DETH

An Ode to Robots

In times of old, when laptops were rare
A thing called a "rowboat" you just couldn't spare
Crafted by artisans, lavished with care,
The finest conveyance you'd find anywhere

With vowels omitted and consonants conserved
The new "robot" has its own purpose reserved
Though their complex mechanics have some folks unnerved
Their wonders make any and all praise deserved
Robots galore grace the big and small screen
Servo and Rosie help keep houses clean
Bender is funny (if slightly obscene)
Tiktok roams Oz, Ev, and lands in between

Of course we must speak of the robots of space
WALL-E and EVE save the whole human race
Data on Enterprise serves in Spock's place
Gloom-and-doom androids think Marvin is ace.

(Real life brings robots a tad more mundane
But gizmos like Roomba sweep the board all the same.)

A toast to automata! Hip, hip, hooray!
There's naught about robots that's too good to say
So crank out those androids and cheer all the way,
'Cause like it or not they'll take over some day.

By: David Glazer '81, Alfredo Sadun '72, Erica Sadun, Lorenzo Sadun '81
Team: Vintage Deals

----------------------------------------------

Clickety, snickety,
Robots impersonate
Real human beings in
fiction today.
We are imagining
Unscientifically
Future confusion, much
To our dismay.

By: Matthew Cain '02; Christopher Luhrs '03; You Zhou '07, MNG '08
Team: Sans Black

----------------------------------------------

11010100010101001
there once was a robot from mars
who was crafted from iron rebars
it sang in morse code
like Vista it froze
and remained evermore on its arse

10100000101100110

By: Henrietta Bowditch, A J, Bob Jones, Benjamin Wang PhD '07
Team: juega conmigo D.O.L.E.A.C.
robots try to write haikus
with wrong number of
ERROR: Segmentation fault

**By:** David Lee '06, '07, MCP '07; Frederick Gay '07; Yuan Wei '08
**Team:** H.M.S. Dry Rub

The mission turned frantic from hectic
for our wandering sojourn electric
seem's our bot's now gone
lost in starry beyond
when someone used standard not metric

**By:** Jennifer Hu '05; Zardosht Kasheff '03, '04, MNG '04; Ankur Mehta '03, '04, MNG '04; Michael Pihulic '05, MNG '05
**Team:** Top of the Danger Steps of 77 Mass Ave

There once was a robot from earth,
Who was thrilled by her recent new girth,
She sat and drank oils
Ate hot buttered coils
And surprised us by then giving birth.

**By:** Jin Choi '94, Dianna Goldenson '95, Andrew Kutas '04
**Team:** Jin's Team

```
01110111011100101001000000110110001101111010111100110011101111011010010000001110010110111110110001001101000011110010101000001110110011100101101000101101110110101010111101010100000111001111011101110111101110100011000101111101110101
```

[Translation: We love robots yes we do; we love robots how about you]

**By:** Pamela Hollingsworth '06; David Huang '05; Clyde Law '02, MNG '03; Ran Tao '04
**Team:** RAWR!!!

There once was an arrogant 'bot,
Who lived on the edge, fearing naught.
On one fateful day,
His drives fizzled away,
But he never gave backups a thought.

**By:** Paul Christiano (grad student), Kenan Diab (sophomore), Shaunak Kishore (grad student)
**Team:** How Do I Shot Web
Oh, tranquil Roomba
Whirring quietly around
You clean up my soul

By: Nathaniel Twarog '07
Team: Sure Thing

There once was a bot at the 'tute
Met a freshman it thought was quite cute
It tried to romance
And learned how to dance
But she said that it did not compute

By: Keith Battocchi '02, '04, MNG '04; Sheri Cheng '99, SM '01; Nishla Keiser '99, PhD '04; Eben Kunz (grad student)
Team: Tardcakes

Once I had a wife
She cleaned the house everyday
Replaced by Roomba

By: Dennis Okon '00, MNG '00; Jason Larsen '99
Team: FPDT

There once were some robots from space,
Who attacked the whole human race.
Cylons nuked Caprica,
So fled Galactica,
To begin an outer space chase!

By: Anthony Leier '96, SM '98; Leah Leier '96
Team: Spider's Minions

There once was a robot named Jim
Who wanted to go for a swim
He started to rust
Now his circuits are bust
All because of his watery whim

By: Christine Cheung SM '05, MBA '05; Vanessa Cheung '02
Team: Gorillas
Bender's my favorite, I confess.
Data is too emotionless.
Daleks are robots outside of creatures
Roombas just autonomous cleaners.
Terminator's really scary
Rosie's annoying and oft contrary.
Marvin is funny, though depressing,
while HAL turns out to be aggressive.
Which leaves that sexy robot pair,
But they come from I know not where.

By: Abraham Kunin '04
Team: Yellow Pigs
--------------------------------------------------------

Robots are the greatest things
Whether on two wheels or wings.
For doing chores we’d rather not
There’s nothing better than a ?bot.

Flying alone or helping police,
All they need is oil and grease.
They’ll make a car or clean the floor
With endless options to do more.

They do not mind the cold of space.
Will serve your tea with style and grace.
They help the doctors operate
And don’t complain when told to wait.

Though some may fear they will rebel
And try to make man a D-Cell.
I’m sure that we’ll all get along
And all those movies are just wrong.

From nano-bots with keen A.I.
To UAV’s sent out to spy,
Robots can come as big or small.
I love them truely, one and all.

By: Ryan Lang ’02, ’03, MNG ’03; Kenneth Marr (grad student); Richard Redemske ’02, MNG ’05; Mathew Willmott ’03
Team: TheRealUplate
--------------------------------------------------------
I think that I have never got
A poem lovely as a robot
A Scooba whose hungry mouth does suck
Against the floor's sweet flowing muck;
A Roomba that looks at dirt all day
And rolls its cleaning brushes to pray;
A Verro that may be Summer's refuge
A nest of robins cleared with a Looj;
Upon whose brushes snow vacuums
Who intimately lives with Dirt Dog's brooms
Poems are made by fools and sots,
But only Helen can make robots.

By: Christopher Cotton '93, MNG '94, MEN '94; Jeffrey Foley '94, MNG '96
Team: Young and the Goatless