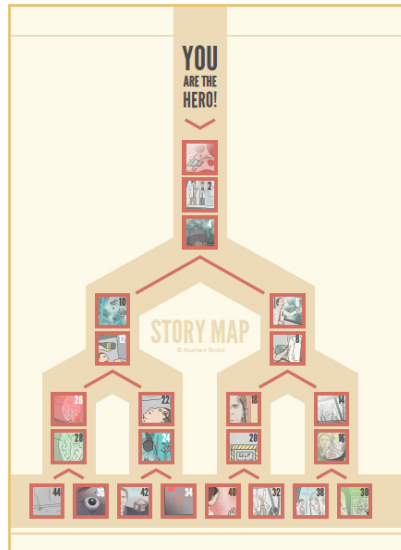
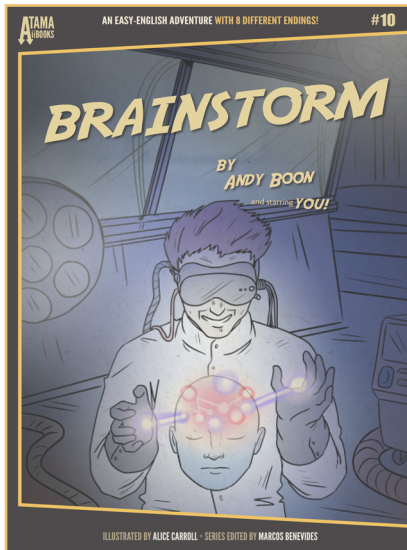
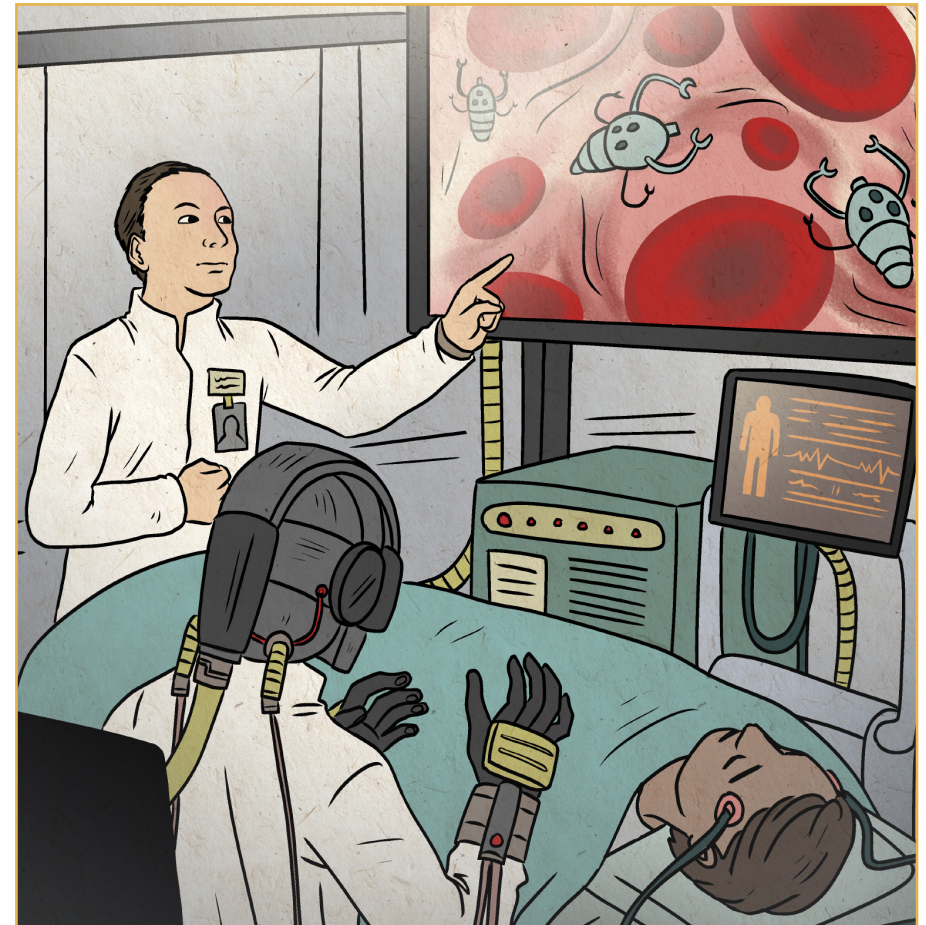


BEFORE READING



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BRAINSTORM

This story is about using new medical technology to save lives. You will work with a brain doctor.

Before you read, think about these questions:

1. What do you know about nanotechnology?
2. What do you know about the human brain?
3. Are self-controlled machines dangerous?

Look at the picture. Can you describe three things in it?

Next, learn the story keywords



KEYWORDS

Learn these important words before you read the story.

activate (v.) to turn on a machine or an app

booth (n.) a small space with walls and a door, often inside a larger room

brain (n.) the organ inside your head which controls your body and your thinking

cancer (n.) a disease which causes cells in your body to grow out of control

cell (n.) the smallest unit of life; usually contains a nucleus inside an enclosing membrane

damage (v.) to cause harm; to break something

destroy (v.) to damage something completely

fix (v.) to make something which is broken work again; to repair

flash-freeze (v.) to make something very cold, very quickly

gloves (n.) clothing you wear over your hands

grab (v.) to take and hold on to something

helmet (n.) a hard shell which covers and protects your head

KEYWORDS



nanobot (n.) a very small robot, smaller even than a cell; from “nanometer” (0.000000001m) + “robot”

operation (n.) the act when doctors work on a patient to fix something in their body

patient (n.) a person who is receiving medical care

self-destruct (v.) to destroy oneself; usually done on purpose to prevent a worse outcome

scientist (n.) a person whose job is to study the natural world

stroke (n.) a sudden death of brain cells when blood stops reaching an area of the brain

tiny (adj.) very, very small

virus (n.) a very small parasite that attacks cells and uses them to copy itself; e.g. influenza, HIV

Next, read the story

AFTER READING

EXTENSION QUESTIONS

Reading a good story can make you think about new things. Talk about these questions with your friends or teacher, or find out more online. Not all questions have a clear or simple answer!

1. What do you know about nanotechnology? Is it really possible to build robots that are smaller than cells?
2. Some scientists worry about the dangers of robots and A.I. technology. Why? What are the dangers of 'smart' technology?
3. The human brain is made up of about 100,000,000,000 cells. How are these cells, called neurons, different from other cells?
4. If you had enough nanobots fixing your body, you might never get old and die. Would it be a good or a bad thing to live forever?
5. In the story, the government wants to use nanobots to spy on what people are thinking. Is it really possible to 'read' the brain?
6. In the story, the nanobots start to act like a virus. What are viruses? Are they like robots, or are they alive?
7. In the story, Dr. Murphy has a stroke. What is a stroke, and what happens when people have one?
8. In the story, the patient suffers from brain cancer. What is cancer, and how does it affect people? What causes cancer?
9. People like to say that we only use 10% of our brains. Is this true? Can you find information to prove or disprove it?
10. People say brain cells never grow back after they are damaged. Is this true? Can you find out more information about this?

BOOK REVIEW



1. Did you enjoy this story? Why or why not?

2. Who are the main characters? Can you describe them?

3. Where does the story take place? Can you describe it?

4. Which ending did you like the most? Why did you like it?

5. Which ending didn't you like? Why didn't you like it?

STORY MAP

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