Questions for Classroom Discussion

1) We know that a robot is neither a boy nor a girl. So does that mean you call a robot an "it?" A toaster or a television is an "it." Does it seem correct to call a robot the same thing you call an inanimate object? Is it okay to give a robot a name, like a person or a pet?

2) What would be some places or jobs where a robot would be much better than a real person, and why?

3) If a robot can do only what it has been programmed to do, then can you say that a robot is able to think? Why or why not? What does it mean to be able to think?

4) If people were writing stories about robots before they really existed, who has more imagination - the people who created the idea of robots or the people who actually created the robots? Explain your answer.

5) Think about your five senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell). What key concepts would you program into a robot so it could identify a specific object (perhaps an apple or a song) by all five attributes? Think about the kinds of equipment a robot could have to identify such attributes. Be creative! Remember, your robot cannot actually taste, but it could measure amounts of sugar (for sweetness) or vinegar (for sour).