

ASIMO

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).

