

Grade 5 Writing Prompt

Directions: Read the passages about future inventions. As you read the passages, think about which invention would be more useful. Then use the passages to help you write a well-organized composition of at least three paragraphs.

Flying Cars

Imagine being picked up for school in a flying bus. Traffic jams will no longer be a problem. Instead of sitting on the road behind other cars, you will be flying above them. Visiting someone far away will be easy too. You will not have to spend hours riding in a car. Simply hop in the car and fly straight to your destination.

Flying cars exist today. However, most are still experimental and are not for sale to the public. One flying car, the X-Hawk, is to be used as a rescue vehicle. For example, firefighters could use it to save people from burning buildings. The military wants it to rescue injured soldiers on the battlefield, and hospitals would use it for quick travel to rescue injured people.

The X-Hawk is about the size of a large van. It is shaped like a boat, except it has four wheels, which are used when it is on the ground. It has two seating areas, one on each side of the vehicle. Both areas are enclosed in glass that acts as a windshield. The X-Hawk rises straight up in the air like a helicopter, but it can also fly forward like an airplane. It is very useful because it can float or "hover" in one place and can fit into places that are too dangerous for a helicopter. Because of its size and the way it moves, firefighters would be able to rescue people who are trapped in areas high above the ground. This experimental car could turn into the flying car of the future, which would be available to all drivers.

A flying car like the X-Hawk seems like it belongs in a story set in the distant future. However, if engineers and scientists keep working day and night, people may have flying cars sooner than we ever imagined. It may be just a matter of time before people will have flying cars.

Helper Robots

In the future, people's lives may be very different thanks to the help of robots. One robot named Mahru-Z has already been created by scientists and engineers in Korea. Mahru-Z is designed to do many household chores. With this kind of robot help, children may never need to clean their rooms or make their own snacks again.

Mahru-Z is just over four feet tall and resembles a human. Its head can rotate, and it moves by walking on two legs. It has two arms and uses six-fingered hands, which are great for picking up things. The most important feature of Mahru-Z is its eyes. These contain visual sensors that allow the robot to observe the surrounding area as it travels from room to room picking up objects off the floor. For example, it can take dirty clothing to the washing machine. It can also place toys in a toy box.

Mahru-Z has other useful skills like making and delivering snacks. It can put food into a microwave oven or toaster, turn it on, and take the food out. It can even locate a human in the house and bring the food to him or her.

Because Mahru-Z can be operated by remote control, it may be useful for completing tasks other than household chores. It could function in areas that are too dangerous for humans. One day it may help scientists by going into space. Scientists on Earth could control its movements while it performs experiments in outer space.

Mahru-Z sounds like something out of a futuristic space cartoon and may not be available in homes for a while. With a little more time and effort, though, it might just be the newest home appliance.