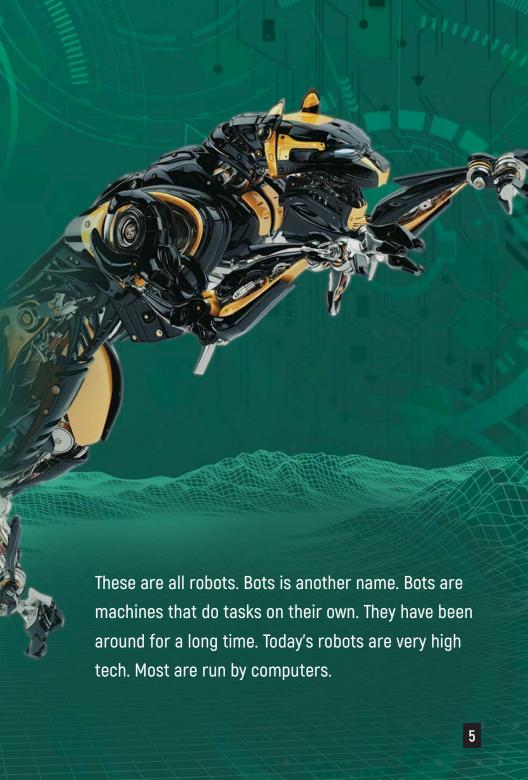


CHAPTER

## Born in Fiction

A metal arm bends and twists. It welds a car door. A big cat races across a field. This is not like other cats, though. It is made of metal and wire. A woman greets people at a store. Her head is plastic.



## From the Minds of Writers

Androids are robots that have a human look. Droids is another name. These robots began in the minds of writers. Authors wrote about future worlds. The worlds were full of androids. They could think and feel. These droids acted like people. Most obeyed their owners. Others fought them. They rose up and fought back. Their goal was to take over.

Real robots are not like that. They don't look much like people. The world is full of them. Some build cars. Others help doctors. Troops use them in battle. Bots even do chores around the house. They can make life easier and safer.



**FAST FACT:** A play from the 1920s titled *R.U.R.* included machine beings. The writer called the beings robota. It was shortened to *robot.* That is where the word comes from.

## **Fans and Critics**

It seems clear. Robots help us. They keep costs down. That means items are cheaper. This helps buyers. Even still, not everyone is a fan. Robots do jobs once held by people. Because of this, some people are out of work. These jobs may never come back. This is a big problem. There are no easy answers.

