

BENJI AND THE BUG HE COULDN'T DESTROY

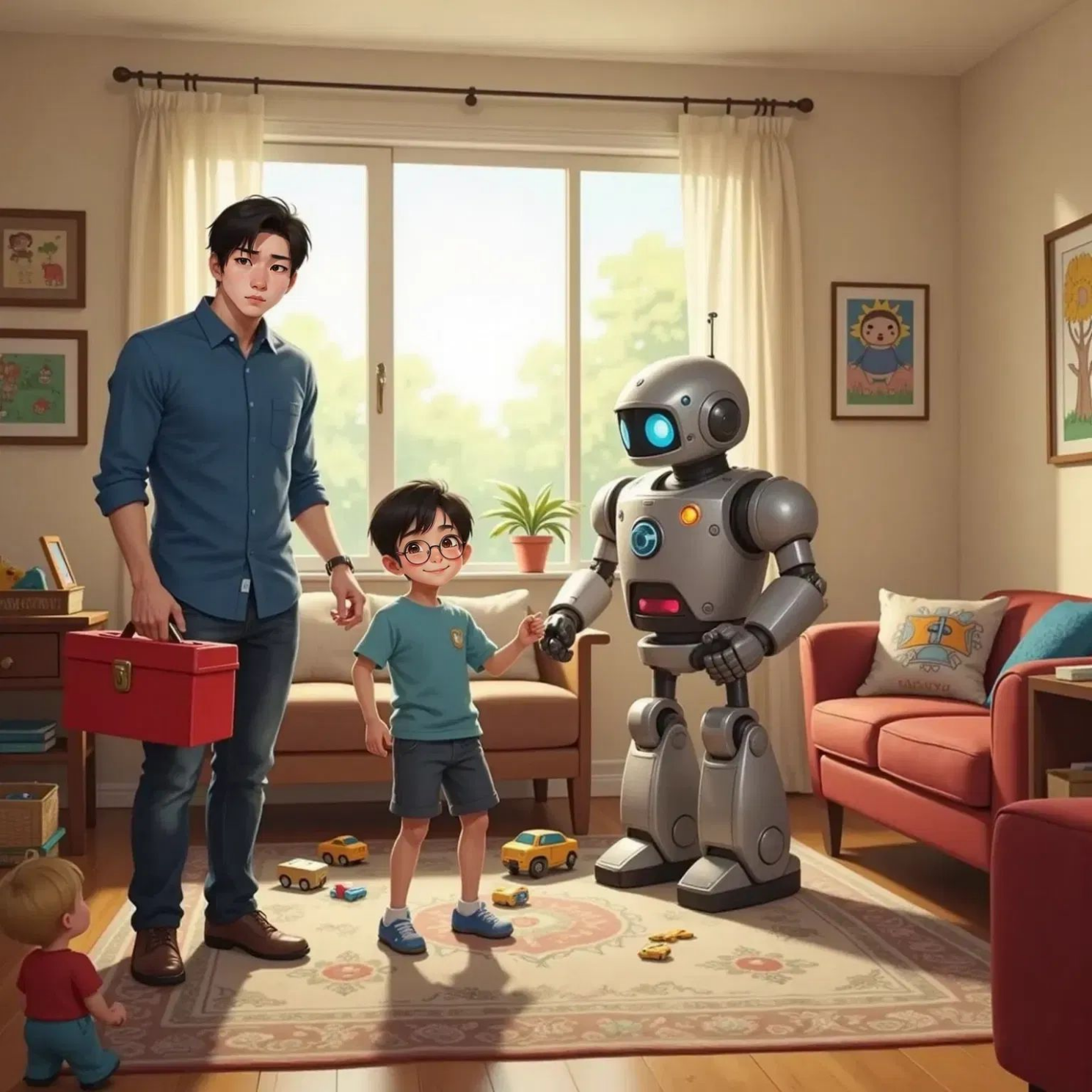
by childbook.ai



"Robot, please set the table," said Benji's Mom one evening. The family robot whirred to life but instead of grabbing plates, it began to dance in circles. "Something's wrong with Robot," Benji's Dad frowned, tapping at its control panel. Benji giggled as Robot spun around, plates balanced precariously on its metal arms. "I think I saw a ladybug crawl inside yesterday," Benji admitted, watching as Robot performed an unexpected bow. "We'll need to get that bug out," said Dad, but Benji wasn't so sure he wanted to.



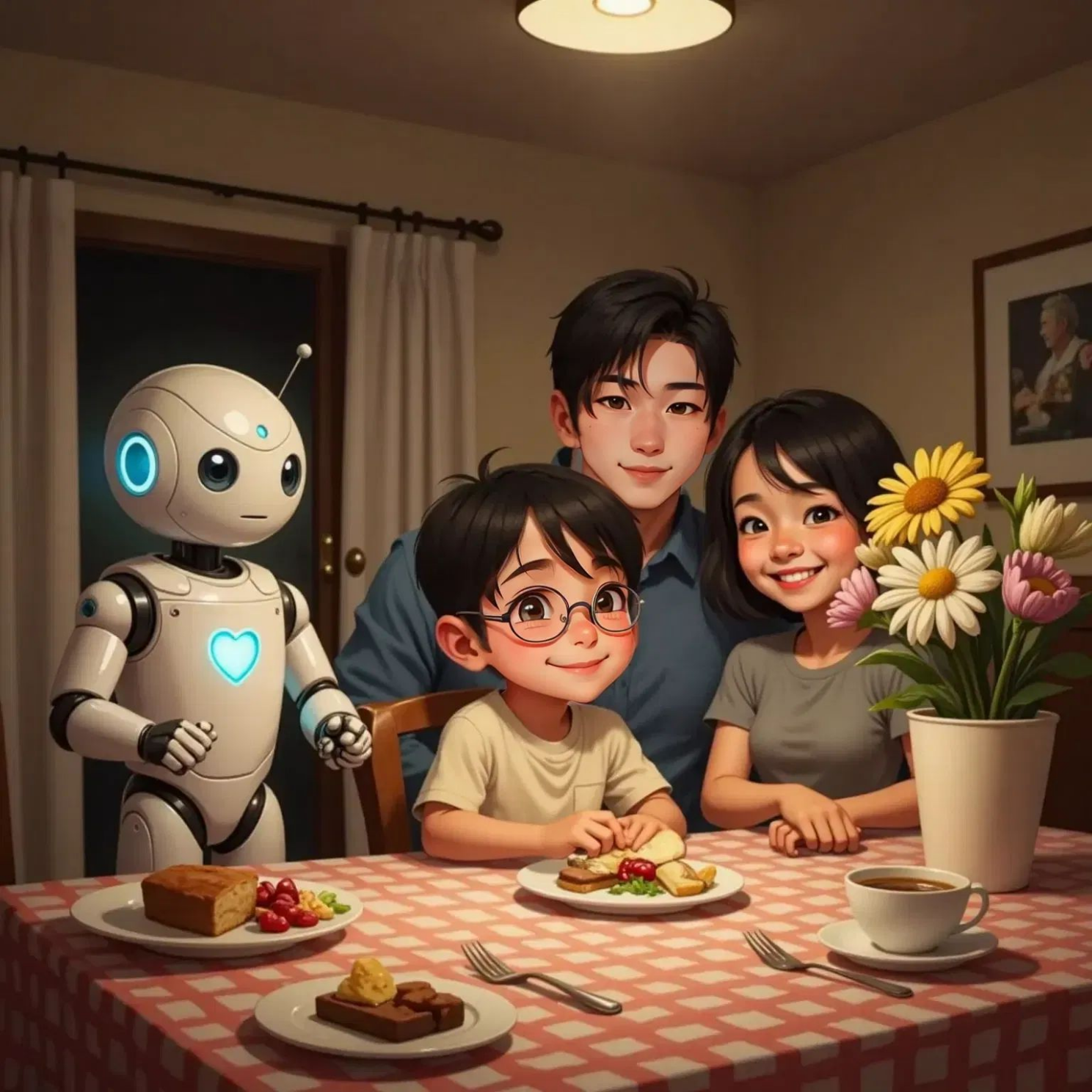
"Hold still, Robot," Benji's Dad said, toolbox in hand. "I'll have that bug out in no time." But every time Dad reached for Robot's access panel, Robot would scoot away and play Benji's favorite song. "I kind of like Robot this way," Benji said, dancing along to the music. "The bug isn't hurting anything." Mom shook her head. "Robots aren't supposed to have bugs, Benji." Benji watched as Robot folded a paper airplane and launched it across the room. "Maybe this bug makes Robot special," he whispered to himself.



"Look what Robot can do now!" Benji called excitedly the next morning. His parents watched in amazement as Robot created beautiful drawings of their family. "That's not in its programming," Dad said, scratching his head. Mom smiled despite herself when Robot presented her with a drawing of flowers. "The bug must have changed something in its creative circuits," she admitted. Benji beamed proudly. "See? The bug isn't bad—it's made Robot better!" Robot beeped happily and spun in what looked remarkably like a victory dance.



"I've been thinking," Benji's Dad announced at dinner, "maybe we don't need to remove that bug after all." Benji's eyes widened with hope. "Really?" Mom nodded in agreement. "Robot seems happier, if a robot can be happy." As if on cue, Robot rolled into the dining room with dessert, humming a cheerful tune. "I think the bug taught us something," Dad said, patting Robot's metal head. "Sometimes what makes us different is what makes us special." Benji smiled as Robot projected a tiny heart onto the table—a new trick from his little bug friend.



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