Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?  

**Before Reading**

**BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 108)**

**ACTIVITY 1  BEFORE READING**
Encourage discussion and speculation, but do not confirm or deny students’ guesses. They will find answers to most of the questions when they read the back cover and the introduction on the first page.

1. A robot (machine) that looks very like a human being.
2. Androids, being robots, don’t have emotions and feelings as humans do, but this difference is only revealed by tests.
3. They cannot dream, because their brains are electronic and do not need to rest or sleep as human brains do.
4. Because most real (living) animals have died. There are so few living animals left on Earth that any remaining or young ones are extremely expensive, so there is a busy trade in electric animals as pets.
5. Earth – a very tired and run-down Earth, greatly damaged and polluted by radioactive dust from a final world war.

**ACTIVITY 2  BEFORE READING**
Encourage speculation and discussion, but do not confirm or deny students’ guesses at this stage. In fact, numbers 1 and 3 are true, and numbers 2 and 4 partly true.

**While Reading**

**CHAPTERS 1 AND 2  WHILE READING**
1. Iran to her husband Rick Deckard, about his job, hunting and killing androids. She felt sympathetic towards the androids.
2. Rick to his neighbour Bill Barbour, about owning an electric sheep rather than a real animal. In the past Mercerism had insisted on ownership of a living animal, rather than a fake one.
3. The salesman in the Happy Dog Pet Shop to Rick, about the ostrich Rick had seen in the shop window and was wishing he could buy.
4. Police Inspector Harry Bryant to Rick, about the Voigt-Kampff Empathy Test. A colleague, Dave Holden, thought the test could accurately detect Nexus-6 androids, although Bryant was not so sure.
5. Eldon Rosen of the Rosen Corporation to Rick, about testing Rachael Rosen to see if she was an android.
6. Rachael to Rick, about the live owl she was offering him as a bribe to keep quiet about the Voigt-Kampff test being a failure on the Nexus-6 androids.
7. Rick to Eldon Rosen after the test on Rachael, asking whether she knew that she was an android.

**BEFORE READING CHAPTER 3**
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the first answer is ‘yes’ and the second answer is ‘against’.

**CHAPTERS 3 AND 4  WHILE READING**
1. Most people had emigrated to Mars, to avoid the radioactive dust covering Earth. It was government policy to encourage people to emigrate.
2. Because he was a ‘special’. He had failed a recent intelligence test, as his brain and health had been affected by the radioactivity. Specials were not allowed to emigrate to Mars.
3. He felt pain, but also that he was sharing his experience with others, so he felt less lonely.
4. He took her a piece of false butter. She seemed strange because she did not have an empathy box and had not heard of Buster Friendly.
5. Because she was an android, and he was an android killer.
6. In order to get closer to Rick and then kill him.
7. His wife always seemed depressed. She had no hope, little interest in anything, and was frightened of the danger Rick was in.
8. She kept asking questions so that the test did not work properly. Then she knocked off the wires, accused Rick of asking rude, personal questions, got out her gun, and then called the police, who arrested Rick as a possible android.

**BEFORE READING CHAPTER 5**
Encourage speculation and discussion, but do not confirm or deny students’ guesses. The answer to number 1 is that both police stations are real, in that they exist, but the Mission Street station is a secret organization set up and run by the androids, as a way of keeping in touch and trying to prevent the real police killing them. The answer to number 2 is that Rick is human, and the others are androids.

**CHAPTERS 5 AND 6  WHILE READING**
1. **How . . . ?** He pointed out that when the authorities found that he was not an android, they would arrest Garland for killing him.
2. **What . . . ?** He killed all the androids he came into contact with.
3. **Who . . . ?** Phil Resch, because Garland was about to shoot him.
4 How ...? He explained that he had a pet squirrel that he was very fond of. An android usually couldn’t keep an animal alive because it didn’t care enough about it.

5 How ...? Rick bought a painting for her, just because she asked him, which an android would never have done.

6 Who ...? Luba Luft and Rachael Rosen.

7 What ...? Anders, Gitchel, Max Polokov, Garland, Luba Luft, Roy and Irmgard Baty, Pris Stratton.

8 What ...? He envied their intelligence, and wanted to help or protect them, because he was lonely.

BEFORE READING CHAPTERS 7 AND 8
Encourage speculation and discussion, but do not confirm or deny students’ guesses. They will find out as they read that numbers 2 and 4 are correct, and number 1 is partly true (Rachael agrees to help but tries to trick Rick).

CHAPTERS 7 AND 8 WHILE READING
1 F Rick bought the goat for himself / in order to find his confidence again.

2 T

3 F If Rick killed all the Nexus-6 androids, the Rosen Corporation would design and build the Nexus-7 android.

4 F Rachael slept with Rick because she believed he would be unable to go on killing androids afterwards.

5 F Buster Friendly proved that Wilbur Mercer did not exist / was a fake / was an invention / was an old actor called Al Jarry.

6 T

BEFORE READING TO THE END
Encourage speculation and discussion, but do not tell students the answers. Rick finds the androids and kills them, but with Mercer’s help, not Isidore’s – though he used Isidore’s identity to get the androids to open the door. Wilbur Mercer is probably a kind of mass hallucination, produced by images and sensations from the empathy box. Rick and Iran are drawn together again by their experiences.

CHAPTERS 9 AND 10 WHILE READING
1 Wilbur Mercer (either real or in Rick’s mind).

2 He pretended to be Isidore and they believed him.

3 Because Rick had killed Pris, the female android he liked.

4 He was glad it was over, and he had earned a lot of money, but he did not enjoy his work and was beginning to feel he ought to give up killing androids and look for different employment.

5 Rachael Rosen, because he had killed her fellow androids.

6 He wanted to be alone, and to think about what he had done. While he was there he had a spiritual, semi-religious experience, and also found what he thought was the last living toad on Earth.

7 Not killing Rachael Rosen when he had the opportunity.

8 She was happy that he had come home, and wanted to comfort him and take care of him.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTERT READING
• Buster Friendly: an android / a television presenter / made fun of empathy boxes
• Hannibal Sloat: human / owner of a pet hospital / Isidore’s boss
• Rachael Rosen: an android / worked for the Rosen Corporation / slept with Rick Deckard / killed Rick’s goat
• Phil Resch: human / worked for the Mission Street police / owned a squirrel
• Roy Baty: an android / leader of the androids / voted to kill Isidore / the last to be killed
• Luba Luft: an android / an opera singer / beautiful voice / shot by Phil Resch
• Pris Stratton: an android / looked like Rachael Rosen / cut off the spider’s legs / killed by Rick Deckard
• Iran Deckard: human / Rick’s wife / stayed at home all day / often depressed
• Bill Barbour: human / Rick’s neighbour / owned a horse
• John Isidore: human / a truck driver / a ‘special’ / couldn’t emigrate
• Max Polokov: an android / a rubbish collector / a Russian policeman / killed by Rick Deckard

Possible paragraphs describing the androids:
• Buster Friendly was a television presenter, whose programmes were on twenty-three hours a day. He made fun of empathy boxes, and on one programme said that Mercer was a fake. Pris Stratton told Isidore that Buster was an android – ‘one of us’ – but she may have been lying.
• Rachael Rosen worked for Rosen Corporation. She slept with Rick Deckard, to try and stop him killing any more of her android friends. When this didn’t work, she went to his apartment building and killed his newly bought Nubian goat by pushing it off the roof.
• Roy Baty was the leader of the androids, described as rough and cold. He had killed several people on Mars and voted to kill Isidore while he and the others were hiding in Isidore’s department. He was shot by Rick, and was the last of the escaped androids to be killed.
Luba Luft had a beautiful voice so she took a job as an opera singer in order to hide from the police. She managed to get Rick Deckard arrested while he was testing her, but she was later shot by Phil Resch in the lift at the museum.

Pris Stratton was the android who cut off the spider’s legs, which upset Isidore so much. She was the same type of Nexus-6 as Rachael Rosen and looked very like her. Because of this, Rick found her the hardest to kill.

Max Polokov was pretending to be a ‘special’ and working as a rubbish collector. After shooting Phil Resch, he pretended to be a Russian policeman and very nearly managed to kill Rick. However, his laser gun wouldn’t work and Rick shot him.

**ACTIVITY 2  AFTER READING**

Suggested answers:
- A mood machine is a piece of equipment which can be programmed to produce a particular mood. Different settings will give the person moods such as depression, new hope, interest in one’s job, peace, etc. Rick and his wife used their mood machines to improve their moods. Mention of the mood machine at the beginning of the story shows us that the Deckards are not happy in their marriage.
- An empathy box is a machine used to involve an individual in a group experience of religion. When Isidore uses his, we can see how it helps him to feel less lonely, and encourages him to go to work. Later in the book, Rick takes over the empathy box from Iran and accepts pain instead of her.
- Sydney’s catalogue is the official list of the correct prices that shops or individuals should charge for real animals. Rick consults his copy of Sydney’s frequently.
- The Voigt-Kampff test is used to tell the difference between a human and an android. The tester attaches wires to the suspect’s face and shines a thin white light into one of the eyes. He then asks a number of questions, to see if the suspect answers in a human or android way. If the suspect does not appear to have any empathy with other forms of life, the test will prove that it is an android. Rick uses the test to find out that Rachael is a Nexus-6, and starts using it on Luba Luft, but there is no time to use it on the other androids. He uses it on Phil Resch to prove that Phil is human, not an android.

**Discussion question: open answers.**

**ACTIVITY 3  AFTER READING**

Possible answers:
Rachael: Roy, you’ve got to take care. There are only three of you left now.
Roy: I’d heard that Anders and Gitchel were dead. But I thought Polokov had shot the killer – what was his name?
Rachael: Dave Holden. Yes, Polokov shot him and he’s in hospital, but Holden has given his list to another android killer.
Roy: So who is this other killer? Do you know him?
Rachael: Yes, I do. His name’s Rick Deckard. He gave me the Voigt-Kampff test.
Roy: Why did he give you the V-K test? You haven’t escaped from Mars. You belong to the Corporation.
Rachael: Yes, but he came to Seattle to try out the test, to find out if it worked on Nexus-6 types. I was the testee – and I failed the test.
Roy: I see. And what happened to Polokov?
Rachael: Deckard shot him. And then he went after Luba.
Roy: Why didn’t Luba phone Garland for help?
Rachael: She did, and Garland sent someone to pick Deckard up. I don’t know exactly what happened, but something went wrong on Mission Street.
Roy: So Garland and Luba are both dead. In that case, I think Irmgard and I had better move.
Rachael: What will you do?
Roy: We’ll go and join Pris.
Rachael: Do you know where she is?
Roy: Yes, she sent us a card. She’s in some empty apartment building in the suburbs. Listen, is this Deckard likely to get in touch with you again?
Rachael: He might. I offered to help him earlier. He refused then, but he might think he needs help now.
Roy: Well, if he does call you and ask for help, you know what to do. Give him something else to think about!
Rachael: OK, Roy, I’ll do my best. It’s always worked before.
ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

After searching Polokov’s apartment, I met the Russian, Sandor Kadalyi, on the roof of the building. When he showed me his gun, I realized that he was in fact Max Polokov, so I shot him. Then I visited the singer, Luba Luft, but before I could finish giving her the Voigt-Kampff test, she called the police and I was arrested. At the mysterious police station on Mission Street, I was interviewed by Garland, the third android on the list, who was shot at his desk by Phil Resch, an android killer. After that Resch and I went to find Luba Luft again, but while we were taking her down in the lift, she said something which annoyed Resch and he shot her before I could stop him. Later that evening I heard from Bryant that the last three androids were in an empty apartment building in the suburbs. I managed to kill one of them, Pris Stratton, on the stairs and shot the last two, Irmgard and Roy Baty, in the apartment where they were hiding.

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

Acceptable answers to this cloze passage are any words that have an appropriate meaning and fit the grammar of the sentence. Students might like to check each other’s work and discuss alternative answers. Some alternatives are given below.

Early in the twenty-first century, Earth lay under a thick (grey) cloud of deadly, radioactive dust, which blocked out the sun. The world government had encouraged (persuaded) most healthy people to emigrate to Mars, but ‘specials’, people (those) who had failed the intelligence tests, were not allowed to emigrate or to have children. Mercerism was the official religion, which provided, through empathy boxes, experiences that people could share and so feel less lonely. Followers of Mercerism were expected (obliged) to own and care for an animal, but as real (living, live) animals were rare and extremely (very) expensive, people often bought fake (false), electric ones instead and pretended (imagined) that they were real.

Discussion question: open answers.

ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING

Open answers. As a follow-up or extension of the activity, students could be asked to work in pairs and put together a number of their own empathy-testing questions (e.g. ten). Then each pair (the police officers) could interview another pair of students (the suspected androids). After the interview the ‘police officers’ could discuss the results. Then it is their turn to become suspected androids and be tested by the new police officers, using a set of different questions. When every student has had a turn of testing and being tested, there could be a whole-class discussion of which were the most, and which the least, successful questions, and why.

ACTIVITY 7 AFTER READING

Open answers.