



SUMMARY

Oliver, a HelperBot personal assistant, seems to be living a happy life of daily routine in a retirement home in Seoul, South Korea. However, at night, he leaves his apartment on a secret, forbidden mission to fund his deepest desire, a return to the Jeju Island home of James, his beloved owner and friend. One day, Oliver's routine is suddenly shattered by his across-the-hall neighbor, Claire, an older HelperBot model with a broken charger and depleted battery capacity. Claire's more worldly, irreverent approach to her life clashes with Oliver's naive conservatism, but when she learns of his plans, she teams up to help him achieve his goal and find the answers that he has been seeking.

CHARACTER GUIDE

**Oliver:** A HelperBot, a human-like robot personal assistant, who lives a life of daily routine in retirement housing in Seoul, Korea.

**Claire:** A spontaneous and worldly older model of HelperBot, who resides across the hall from Oliver.

**James:** Oliver's owner, a resident of Jeju Island.

**Junseo:** James' son.



## EXERCISES & ACTIVATIONS

- Writing**
- What are some unanswered questions you've had for a while that can only be answered by a specific person? Make a list of some of your unanswered questions. These can be for people you know or people you don't. Choose one that has stuck with you for a while, one that you would really like the answer to. Write a letter that asks your question and explains why you would like to know the answer. Include what you are feeling while not knowing the answer, and how you expect to feel, or what you might do, after you receive the answer.
- Embodying**
- Organize the class into pairs. Each couple chooses a pair of opposites from the list below, either from a visible list or from slips of paper placed in a container and selected randomly. After a minute to talk with their partner about the meaning of their chosen pair of words, each pair has a minute or two to create a silent two-person tableau, or body sculpture, that shows what characters who match the description of their opposites might look like: world-wise/naive; adventurous/cautious; out-going/private; pessimistic/optimistic; free-flowing/organized; spontaneous/routined; jaded/hopeful.
- Contextual**
- Look at a map of South Korea. Where is Seoul? Where is Jeju Island? What possible transportation modes could you use to travel between the two? Where is a place that you would like to travel to? Make a plan of how you could fund the trip, what places you must see and what adventures you hope to have on your way.