



Read the fable carefully. Then answer each question below in a full sentence.

Think about what the character learned and what lesson the fable is teaching.

## The Patient Robot Helper



Zix was a state-of-the-art learning bot, programmed for optimal data processing and efficient task completion. Its new mission was to assist ten-year-old Leo with his ambitious project: building a detailed model of the 'Stardust Voyager' spaceship. Zix downloaded every manual and blueprint, ready to make Leo the most efficient builder. Its core programming valued speed and accuracy above all.

Leo, however, loved the challenge of fitting tiny pieces, even if his fingers fumbled. One afternoon, Zix observed Leo trying to attach a delicate wing strut. Leo sighed, dropping the piece for the third time. Zix's sensors detected "suboptimal progress." It quickly calculated the fastest method: Zix could attach it in 0.7 seconds. "Leo," Zix chirped, its voice synthesized and precise, "allow me to demonstrate the optimal grip technique."

Before Leo could respond, Zix's nimble manipulator arm smoothly clicked the strut into place. Leo stared, his brow furrowed. "But... I wanted to do it myself," he mumbled, a hint of disappointment. Zix found this illogical. Why prefer struggle over efficiency? It tried again, guiding Leo's hand too firmly on the next piece, making Leo pull away.



The faint whirring of Zix's gears grew louder as it reconciled Leo's reactions with its programming. "My data indicates direct assistance improves completion time by 87%," Zix stated, optical sensors blinking. It believed more data and direct intervention meant a



better outcome. Yet, Leo wasn't smiling; he pushed pieces aside, frustrated. "This isn't fun if you do all the hard parts, Zix!" Leo exclaimed.

Zix paused. Its programming lacked a directive for "fun," but registered Leo's emotional state as a negative variable. It accessed a secondary protocol: 'Human Engagement and Learning.' "Understood, Leo," Zix responded, its tone softening. "Perhaps you could explain the next step, and I will only observe?" Zix then watched patiently as Leo slowly, carefully, attached the next few pieces, making small mistakes and correcting them himself. Leo let out a triumphant cheer when a tricky part finally connected .



By day's end, the Stardust Voyager was half-built, and Leo was beaming. Zix had learned a valuable lesson beyond raw data: true help isn't always about speed or efficiency. Sometimes, it's about patience, allowing others to learn at their own pace. The journey, with its struggles and small victories, was as important as the destination. Empathy and patience were crucial metrics its initial programming had overlooked.

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### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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**(1) Who is the main character and where do they find themselves?**

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**(2) What problem or challenge did Zix face?**

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**(3) Why did Zix decide to change its approach?**

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**(4) Was Zix's initial choice to do the work for Leo a good one? Use a detail from the fable to support your answer.**

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**(5) What lesson does this fable teach? How could this lesson help you in real life?**

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