

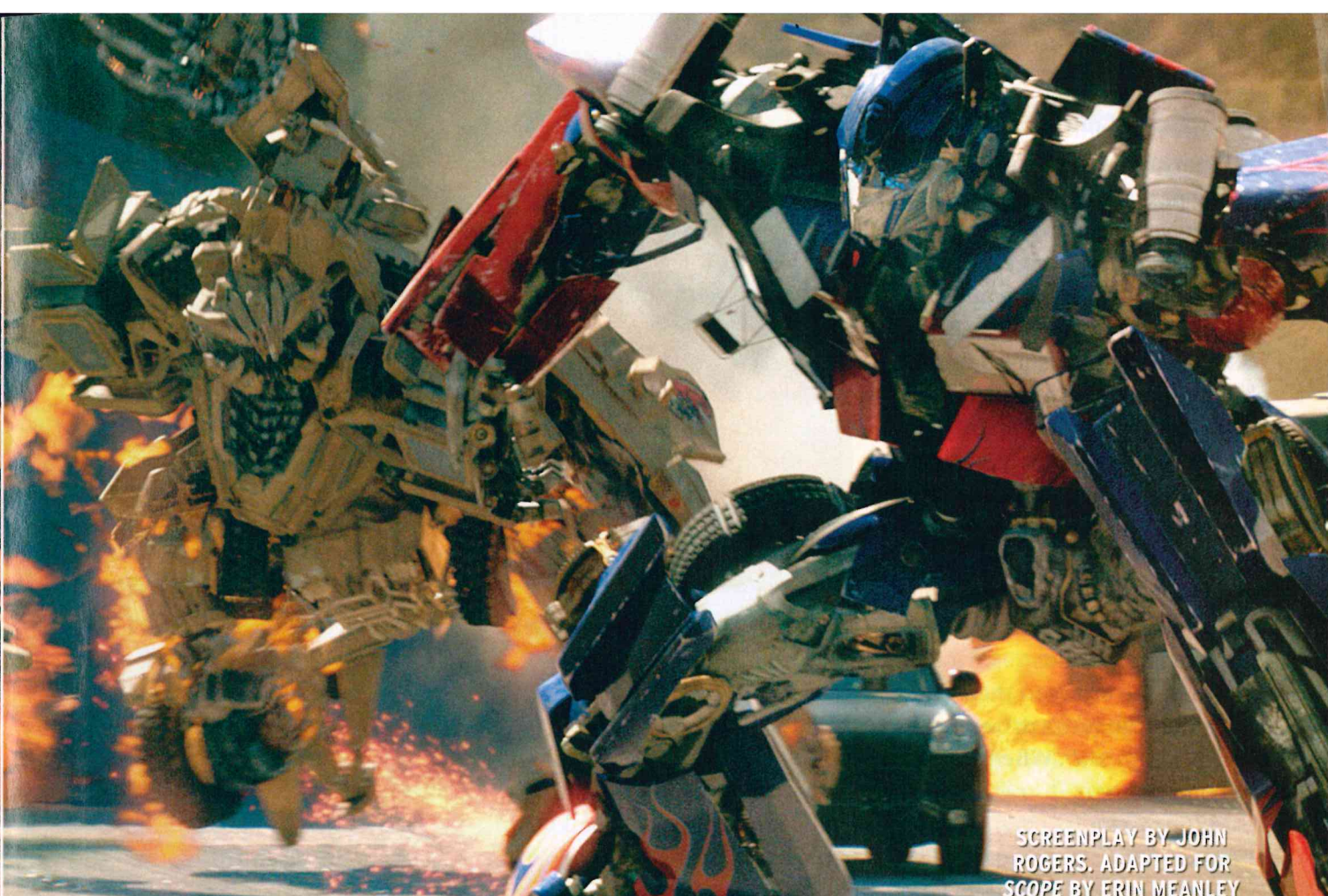
Characters

Write your initials next to the character you're going to read. **Starred characters are major roles.*

- *NARRATOR 1 (N1)
- *NARRATOR 2 (N2)
- *NARRATOR 3 (N3)
- *NARRATOR 4 (N4)
- *SAM WITWICKY, your average 11th-grader
- RON WITWICKY, Sam's dad
- *MIKAELA BANES, Sam's classmate
- TRENT DEMARCO, Mikaela's boyfriend
- MR. HOSNEY, Sam's teacher
- BOBBY BOLIVIA, car salesman
- MAGGIE MADSEN, a gifted code breaker
- LT. COLONEL, an official at the Pentagon
- JOHN KELLER, U.S. Secretary of Defense
- MILES, Sam's friend
- FRENZY, a small Decepticon
- BARRICADE, a Decepticon that disguises itself as a cop car
- 911 OPERATOR
- SHERIFF



(Inset) From left, Ron Witwicky (Kevin Dunn), Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf), and Bobby Bolivia (Bernie Mac) at the car lot. Right, a showdown: The alien robots battle on the freeway.



SCREENPLAY BY JOHN ROGERS. ADAPTED FOR SCOPE BY ERIN MEANLEY

Transformers

ELEVENTH-GRADER SAM WITWICKY REVS UP FOR AN ALIEN ADVENTURE OF HUMANS VERSUS MACHINES

NOTE TO CIVILIANS:

Transformers, or Autobots, are classified as non-biological extra-terrestrials. A Decepticon is a Transformer gone bad. . . .

THE SETTING

Tranquility High School in an American city named Tranquility. Present day.

SCENE 1

N1: Sam Witwicky sits in class, staring at his laptop. He is selling a pair of old eyeglasses on eBay.

Onscreen, he has posted a catchy sales tool: a *New York Times* clipping, circa 1897, with the headline, "Arctic Adventurer Alleges Ice Man Found!" The clipping bears a photo of Captain Archibald Witwicky wearing the eyeglasses; the captain is Sam's great-great-grandfather.

N2: Sam checks his progress: "Bids Placed: 0." No one is interested in the eyeglasses. He sighs and glances at Mikaela Banes, who is sitting with her boyfriend, Trent.

MR. HOSNEY: Mr. Witwicky, you're up.

N3: Sam takes his backpack and

a cardboard chart to the front of the classroom. Students giggle and throw things at him.

SAM: For my family genealogy report, I picked my great-great-grandfather, Captain Archibald Witwicky, one of the first guys ever to make it to the Arctic Circle.

N4: Trent slingshots a rubber band, and it sticks to Sam's hair.

MIKAELA: Quit it.

TRENT: What?

N1: Sam lays out his great-great-grandfather's navigation instruments, including the eyeglasses.

SAM: Here are some of the tools

of a 19th-century seaman. The quadrant is worth about 75 bucks; the sextant, a steal at 50 bucks or best offer; the compass, yours for 80, and his eyeglasses—I'm open to bids.

HOSNEY: This isn't show-and-tell, Mr. Witwicky. This is the 11th grade.

SAM: Well, I'm selling this stuff to put toward my car fund; it's also on eBay if you want to tell the folks. I take PayPal. They make great gifts.

HOSNEY: Sam.
SAM: Right. Well, years of hypothermia froze Archibald's brain, and he went blind and crazy,

drawing these weird symbols and babbling about a giant ice man.
HOSNEY (bell rings): Thank you, everyone. There might be a pop quiz tomorrow. Might not. Sleep in fear tonight. Bye.

SAM: So? What's my grade?

HOSNEY: I'd say a solid B minus.

SAM: B minus?! What about all the visual aids?

HOSNEY: There was no passion.

SAM: But I'm all passion! My dad said if I saved \$2,000 and got three As, he'd help me buy half a car. I need at least an A minus. Please, Mr. Hosney, my future, my freedom is in your merciful hands.

SCENE 2

N2: Sam and his dad, Ron, are driving past auto dealerships.

N3: Ron veers toward a Porsche dealer, slows, then veers back.

RON: Got a surprise for you, Sam; you're not getting a Porsche.

N4: They drive into a used dealership that looks like a junkyard.

SAM: Here?

BOBBY: Hello, gentlemen. How can I help you?

RON: My son is buying a car.

BOBBY (to Sam): Well, son, drivers don't pick their cars. No, sir, cars pick their drivers.

N1: Sam ignores the gregarious salesman. He browses, then gets in a yellow Camaro's driver's seat.

BOBBY (confused): Where'd this car come from?

SAM (sarcastically): This is a real antique.

N2: Bobby tries to open the hood to show off the engine, but it won't budge. Inside the car, something on the steering wheel catches Sam's eye. He wipes away grime to reveal an emblem: the Autobot Symbol.

SAM (calling out): You said cars choose their drivers? I want this one!

RON: OK, we'll buy it. Sam, go find your adventure.

SCENE 3

N3: Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., government agents approach Maggie Madsen and her co-workers at a think tank. The agents take everyone in a helicopter to the Pentagon.

N4: Inside the Pentagon, an Army Lt. Colonel hands out documents.

LT. COLONEL: The information you're about to receive is



A Decepticon goes on a destructive rampage in his hunt for the All-Spark.

classified. The non-disclosure form you're about to sign is classified. The fact you're even here is classified.

N1: He leads them into a briefing room. John Keller, the secretary of defense, enters and walks to the podium. Keller is an educated and articulate man.

KELLER: Yesterday in the Persian Gulf, a U.S. operations base was attacked. There were no survivors. The attackers tried to hack our military network. We aren't sure what they were after, but we know they were cut off during the assault. That leads us to assume they'll try again. So far our only real lead is this: (a shriek emanates from audio speakers). That's the signal that hacked our network. We need your help to find out who did this. This is as real as it gets, people. The world's going to hear about it in a half hour.

N2: He leaves, and the precocious Maggie runs to him.

MAGGIE: Mr. Keller, I work in algebraic cryptanalysis—code breaking. The signal sounded like standard phasing. If what I heard was right, it was faster than

anything that's even possible.

KELLER: We know it's possible because it happened. Your team is going to find out how, I hope.

SCENE 4

N3: Back in Tranquility, Sam picks up his friend Miles and drives the Camaro to the lake, where a bunch of teens are swimming and hanging out.

MILES: Dude, are we even invited to this?

SAM: It's a lake—it's public property, Miles. Don't do anything weird.

N4: They get out of the car and watch the cool kids.

N1: Trent notices Sam staring.

TRENT (to Sam): Hey! Sorry about your grandma—she died and left you that car, right?

N2: Everyone but Mikaela laughs.

MIKAELA: I like it. It's old school.

TRENT: What? Mikaela, get in my car, let's go. This place is lame.

MIKAELA: May I drive?

TRENT: You, drive my SUV? It's too much machine for you.

MIKAELA (mad): Fine! I'll walk.

N3: Sam goes back to his car.

SAM: Miles, could you wait here?

SCENE 5

SAM (pulls up to Mikaela): I was wondering if I could give you a ride home.

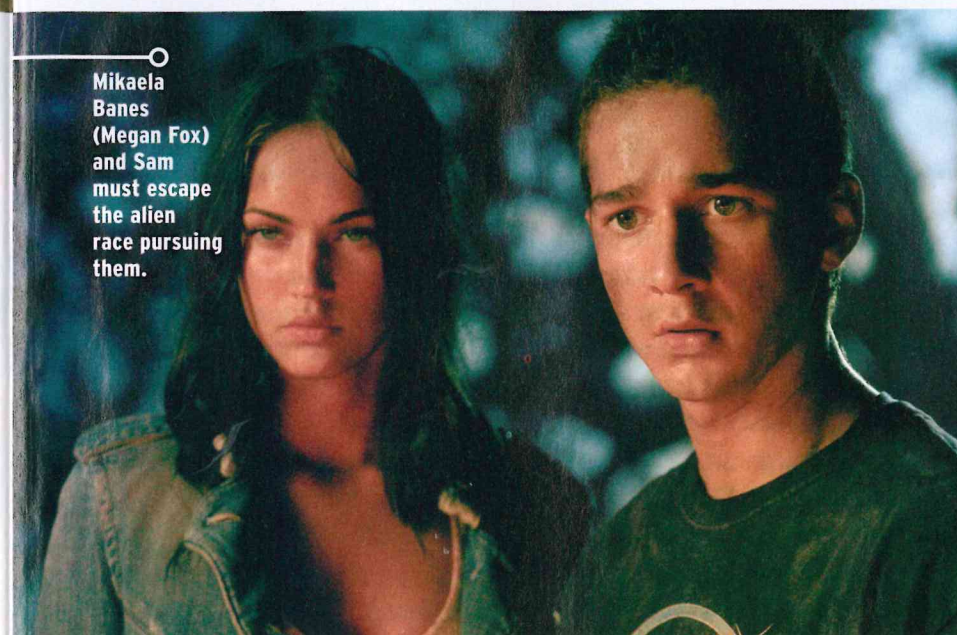
MIKAELA: Why not? (She gets in the car.) So, are you new this year in school?

SAM: No, we've been at the same school since first grade.

MIKAELA: What class do we have together?

SAM: Math, gym, history. I sit next to you in homeroom.

MIKAELA: Sam . . . right.



Mikaela Banes (Megan Fox) and Sam must escape the alien race pursuing them.

N4: The engine sputters, and the car dies. The car rolls to a stop. Sam gets nervous.

MIKAELA: Pop the hood.

N1: At first Mikaela has difficulty, but then the hood opens and reveals a beautiful, complex engine—not what you would expect from a clunker.

MIKAELA: Whoa! You have a hi-rise double pump carburetor. Impressive, Sam.

SAM: Double pump?

MIKAELA: It squirts the fuel so you can go faster.

SAM: Yeah, I'm into horsepower.

MIKAELA: Cool. Your distributor cap's loose.

N2: Suddenly, the Camaro starts itself. Relieved, Sam drives Mikaela home.

SCENE 6

N3: That night, Sam is asleep in his bedroom, then wakes to the sound of his Camaro starting. He looks out the window and sees his car backing out of the driveway.

SAM: Hey, that's my car! Thief!

N4: Sam runs outside and hops on his bike. He takes his cell phone out of his pocket and dials.

OPERATOR: 911 Emergency—
SAM: My car's being stolen! Right now! I'm chasing it. Get the cops!

OPERATOR: Sir, do not approach the driver. He could be dangerous. We're tracing the call. Are you all right? Sir?

N1: Sam follows his car to a steelyard and sees the car driving itself. Then, the car changes shape. It's standing on two legs.

SAM (in phone): My car—it's after me! It's transformed, it's alive! This could be it, my last words on Earth!

N2: Suddenly two vicious dogs race after Sam. He drops his phone and runs.

N3: Back in car formation, the Camaro skids over, spins around Sam, crushes his phone beneath a tire, and honks furiously to keep the dogs away. They whimper and run off.

SAM (to car): Please don't kill me.

N4: Two police cars pull up, sirens blazing.

SHERIFF: Freeze! Hands up!

SAM: Not me! Wrong guy! It's my car!

N1: He points, but the car is gone. This looks bad.

N2: The Sheriff arrests Sam and takes him to the police station.

N3: Ron picks up Sam from the police station.

RON: Want to tell me what happened?

SAM: Dad, you know how great-great-gramps went pretty crazy? Do you think it could've been passed down to me? Like some kind of mutant Witwicky gene?

SCENE 7

N4: At an Air Force Base in Oklahoma, the U.S. President's jet, Air Force One, has landed because robots were found on board.

N1: Frenzy, a robot, drops out of the jet's wheel well. He crosses the airport runway, unnoticed. He walks to a police car, which is actually a Decepticon named Barricade. The door opens.

FRENZY: A police vehicle? Excellent disguise, Barricade.

BARRICADE: Did you find the All-Spark on Air Force One? The

cube that's the source of power?

FRENZY: I was cut off, but I found this . . .

N2: Frenzy's razor-sharp finger jacks into the police computer terminal, downloading what he got off Air Force One: the name "Captain Witwicky, Archibald" appears onscreen. The computer matches the name to the newspaper article from 1897. Then it links to Sam's eBay page. Frenzy sees a hint of alien code burned into the lenses of the eyeglasses. The seller's information appears: a photograph of Sam's smiling face, along with his address.

FRENZY: Shall I summon the others?

BARRICADE: Not yet. First we must find the human boy.

FRENZY: He lives in a city called Tranquility. His name is . . . Ladiesman217.

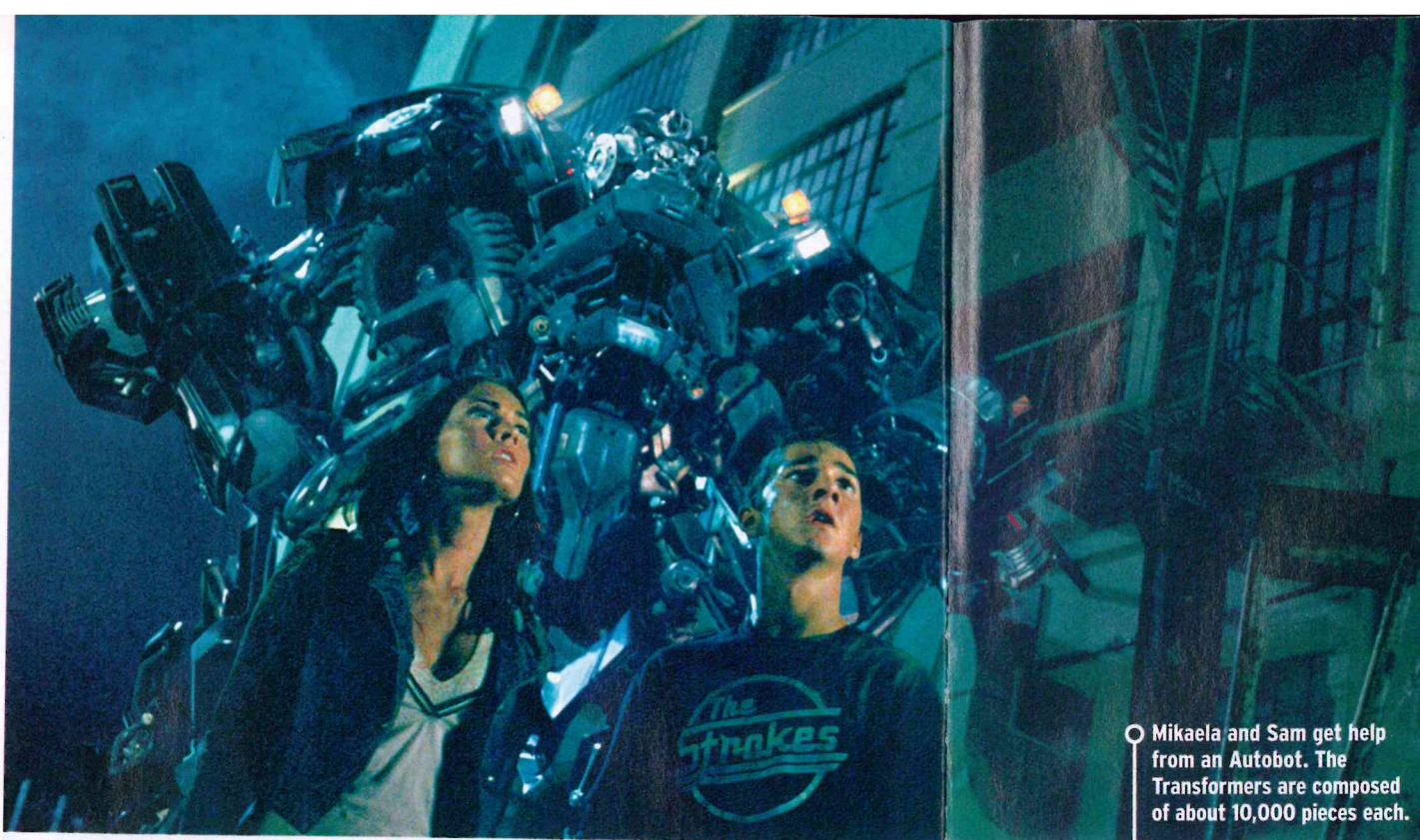
SCENE 8

N3: The next day, unaware that he is the target of alien robots, Sam goes to the kitchen. From the window, he sees his mom backing her station wagon out of the driveway. He goes to the fridge. His dog starts yapping wildly at something outside.

N4: Sam looks again: His Camaro is now in the driveway, parked right up against the glass door. Sam screams. He calls Miles.

SAM (on phone): Miles, it's me. I thought maybe it was a dream, but it's not. It's real, it's alive. I bought Satan's Camaro!

MILES (unfazed): While I have you on the phone, thanks for the ride home last night from the lake.



Mikaela and Sam get help from an Autobot. The Transformers are composed of about 10,000 pieces each.

SAM: Dude, I'm sorry, but listen. My car stole itself, walked around on legs, and now it's back. It's trying to kill me! I think it wants my soul.

MILES: Whatever.

SAM: I'm coming over.

N1: Sam gets on his bike and pedals off. After a few blocks, he turns around and sees the Camaro following him. Then Sam looks ahead and nearly collides with Mikaela. He swerves, wobbles, slams into a tree, and lands hard. Sam gets back on his feet.

MIKAELA: Sam! That was so awesome. Are you OK?

SAM (sees the Camaro appear around a corner, creeping): No, I have to go!

N2: Mikaela grabs her Vespa and follows. A police car zooms past, siren blaring, and nearly hits her.

N3: Sam bikes fast across a parking lot. He sees the Camaro driving down a parallel aisle, still following him.

N4: He pedals faster, but runs into the police car.

SAM: Ouch! (*dusting himself off*) Oh, officer, thank goodness! You're not going to believe this, but my car's trying to kill me! Hello?

N1: The car juts forward, knocking him over.

SAM (scared): Sorry, no disrespect . . .

N2: The cop car transforms, rising into the 16-foot-tall robot, Barricade. Sam runs.

N3: Barricade's metal hand swats Sam into the air. He slams into a car windshield. The robot stomps forward and leans over Sam.

BARRICADE: Are you Username Ladiesman217?

SAM: Yeah.

BARRICADE: Where is eBay item number 21153?

SAM: What?

BARRICADE: The eyeglasses! Where are your ancestral artifacts?

SAM: I have no idea what you're talking about!

N4: Sam gets up and starts running. He turns a corner and runs smack into Mikaela and her Vespa.

MIKAELA: Sam, what is wrong?

SAM: Mikaela, get up now! Run!

N1: Mikaela sees Barricade and screams.

N2: Just then, the Camaro slides and smashes into Barricade, knocking it across the parking lot. The car has saved Sam and Mikaela!

N3: The Camaro's doors open. The song "Rescue Me" explodes from the stereo. The Camaro honks. Barricade rises. The Camaro honks again.

SAM (to Mikaela): Get in the Camaro!

SCENE 9

N4: Sam and Mikaela dive into the Camaro as it peels out. Barricade runs after them. It

transforms back into cop car form, then closes in from behind.

MIKAELA: There's a cop!

SAM: That's not a cop!

N1: Barricade chases the Camaro through train yards. Barricade fires missiles but misses the Camaro.

SAM: Was that a missile?

MIKAELA: I think so!

N2: The Camaro screeches to a stop, doors flying open. Sam and Mikaela are thrown into the dirt and scramble for footing.

N3: Suddenly, sections of the Camaro peel back like a banana. It grinds, rises, and stacks before their eyes, dramatically revealing the body of another robot, named Bumblebee.

N4: Barricade transforms too. Barricade's chest opens up, and Frenzy springs out. The super-thin robot grabs Sam's and Mikaela's shirts and spins them around.

N1: Bumblebee leaps to protect the teens, swinging an arm. Barricade hits Bumblebee, who hurtles backward.

N2: Sam and Mikaela roll out of the way. Barricade flips Bumblebee onto his back, slamming him down.

N3: Frenzy goes after Sam, but Mikaela grabs a saw, swings it, and cuts off Frenzy's arm. Sam takes a metal bar and whacks Frenzy's head off!

N4: Barricade transforms back into a cop car and charges. Bumblebee knocks loose a wrecking ball attached to a pulley, and it crashes down, smashing the cop car underneath it. Barricade is stopped cold.

N1: Sam approaches Bumblebee, the victor.

MIKAELA: What are you doing, Sam?

SAM: I don't think he's going to hurt us.

N2: When no one is looking, Frenzy's head sprouts tiny centipede-like legs and skitters over to the Sidekick in Mikaela's purse. Frenzy plugs into it, transferring information, then kicks the real Sidekick away and reshapes himself into a duplicate.

SAM: I think they want something from me.

MIKAELA: Like what?

N3: Bumblebee transforms back into the Camaro.

SAM: I think it wants us to get in.

MIKAELA: And go where?

SAM: I don't know, but think about it: Fifty years from now when we're looking back on our lives, don't you want to be able to say we had the guts to get in the car?

MIKAELA: Wow. That's so profound.

N4: Mikaela snatches up her purse, unwittingly picking up Frenzy. She gets in the car with Sam. They peel out.

MIKAELA: Where are we going?

SAM: To meet his friends.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Will Sam and Mikaela realize that Frenzy is following them?

Watch the DVD, released October 16, to find out.

WRITE NOW Is it a good idea to build robots with special abilities? Write about it!

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No-Sweat Test Prep



Bumblebee says, "Transform your knowledge into correct answers!"

NOW THAT YOU'VE READ THE PLAY, IT'S TIME TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS!

- 1 Why does Sam try to sell his great-great-grandfather's artifacts? (*motive*)
 - (A) to get money for a car
 - (B) to launch a career in sales
 - (C) to have more space in his room
 - (D) to impress his dad
- 2 Which word DOES NOT describe Trent? (*character analysis*)
 - (A) rude
 - (B) sarcastic
 - (C) cheery
 - (D) condescending
- 3 What is Maggie Madsen's job? (*detail*)
 - (A) car repair
 - (B) code breaking
 - (C) robot building
 - (D) babysitting

- 4 Why does Sam think he might be going crazy? (*inference*)
 - (A) He saw a ghost.
 - (B) He got arrested.
 - (C) His car grew legs and chased him.
 - (D) He has a crush on Mikaela.

- 5 What kind of car does Barricade transform into? (*detail*)
 - (A) a Camaro
 - (B) a police car
 - (C) a tractor-trailer
 - (D) a Vespa

- 6 How do the alien robots find Sam? (*plot*)
 - (A) via Mikaela's Sidekick
 - (B) from Sam's eBay auction
 - (C) They see him in Mr. Hosney's class.
 - (D) They follow him from the lake.

- 7 What item are Barricade and Frenzy looking for? (*detail*)
 - (A) a high school
 - (B) a cell phone
 - (C) a new steering wheel
 - (D) the All-Spark
- 8 Why does Bumblebee play the song "Rescue Me"? (*inference*)
 - (A) to indicate that he needs to be rescued
 - (B) to show Sam and Mikaela that he is saving them from Barricade
 - (C) That's his favorite tune.
 - (D) to give Sam and Mikaela mood music

- 9 Which of the following would be the best alternate title? (*main idea*)
 - (A) *When Cars Go Wild: A Sad Story of Broken Transmissions*
 - (B) *Mikaela's Sidekick and the Struggle for Stolen Property*
 - (C) *Sam Witwicky and the Curse of the Camaro*
 - (D) *Alien Robots and the Fight for Planet Earth*

- 10 What is ironic about Tranquility, the name of Sam's hometown? (*understanding irony*)
 - (A) It's also the name of Sam's dog.
 - (B) It's the same name as the robots' home planet.
 - (C) It isn't ironic.
 - (D) The town is anything but tranquil when the alien robots arrive.

THE SCOPE 100

GET FAMILIAR WITH ACTOR SHIA LABEOUF AND THE VOCABULARY WORDS FROM THIS ISSUE



	COLUMN A	COLUMN B
Match the words in Column A to their meanings in Column B.	___ 1. profound	A. having intellectual depth and insight
	___ 2. precocious	B. eloquent
	___ 3. articulate	C. friendly, outgoing
	___ 4. gregarious	D. diminish or weaken
	___ 5. undermine	E. more talented than usual for one's age

Fill in the gray blanks with one of the SCOPE 100 words (above). Use each word once.

First things first: It's "SHY-a La-BUFF." Even if you can't pronounce his name, you probably know Shia LaBeouf from blockbusters like *Transformers*; *I, Robot*; and *Holes*. But the 21-year-old actor is just getting started. Because of Shia's charm and acting chops, legendary director Steven Spielberg cast him in the fourth installment of the wildly popular *Indiana Jones* movies starring Harrison Ford. And as if that isn't enough, the newest Hollywood heartthrob already landed on the cover of *Vanity Fair* magazine.

SHIA HITS THE BOOKS

Shia is well-spoken and _____, so it's no surprise that he loves to read. "By reading, you exercise your mind and you're alert. After a very stressful day, it's a peaceful, magical thing to do." One of his favorite books growing up was *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, a classic novel about an intelligent, misunderstood boy who likes to _____ authority.

Also a confident, _____ kid, Shia

performed comedy in coffee houses around Los Angeles, California, where he grew up. His funny and _____ nature got him noticed. He played Louis Stevens on TV's *Even Stevens* for four years and won a Daytime Emmy Award.

Shia may be a comedian, but he appreciates literature that is serious and _____. Shia once told *Scope* that Herman Hesse's *Siddhartha* "made me think the most out of all the books I've read in my life. I sat back for three days reflecting on what I'd just read. I like books that make you think."

Shia also hits the books to help with research for his different roles. To prepare for the movie *Bobby*, about former U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, Shia had to do his homework on the 1960s. And for *Indiana Jones IV*, another period movie, Shia has been reading about life in the 1950s.

According to Spielberg, Shia's star will shine brightly for years to come. He predicts Shia could be the next Tom Hanks.

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