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Instructor's Name

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Date

### Enlightening

Sitting in the middle of my brown wooden desk in my dorm room is a strange alien-like creature. However, this is no extraterrestrial; it is merely my writing lamp that stands strong with its serpent-like neck sticking up and out as its cone-shaped head gazes upon my current project. The dome-shaped base of the fixture looks as if it is permanently melded with the desk with one large foot that securely supports the robotic creature's large head.

Its perfectly round face is six inches in diameter. Hidden in the core of it lies its purpose, the light bulb. Though the bulb puts out a brilliant ray, it takes up only two inches. I would like to think of the bulb as the nose, except that it is sunken into a hollow area, reaching about an inch from the face. When turned to the profile view, the lamp's cone head extends eight inches, getting smaller by every inch. At the apex of its cone head is a knob about the size of a half-dollar coin that acts as the brain of the lamp. When the knob is turned, the bulb bursts to life with a pale yellow glow. However, the bulb is not the only thing that shines on the lamp. The entire outside of the head is sprayed with a silver paint that contains a metallic luster that glitters constantly.

Underneath the alien's chin, a neck sprouts out like a strange appendage that's out of proportion. Compared to the large size of the head, the silver neck's diameter is merely the size of a dime, and, when straightened, is thirteen inches long. Half of this neck is like a tightly wound metal spring that has fused together and provides the neck with mobility for when the

creature decides to look around. The other half, however, is a rigid piece of solid metal and provides the brace for the mobility of the top half. The spring-like half is tightly fitted into the rigid post end with the aid of two small screws that are carefully hidden by a layer in the silver metal.

Standing out significantly, the dome-shaped base of the lamp is a perfect circle, measuring eight inches in diameter. As if it were half of a planet, the base tapers up the lamp 4½ inches. Though still silver and shiny, this part of the lamp, unlike the rest of its body, is made of a soft plastic material. The plastic made it easier for the creators to carve out all the hollow storage spaces around the edge of the dome. Two of the spaces are simple squares that are two inches wide and with a depth of three inches, narrowly missing the edge by about one centimeter. To the left side of those are four round spots, two of which are used for holding small instruments such as pencils, and the other two are carved bigger to fit the size of markers or pens. There is one more mysterious spot that is round like pencil and marker holders yet much bigger in size. It is 1½ inches in diameter and 2½ inches deep. I have yet to find anything to fit in that spot, so for now, it remains empty.

The metal and plastic lamp sits upon my desk, peering down like a small curious space creature. Around its neck is a small white plastic twist tie, reminding me of a collar of ownership. Every night, due to the lighting conditions in the dorm, the lamp gets its chance to shine its sixty-watt bulb with full glory, illuminating the entire room, despite its small size.