Name: Chibuzor Vanessa Ogbonna

School: Trinitate Staff School, Day Secondary School

Class: JSS 2

**IF I COULD INVENT SOMETHING NEW**

Invention is the act of bringing ideas or objects together in a novel way to create something that did not exist before.

I suffered slightly from loneliness and depression while I was in primary school. This was caused by the lack of friends. I did not even have companions in school to share my feelings with. Added to this, I was being severely bullied in school. One day, I got back from school and my mum bought a jotter and gave it to me. I used the jotter as a diary and expressed my feelings in it. Then, it felt like I had found someone to talk to, but the person could not talk to me, he/she was just there to listen.

Not satisfied with the diary, I thought of having a mutual friend. So, while thinking of what and how to invent a mutual friend, I said to myself "Why don't you just invent a robot?" (a machine capable of carrying out a complex series of actions automatically, a good listener, a best friend and my advisor) because I know that a lot of children these days are lonely and depressed like I was in my primary school. And they usually feel like committing suicide (when people harm themselves to end their lives, and they die as a result).

So, If I could invent something, it has to be a robot and I hope my invention will bring people, especially children, out of depression and loneliness.

I know that most people would ask why you would not just say "no" to depression or "move away from the situation that causes depression" but I want to say it is not that easy. I have experienced this before in a classroom where I coughed and the whole class moved to the opposite end of where I was sitting. Why don't you just have a friend who is there to hug you when you need a hug, who is there to stand for you, who is there to lend a helping hand when you need help, who is there to listen when you want to talk? It is truly not easy to deal with depression.

Unfortunately, depression has some attendant consequences like shoplifting, taking drugs, drinking etc. In the mentality of the persons that resort to drugs and drinking, that is the best way to forget about your pains and sorrows. So, if I could invent something new, then definitely, it would be a mutual friend who is always there for you when you need him/her the most.

 I hope my idea of what I could invent does not only help me win this competition but also help those who are lonely and depressed.