IF I COULD INVENT SOMETHING NEW

My name is Oluwafolakayomi, a young boy that will be eleven in few days. I am the second child in a family of four. My brother, Emmanuel, is a boarder student. My brother being rarely around creates a feeling of loneliness as my parents are usually away at work or busy with some tasks and unable to devote all their time to me. Consequently, I have many chores to do in addition to the need for companionship. All these are overbearing for any child and sometimes make it feel like childhood is very challenging and uninteresting.

I believe that I am not the only child in the world who is saddled with this fate. Therefore, considering an opportunity to invent something new, I look ahead and think aloud that my current experience is nature's way of telling me this is a problem I can solve for many children. Among many things I feel I can do to make life better for many children, a thought of an invention, such as a robotic pet, equipped with artificial intelligence capacities and specially designed to be everything a child will want in both a pet and a companion, usually gives me a feeling of a great accomplishment. Imagine such feeling for something you do not even know how it can be done! But I feel the future should be made a place where technology and compassion converge to support the most vulnerable members of our society - children. My dream therefore is to create a robot which I will name after my deceased pet dog, Tessy. This robotic pet will be designed to assist children in overcoming various challenges, helping in all round growth, and nurturing their well-being.

My deceased dog Tessy was everything to me... a companion, a guard and much more. Tessy's design will have the primary objective of providing a safe, engaging, and personalized experience for children, addressing their physical, emotional, and cognitive development. Equipped with advanced artificial intelligence and other capabilities, Tessy will adapt to each child's unique needs and abilities.

Every child owner of such robot will be permitted to rename theirs, but the prototype will however retain the name Tessy. Features of Tessy will include the following essential features among many others:

Emotional intelligence to offer comfort and guidance through interactive storytelling and calming exercises; learning companion to assist with homework, provide educational content, suggest children-centred educational TV and web programs; physical assistance to aid children learning to walk and those with mobility disabilities or injuries; and finally equipped with apps and other health monitoring abilities to encourage physical wellbeing and provide nutrition guidance.

I believe Tessy's impact will empower children to build confidence and self-esteem, develop essential life skills, overcome learning and physical challenges.

By creating Tessy, I aim to inspire a new generation of innovators and caregivers to join forces in shaping a brighter, more compassionate future for all children.

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