...in which Astro and Luna travel ten flights of stairs and learn the entire history of androids on the way

My name is Marty. I'm an android of the twenty-fifth generation with autonomous thinking and capability to make conscious decisions."

Luna and Astro were standing in front of someone resembling a barrel, only the "barrel" had metal legs, arms (the android extended one hand as a sign of friendship), and large round illuminator-shaped eyes.

"My name is Luna," Luna shook the metal limb of her new friend warily.

"And I'm Astro," Astro shook Marty's limb as well.

"Nice to meet you, my friends!" Marty exclaimed. "Professor Novus Wizword asked me to help you with the investigation."

"Two days ago, a student of the Magic Speech house disappeared, and a gremlin was found in the building of the Academy. We later tried to catch the gremlin," Luna started telling with agitation.

"Yes, and Professor Novus has made us his new assistants and gave us an assignment to investigate those mysterious events," Astro chimed in with the most serious expression.

"How can you help us?" Luna asked. "What can you do?"

"Oh, my friends, my technical potential is extremely high. For example, I can examine the walls using echo and thermal scanning, conduct analysis of discovered samples, and establish their affiliation with some object. I'm also capable of modeling movement of an object and even its behavior when I have enough input data. Also, I can…"

"Fine, fine! We see that you can do a lot of things we don't understand," Luna interrupted with a smile. "Please help us find out where this pot came from. It appeared after we said the teleportation spell," and Astro opened his bag to bring out the clay pot Professor Novus examined the day before.

"Fine, I'll try to do my best. But I'll need some of the equipment which is currently in my laboratory."

"In the laboratory?" Luna and Astro repeated in one voice.

"Well, I mean in my room," Marty corrected himself. "My room is on the one-hundred-and-thirty-seventh branch of the Tree of Knowledge. The shortest way to get there is to use the central lift. However, currently the lift is being repaired, so we'll have to walk the central stairs. Don't worry though, I'll tell you a lot of useful facts along the way. So, the first robots appeared 5728 years before the first conscious android was designed. They were made of metal parts and semiconductor plates. As for their sizes, they were quite large and bulky and didn't look anything like me or my present-day siblings. They were primarily used by people and other creatures to produce other objects and mechanisms. Nevertheless…" and Marty went on telling his new friends the endless story of how the robot civilization emerged.

"Do you understand at least something of what he's talking about?" Astro asked Luna quietly.

"Well, a little bit," Luna said shyly.

"Yeah, neither do I," Astro sighed.

Astro and Luna spoke in a very low tone not to offend their new friend accidentally, but Marty heard their conversation anyway. He replied,

"It's impossible to understand everything I'm telling you until you have an appropriate knowledge."

"So what should we do?" Luna and Astro asked, feeling slightly embarrassed.

"Just listen and memorize! Someday in the future this knowledge will be useful for you!" Marty answered and went on with his story. "So, in 3276 a great inventor…"

The friends ascended about ten flights of stairs and, just as Marty was finishing his unhurried tale, reached the one-hundred-and-thirty-seventh branch of the Tree of Knowledge, where student living rooms were located. Luna, Astro and Marty were walking through a long hall with doors on both sides. Almost every door was decorated with a picture of the room's inhabitant: there was a grey rat Chris, a picture of a raccoon Rocky, and a ceremonial portrait made with oil-paints from which a pig Patrick was looking proudly. Finally, the friends reached the door of their destination: there was a metal plate with a full-length image of Marty engraved on it.