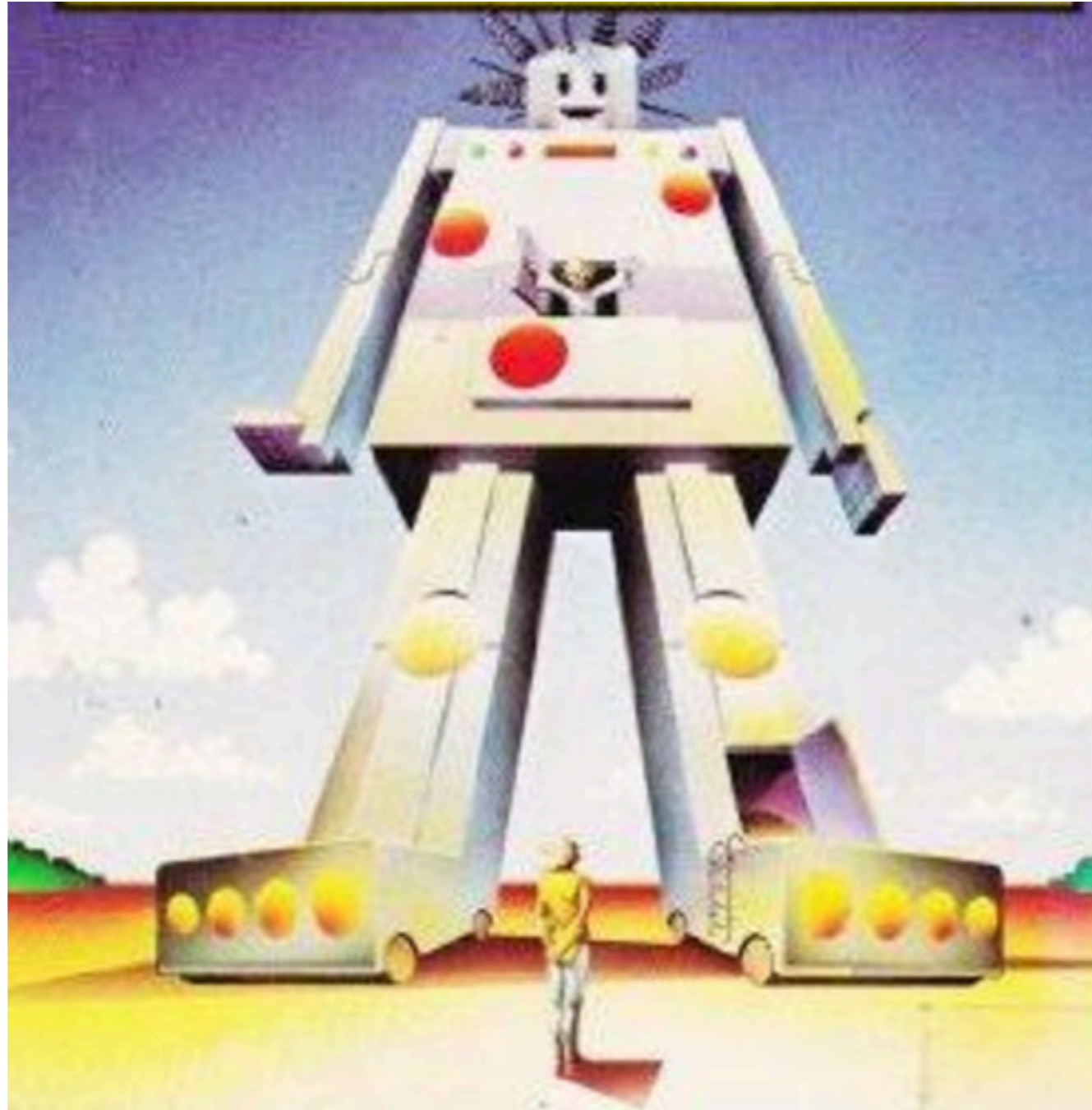


Language, Reason and Meaning

Small group discussion



1. What is Turing's argument in the passage?

2. In pairs within your group, using one of the links on today's agenda and a phone, strike up a conversation with one of the chatbots. The conversation should last long enough for you to get a feel for how the chatbot "talks." If you didn't know that the chatbot was a computer, would you be fooled into thinking it was a person?

3. With your whole group, discuss, brainstorm and explain 3 characteristics of language that make it easy for you to tell the bot's "use of language" from the way we use language. What is it about language that makes its use difficult for computers?

4. How would Descartes and Searle explain the bot's inability to fool you? Discuss using specific ideas from the documents.

5. Will it ever be possible for machines to use language as we do? What does your answer say about the nature of language?