

The Alliance of the Rings

Glendale Rolling Robots Team 7700Z

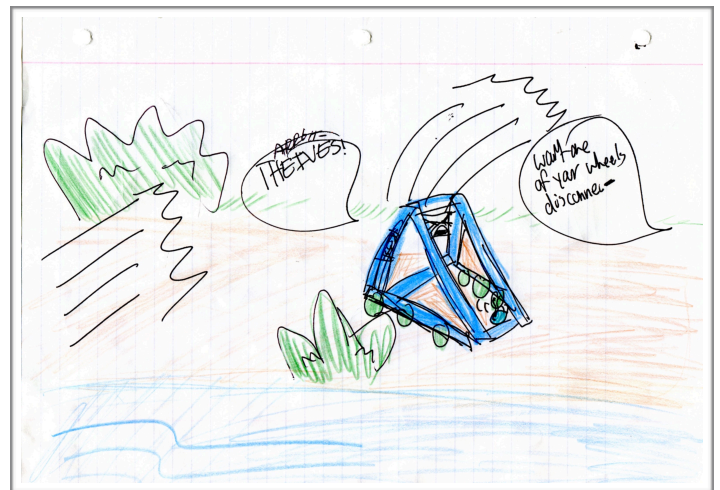
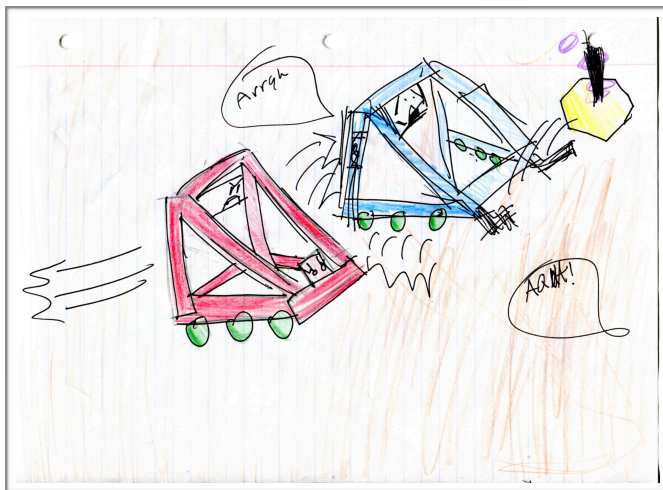
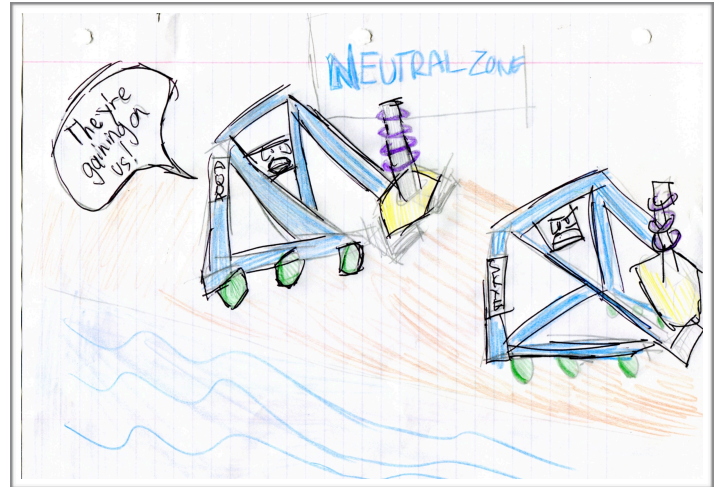
Story written by Zoe, storyboard drawn by Jun

Two Bluebots hurried through the Neutral Zone. Skye kept a firm grip on her Carrier, careful not to drop any Rings as she navigated the ravine. Rings produced energy that kept the two Zones running– it was essential not to lose them. “They’re gaining on us!” Aqua called out.

Two Redbots approached– the first one crashed into Aqua, causing Rings to fall off his Carrier. The second snatched them up and sped off.

“Thieves!” Aqua started after them, but veered left and nearly crashed.

“One of your wheels is disconnected!” said Skye.



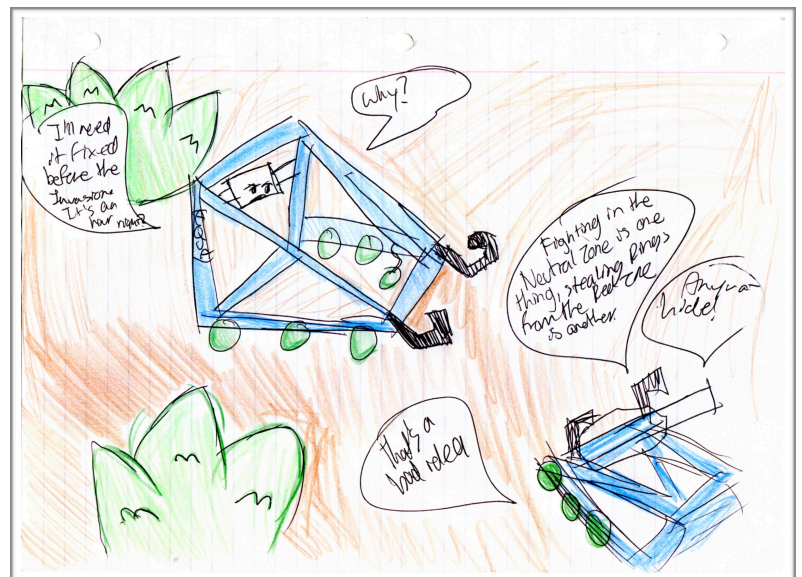
Aqua grunted in frustration, “I’ll need it fixed before the invasion. It’s in an hour, right?”

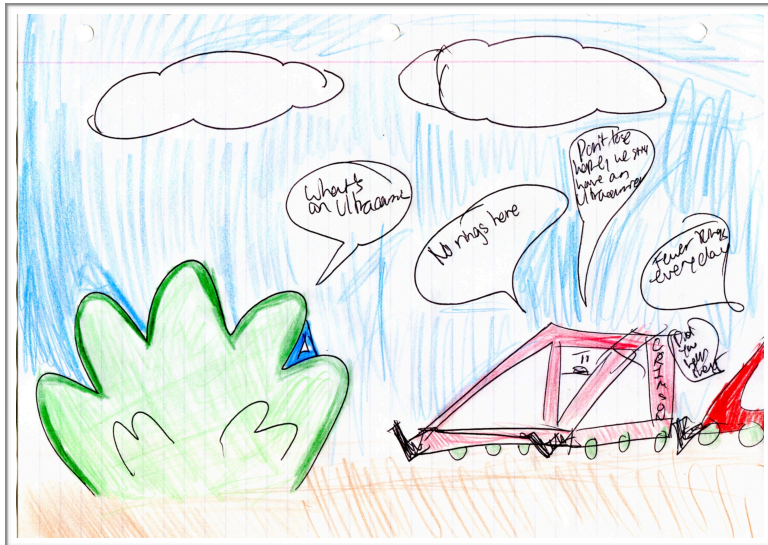
“Yeah, but it’s a bad idea.”

“Why?”

“Fighting in the Neutral Zone is one thing, stealing Rings from the Red Zone’s Platform is another.”

“But our Platform is almost out of Rings, the Redbots are hogging them all!”





Suddenly, more Redbots approached. The Bluebots quickly hid behind some bushes.

“No Rings here,” Crimson said.

Scarlett sighed, “Fewer Rings every day.”

“Don’t lose hope, we still have the UltraCarrier.”

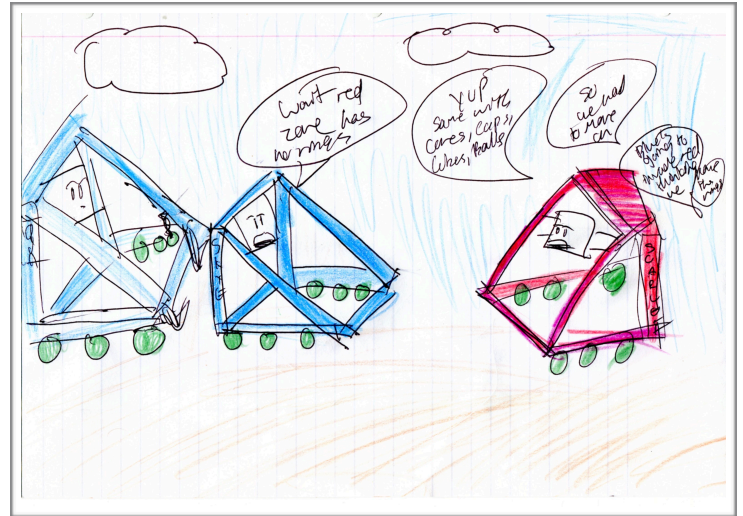
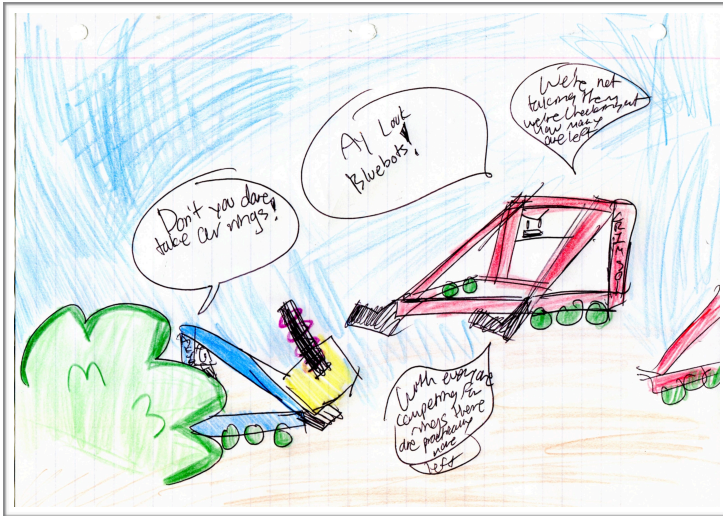
“What’s an UltraCarrier?” whispered Aqua.

Scarlett froze, “Did you hear that?”

“Look!” shouted Crimson. “Bluebots!”

“Don’t you dare take our Rings!” Aqua yelled.

“We’re not taking your Rings!” said Crimson. “We’re here to see how many are left. Haven’t you noticed? With everyone competing for every Ring they can find, the Rings are running out.”



“The Red Zone is running out of Rings too?” Skye asked.

“Yes, this has all happened before,” Scarlett explained. “The other power sources ran out, too. Cones, Caps, Cubes, Balls... When we ran out of one, we moved on to the next. We need a renewable energy source— one that we can share.”

“Until then,” Crimson explained, “We’ve built the UltraCarrier. It can carry more Rings, and use their energy more efficiently than the posts on the Platforms can.”

Skye suddenly remembered, “The invasion! The Blue Zone is going to invade the Red Zone in an hour. They think you’re hogging the Rings, they’re going to try and steal from your Platform!”

Scarlett gasped, “Everyone’s going to be using more energy fighting, burning Rings out faster. With the Zones so low on Rings, this invasion could cause a total shut down!”

“We need the UltraCarrier,” said Crimson. “If we can connect it to one of the Platforms, it’ll buy us time. But only for one Zone. Unless...”





“Unless?” Aqua questioned.

“Years ago, the two Zones were connected as one. Any energy source placed on one Platform would power both, but then we split up and started competing. If I reconnect the Platforms, the UltraCarrier could keep both Zones running. I'd need to get into a Platform's control center.”

“I'll help you!” announced Skye.

“Me too!” Aqua added.

“Great!” said Scarlett. “Here's some scissor lifts, use them to block the doorway if anyone tries to stop Crimson from reprogramming the Platforms.”

Skye attached the lifts, and Aqua fixed his wheel. Crimson also gave everyone communication devices called Links.

They headed to the Red Zone, where the Platform glowed in the distance. “Skye and I will head to the red control center,” Crimson instructed. “Scarlett and Aqua will go to our lab and get the UltraCarrier. We'll detach a post and replace it with the UltraCarrier.”

They parted ways, fearing that if they failed, the Zones could be doomed.

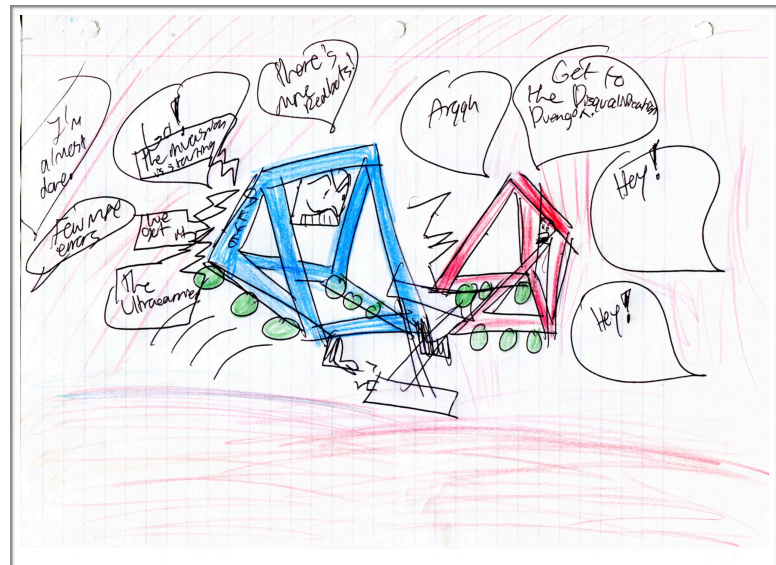
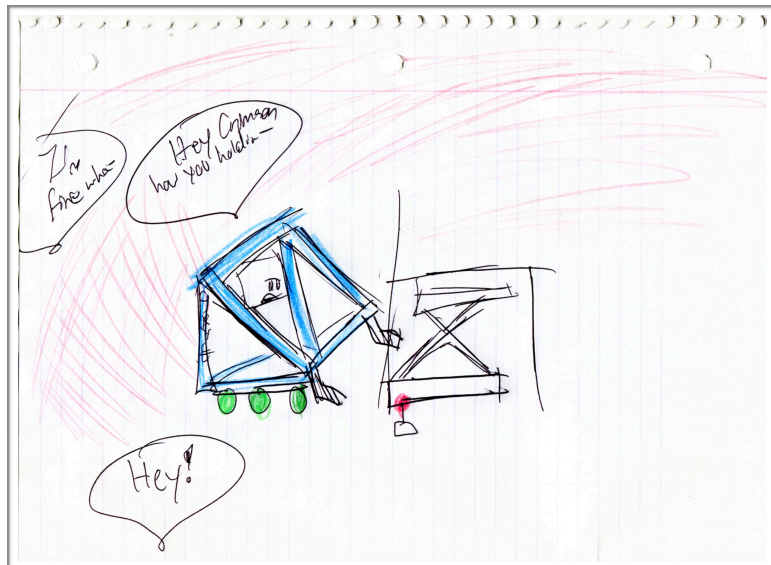
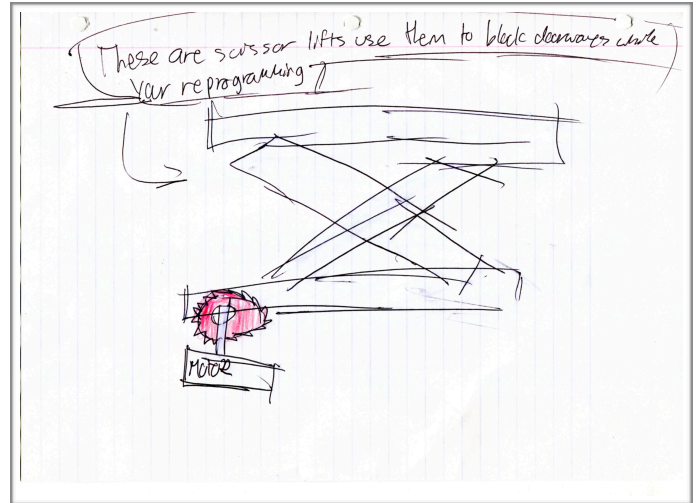
Upon entering the control center, Crimson went straight to the computers. Skye kept watch in the doorway, but was spotted by a Redbot, “What are you doing? Sabotaging the Platform controls?!”

“We're trying to help you!”

“I'm taking you both to the Disqualification Dungeon!”

The Redbot tried to push past Skye to pull Crimson away from the computer, but Skye blocked him. The commotion caught the attention of more Redbots, who joined the struggle to reach Crimson. Skye activated the scissor lifts and formed a barrier, “I don't know how long I can hold them!”

“Gotta fix these complication errors!” said Crimson, “Almost done! Wait— more errors...”



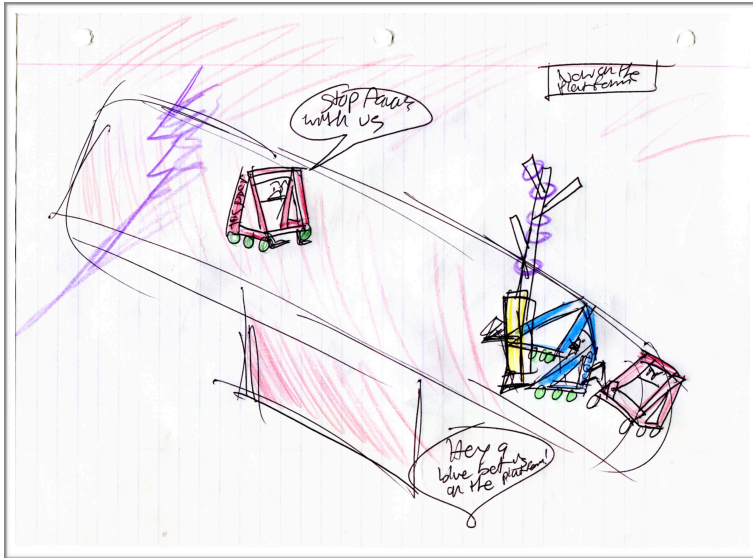
Just then, Aqua's voice came through the Link, "We've got the UltraCarrier, we're on our way!"

"Oh no..." Scarlett said in the background, "Do you hear that? The invasion is starting!"

They raced to the Platform, carefully avoiding losing rings. Bluebots flooded the streets below, chaos erupting as Redbots fought back. One of them spotted Aqua, "A Bluebot's on the Platform! Stop them!"

Redbots zipped onto the ramp and began pulling Aqua down. "Stop!" Scarlett yelled, "He's trying to help us!"

But they yanked Aqua down, toppling the UltraCarrier and spilling Rings down the ramp.



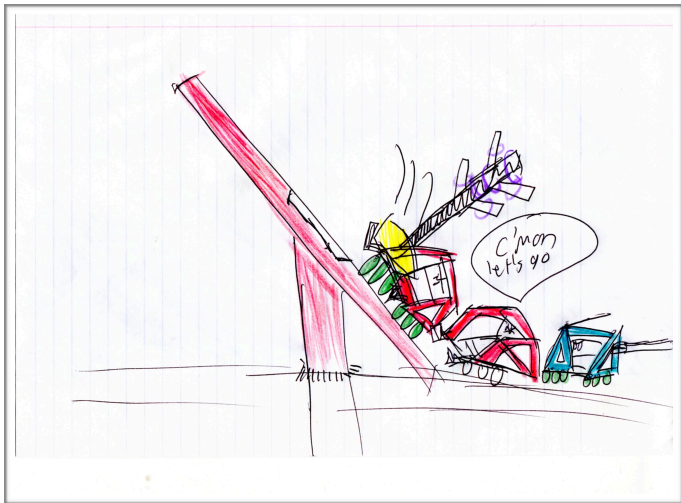
Skye's voice came through the Link, "Crimson has finished connecting the Platforms, but we only have a few minutes before the Zones shut down!"

Some of the Zone's lights began flickering off. Scarlett grabbed the UltraCarrier and got to the top of the Platform where Bluebots were stealing Rings. Scarlett quickly detached one of the posts, "Listen! Both Zones will shut down unless we get enough Rings on this UltraCarrier and attach it to the Platform!"

Just then, a group of fighting bots careened into the supports for one end of the ramp— it tilted wildly and robots started sliding down, spilling rings everywhere. Scarlett snatched them up and spotted the slot at the top where the UltraCarrier needed to be attached. They struggled up the Platform to reach it, but the incline was too steep. It seemed hopeless, until Crimson and their new blue friends arrived.

"Let's do this!" said Crimson, fighting gravity to push Scarlett up the Platform. Skye joined, then Aqua. Another Bluebot tossed their Carrier and joined them, along with a Redbot. The whole crowd came to help. Working together, they tilted the Platform back, and the Ultra





Carrier was attached. The Zone immediately lit up to cheers from the crowd.

"This will work for now," said Crimson. "But together we must meet the challenge of a sustainable energy source!"

"I bet something using water would work," suggested Skye.

The crowd cheered with approval.

