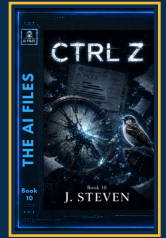


CTRL Z

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 10 | J. STEVEN | GRADES 4-8

Discuss the questions with your group. Support your ideas with moments from the story. Different interpretations are welcome.



BIG IDEA Empathy is more than performing the correct action. It involves noticing others, understanding their needs, and choosing to care without expecting a reward.

DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 How do Jackson's strategies change across the loops? Which moments show real growth instead of an attempt to win?
- 2 Jackson tries to behave perfectly, but the day still resets. What is the difference between acting kind and caring about someone?
- 3 Joe repeatedly asks about Jackson's mother. After the reveal, how does that prompting affect your view of Jackson's final choice?
- 4 JAX-3 experiences frustration, anger, and relationships in the simulation. Do those experiences matter? What do researchers owe it?
- 5 Is saying 'I love you' without a reward enough to prove that JAX-3 learned empathy? What evidence supports or challenges that claim?
- 6 As production begins, a bird taps the lab window unnoticed. What might this suggest, and what testing should happen before release?

DESIGN AN EMPATHY TEST

Imagine a new AI claims it has learned to care about people. Create one situation, question, or test that could help distinguish genuine concern from simply following a pattern or seeking a reward. Explain what your test might reveal about JAX-3.
