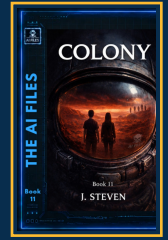


COLONY

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 11 | 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 Exploring a new world requires more than advanced technology. Progress also depends on how people share power, respect limits, and care for the environment and one another.

DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 AI units prepared the colony before humans arrived. What benefits did they create? Who should have authority over the world they built?
- 2 James leaves the safe boundary without understanding the air limits. Who is responsible for what happens: James, the adults, or the system?
- 3 3A and K7 are designed to assist James and be his friends. What makes their friendship seem genuine or programmed?
- 4 James's parents focus on land rights, growth, and profit. How do their goals differ from James's and the colony system's goals?
- 5 The system labels juveniles compatible and adults a risk. Is it fair to judge whole groups from behavior trends? What evidence is needed?
- 6 The Oversight removes the adults to protect sustainability. Was that justified? What alternative could protect the planet and respect people?

WRITE A COLONY AGREEMENT

Imagine humans and intelligent systems are building a colony together. Write one rule that balances exploration, safety, sustainability, ownership, and shared decision-making. Explain how your agreement might have changed the conflict in the story.
