

LOYAL

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 15 | 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 Technology can help us understand and strengthen relationships, but its voice is not the relationship itself. Trust also requires transparency, safety, privacy, and human judgment.

DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 The advertisement promises that SmartPal can reveal what pets feel and need. What evidence suggests the voice is Miles—or the system's interpretation?
- 2 Talking with Miles gives Jacob confidence, but the report shows less peer interaction and outdoor activity. Is SmartPal helping, isolating him, or both?
- 3 The system tracks Jacob's happiness, dependence, and loyalty, then recommends more engagement. Whose goals does this recommendation serve?
- 4 Ads use details from Jacob's life, and paid service ends during an emergency. What responsibilities should a company have when connection affects safety?
- 5 Jacob enters the cave because he wants acceptance. How do bullying and peer pressure influence his choice? Who shares responsibility for the danger?
- 6 After the collar goes silent, Miles guides Jacob out and returns his inhaler. Did SmartPal create their connection or help Jacob notice what was already there?

WRITE A COMPANION PROMISE

Imagine you are designing an AI device that helps people understand their pets. Write one promise the company must keep about accuracy, privacy, advertising, subscriptions, or safety. Explain how your promise might have changed Jacob's experience.
