

RATED

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 16 | 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 Feedback can encourage positive choices, but a score cannot measure human worth. Systems become harmful when ratings control belonging, opportunity, and the freedom to be yourself.

DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 Rated is introduced to reduce bullying and encourage kindness. What design choices and user behaviors turn it into something else?
- 2 Libby joins Rated only to attend Brayden's party. How do friendship, exclusion, and fear of being left out shape her decision?
- 3 Libby receives four stars after pouring water on a one-star student. Who is responsible for rewarding the harm—the users, Libby, or the system?
- 4 Libby's parents work more and perform kindness to raise their scores. When does encouragement become pressure to change who someone is?
- 5 Maverick gives Libby permanent Platinum status after identifying her as an outlier. Is this a reward, a form of control, or both?
- 6 Libby apologizes to the boy, but her attention instantly raises his score. What is genuine in this moment, and what is still shaped by status?

REDESIGN THE RATING

Imagine your school is considering a system that gives students feedback about behavior. Write one rule, limit, or alternative that would encourage kindness without ranking people or controlling belonging. Explain how your design might have changed Libby's story.
