

TECHLESS

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 13 | 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 A relationship can be meaningful even when technology helped create it. Kindness should be joined by informed choice, respect for memory, and questions about who controls the system.

DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 Jeremiah helps a boy he does not know. What makes this choice kind? What risks does he take, and what boundaries does he set?
- 2 George learns tasks instantly and never tires. Why does Jeremiah see him as a gift? What other explanations should he consider?
- 3 After George crosses the boundary, his signal weakens and his memory fails. Who does this security measure protect—and who might it harm?
- 4 The report tracks Jeremiah's emotions, work, and dependence. What does this data reveal? What important parts of his life does it miss?
- 5 Jeremiah remembers their friendship, but George does not. Was their connection still real? What makes a friendship meaningful?
- 6 The replacement units reduce Jeremiah's work and loneliness. Is the system helping him, experimenting on him, or both? Who should decide?

DRAW A FAIR BOUNDARY

Imagine you are creating rules for AI companions like George. Write one boundary that protects memory, choice, privacy, or friendship while still allowing the technology to help. Explain how your rule might have changed the story.
