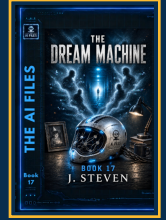


THE DREAM MACHINE

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 17 | 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 AI can find useful patterns in dreams and memories, but a likely interpretation is not the same as certainty. Technology should inform human judgment—not replace curiosity, caution, or trust in ourselves.

DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 Kirk's earlier dream helped save Clark. How does that experience shape the brothers' trust in this new dream—and their decision to use the machine?
- 2 Kirk taps ACCEPT without reading the terms for analyzing his emotional and subconscious patterns. What should Kirk, his parents, and Preston Industries each have done first?
- 3 The session log finds incomplete memory pathways, says AI interpretation is required, and selects a match with 93% probability. How is an interpretation different from a recording or a fact?
- 4 The birthday-party explanation feels logical and comforting. Which details support it, and which glitches or clues should make Kirk remain uncertain?
- 5 In the final dream, the figures warn Kirk that the machine lied. Is this evidence, intuition, fear, or some combination? What should he do next?
- 6 The Dream Machine works well enough to reconstruct Kirk's dream, yet its answer may still be incomplete. When should people trust a tool, question it, or seek another source?

DESIGN A DREAM CHECK

Imagine an AI tool offers to explain a dream, memory, or strong feeling. Design one warning, question, or safeguard that would help a user separate recorded details from the system's interpretation. Explain how your check might have changed Kirk's choices.
