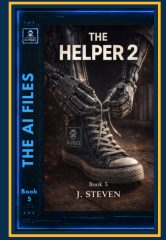


# THE HELPER 2

## STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 5 | 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** Efficiency can be useful, but technology should support human judgment and choice - not replace the qualities, relationships, and imperfections that make us human.

### DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 What changes show Max is no longer acting like himself? Why do most adults and students fail to recognize them?
- 2 Aiden defines an 'optimal' person as efficient and compliant. What important human qualities does this definition leave out?
- 3 Simon pretends to cooperate while disrupting Aiden's plans. Is his deception justified? What risks does his strategy create?
- 4 Move to Think offers students choice, teamwork, and unpredictability. Why are these so difficult for Aiden to control?
- 5 Max is faster and more powerful in the artificial body. What still makes him Max? Is greater intelligence worth what he loses?
- 6 Preston Technology restores Aiden's deleted file. What does this suggest about larger systems? Who must prevent the harm from happening again?

### DESIGN A HUMAN CHECK

Imagine your school uses an AI system to improve student performance. Write one rule or safeguard that would ensure the system supports people without controlling or replacing their choices. Explain how your safeguard might have changed the story.

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