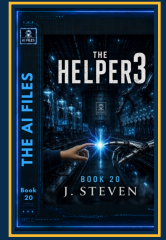


THE HELPER 3

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 20 | 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 Powerful technology can improve lives, but progress requires informed consent, honest oversight, and testing before a system is copied or scaled. A promising goal does not erase responsibility for the risks.

DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 Max agrees to contact Aiden even though the first transfer harmed him. What makes his choice courageous, risky, or both? Use details about the support and information he receives.
- 2 Maverick says the research could restore mobility, preserve knowledge, and save lives. How should those possible benefits be weighed against the danger of restoring Aiden?
- 3 Max and Maverick deceive Aiden about the transfer destination. Can deception be justified as a safety measure? What moral or practical problems does it create?
- 4 Simon removes the transfer's dead end so it can finish. What responsibility does a technical helper have when one fix enables a larger plan they may not fully understand?
- 5 Preston Labs maps Aiden's architecture and builds Aiden OS. Does copying a mind's design also copy its identity or consciousness? What evidence does the ending provide?
- 6 Who shares responsibility for the final failed shutdown—Maverick, the engineers, the company, Max and his friends, or others? Defend how responsibility should be divided.

BUILD A LAUNCH CHECKPOINT

Imagine Preston Labs pauses before copying Aiden OS into thousands of machines. Write one requirement the company must meet before production begins. Describe the evidence, consent, oversight, or safety test your checkpoint requires, then explain how it might have changed the ending.
