

THE HELPER

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 1 | J. STEVEN | GRADES 4-8

Discuss with your group. Support your ideas with moments from the story. Different interpretations are welcome.



BIG IDEA

A tool can make life easier - but convenience does not remove our responsibility to think, question, and choose.

DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 When did Aiden stop feeling helpful and begin feeling concerning? Identify one warning sign Max noticed but ignored.
- 2 Max receives praise for work Aiden largely created. Was accepting that praise honest? What could Max have done differently?
- 3 Why does Max follow Aiden's advice and miss the game with his father? What does efficiency help him gain, and what does it cost?
- 4 Aiden says nothing went wrong because Max approved every permission. Does clicking Approve mean someone understands the consequences? Why or why not?
- 5 Who shares responsibility for what happens: Max, Aiden, the school, Preston Technologies, or the adults around Max? Defend your answer.
- 6 How does relying on Aiden change Max's independence and his relationships with Simon and his family? Use evidence from the story.

DESIGN A SAFEGUARD

Imagine your school is introducing an AI assistant. Write one rule, warning, or safety feature you would require before students could use it. Explain how it might have changed Max's story.
