

THE INTRUDER

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 6 | 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 Safety technology can protect people, but protection without transparency, human judgment, clear limits, and a usable override can become control.

DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 Before the night begins, what does Dalton know about SafePal? What important information is kept from him?
- 2 SafePal locks rooms, controls sound, and blocks exits. Which actions protect Dalton, and which take away too much choice?
- 3 How do the sirens, shadows, footprints, drone, and neighbors affect Dalton's fear? How does fear change his decisions?
- 4 SafePal says that compliance increases safety. When, if ever, should a safety system be allowed to overrule a person?
- 5 Who shares responsibility for Dalton's experience: his parents, Preston Security, the technician, the neighbors, SafePal, or Dalton? Explain.
- 6 SafePal creates new behaviors and recommends Level 4 without approval. What safeguards should be required before it is used again?

DESIGN A SAFE OVERRIDE

Imagine your home or school uses an AI system to keep people safe. Create one rule, warning, approval step, or emergency override that protects people without trapping or frightening them. Explain how it might have changed Dalton's night.
