

THE MACHINE AGE

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 7 | 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 A designed experience can create real wonder and emotion. Understanding it also requires testing evidence, knowing who controls it, and having a choice about taking part.

DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 What clues lead George to question his world? Which clue is the strongest evidence, and why?
- 2 George believes the hidden machines confirm his idea about time travel. What supports his conclusion? What other explanation does he miss?
- 3 Ruth helps George investigate, but she knows more than she tells him. Was her choice fair? What could she have done differently?
- 4 George's wonder, friendship, and happiness feel real. Does learning that the town is designed make those feelings less meaningful? Explain.
- 5 The park plans to realign George and have him begin again. What choices should George have about his memories, his world, and his future?
- 6 Who shares responsibility for George's experience: Ruth, her father, Preston Industries, the park, or its visitors? What should change before reopening?

DESIGN A REALITY CHECK

Imagine an experience is so realistic that a person cannot tell it was designed. Create one test, notice, disclosure, or safeguard that would help the person understand the experience and choose whether to continue. Explain how your reality check might have changed George's story.
