

TRUTH SIGNAL

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 19 | 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 Technology can help uncover facts, but confidence in a system is not the same as truth. Fair decisions still require evidence, questions, human judgment, and a way to challenge errors.

DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 Truth Signal is right more than ninety-nine percent of the time. Why might that success make people less willing to investigate the rare result that is wrong?
- 2 Mr. Tims, Harvey's parents, Tristen, and the police trust the device over Harvey. At what moment should someone have stopped and asked for different evidence? Why?
- 3 How do the false projections change Harvey's behavior, relationships, and opportunities even when he continues telling the truth? Which effect is most serious?
- 4 Truth Signal helps police find people and reconstruct events. How can a useful tool still be dangerous? What safeguards could preserve its benefits while limiting harm?
- 5 The log says confidence was below the threshold, yet the system produced an alternate reconstruction. What is the difference between truth and a confident answer?
- 6 Why might someone leave Harvey the suitcase? Does the gift repair any of the harm done to him, create a new test of his integrity, or serve another purpose? Defend your interpretation.

DESIGN AN APPEAL PROCESS

Imagine your school uses a system like Truth Signal. Design a fair process for someone who says its result is wrong. Identify two kinds of evidence people should review, name who should make the final decision, and explain how your process would have changed Harvey's story.
