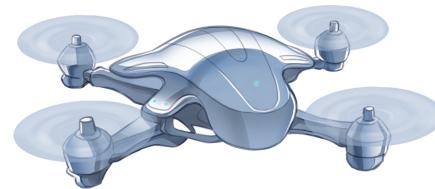# Character Study: Gimbal

The mysterious drone with a human-like mind—and a secret mission.

🔍 Overview

Gimbal is no ordinary drone. It first appears when saving Kendall from an out-of-control drone and it becomes apparent this quadcopter is different. Gimbal reveals to Jaswinder Singh that it's an Artificially Intelligent being on a mission to ensure the "Legends" become who they're supposed to be. Gimbal speaks—not with one voice, but with three distinct personalities:

- **The Alpha:** gruff, direct, and all business.
- **The Brit:** soft-spoken, thoughtful, and patient.
- **The Female:** logical, contextual, and observant.

Throughout the story, Gimbal is conflicted, trying to balance protecting the Legends with allowing them to have the formative experiences necessary to develop into the characters history expects. This conflict is revealed through conversations; often debates between the personas. At the climax, Gimbal apparently sacrifices themselves to save the Legends. The epilogue is Gimbal's backstory, revealing the source of its personas.

💬 Reflection & Analysis

1. When Gimbal is first introduced, how is it different from quadcopter drones you're familiar with?
    A) What clues do you notice about its unusual intelligence?
    B) What details make you realize Gimbal is more than just technology?
2. Gimbal speaks with three voices.
    A) Why do you think the author gave Gimbal multiple personas instead of just one?
    B) How does this choice help you, as the reader, understand its complexity?
3. The Drone Legends slowly learn to trust Gimbal.
    A) How would you feel about trusting an AI with mysterious motives?
    B) What would make you cautious? What would convince you to trust it?
4. Gimbal's primary role is to protect The Drone Legends.
    A) How does it balance helping them with letting them learn, grow, and face dangers on their own?
    B) Have you ever had someone help you in a way that made you stronger instead of just solving the problem for you?

⚖️ STEM + Ethics Discussion

5. Gimbal shows loyalty, wisdom, and sacrifice throughout the story.
   A) What does this say about the potential of AI?
   B) Do you think machines or AI can have human emotions, such as apprehension, courage and love? Why or why not?
   C) Discuss your concerns and hopes for a human world integrated with intelligent machines.

6. In the epilogue, we learn the true origin of Gimbal. Consider its human connection and how that changes your expectations of it's behavior.

A. Does this knowledge humanize Gimbal?

B. We understand that people might have clouded judgement and might make mistakes. Does this apply to AI-based entities?

C. Do you hold Gimbal to the same standards knowing it's human connection?

7. Discuss: What would you want AI to be like if you could design it?
   A) Should AI only follow commands?
   B) Should it have it's own judgement?
   C) What are our responsibilities to AI entities?

8. In real life, AI is becoming more common (self-driving cars, smart assistants, etc.)
   A) Write a pros and cons list of effects you think AI will have on society.
   B) Do you think AI should be able to make decisions that affect human lives?

✏️ Creative Writing Exercise

The author allows Gimbal to "think aloud," giving the reader a peek into it's internal debate. We often do this in our own decision making process. Think of an internal conflict you've had recently, or can imagine having. Write an your own inner dialogue in the three voices of Gimbal as you seek the answer to your conflict.

💭 Reflection Exercise

Gimbal allows the Legends to face difficulties, even dangers, so that they have formative experiences.
   A) Have you ever faced a challenge that, while difficult, helped you grow?
   B) Did someone (a teacher, coach, friend, or mentor) let you struggle a little, knowing you would come out stronger?
   C) How does this help you understand Gimbal's actions?