

FOR THE INSTRUCTOR

This packet is a supplement, built to drop into a class you already run, not a curriculum to rebuild around. Everything in it is designed to work with minimal prep, and several parts are built to be run cold, by a teacher who has not read the novella.

WHAT IS IN THE PACKET

- **The Reading Companion.** Four sections: The Author, The Moment, The Real Subject, and The Science. It goes home with the student and is read alongside the book. The Science section carries an accuracy audit (“The Lawbreaker”) and a look at what the book went on to influence (“The Long Fuse”). They run from about 1,000 words to about 3,600, The Science being the longest. The novella is from 2017 and some of that research is still moving, so where a claim rests on a figure that could change, the packet says so.
- **The Assessment Quiz, in three variants, A, B, and C.** Given after the reading. See below.
- **The Answer Guide, teacher-only.** Multiple choice keys for all three variants, plus model responses and grading notes for the short answers.
- **The Class Discussion Guide, an optional 45-minute session you can run cold.** Every question carries facilitation notes, likely student responses, and a text anchor pointing to a scene.
- **Sources and Additional Resources.** The research the packet is built on, in MLA style, most of it free.

WHY THIS TITLE IS EASY TO ASSIGN

A novella, about 144 pages, that most students will finish in an afternoon. It won the Hugo, the Nebula, the Locus, and the American Library Association’s Alex Award. If you have students who do not finish long assignments, this is the shortest serious entry in the Core Library.

TWO THINGS TO KNOW FIRST

The narrator is called “it.” Murderbot uses that pronoun for itself throughout. This is not the book denying its narrator personhood; it is the narrator declining a human category it does not think applies. Expect at least one student to be bothered by it. That reaction is the door into the book’s central question, not an interruption of it.

Content. Corporate violence, characters killed on and off page, occasional mild profanity. Nothing gratuitous and nothing sexual.

THE QUIZ, IN BRIEF

Three variants exist to stop answer-sharing. Across them **the multiple choice changes; the two short answer questions stay the same.** Multiple choice is quick to grade and easy to copy, so it carries the anti-cheating load, while the shared short answers let you grade the whole class against a single rubric. Each variant has ten multiple choice questions, and no question appears in more than one variant. Each student’s variant is marked A, B, or C beside the page number in the lower left. Grade against the matching key in the Answer Guide, and keep that guide to yourself: students are never told the variants exist.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Nothing here needs slides, and nothing assumes you are a specialist in the book’s science. The claims are sourced and defensible, so if a sharp student pushes back, the references are in Sources and Additional Resources and they check out. Read the novella if you can, but the packet is built so that you can teach it well even if you have not.