

"The time machine was very exciting.
The story surprised me and
made me happy." Reena, 12



THE TIME MACHINE

H. G. WELLS

'On this machine, I intend to explore time ...'

The time traveller has invented a time machine. Its capabilities are beyond even his fertile imagination.

Hundreds of thousands of years in the future, the beautiful Eloi people live in a Garden of Eden. But why are the Eloi so fearful of the dark? What horrors lurk beneath the surface of their world?

What will the time traveller learn about the future? Will he survive the evil he encounters?

Even if he can find his stolen machine, will it return him safely home?

What does his future hold?
What is the future of the human race?



ISBN 978-1-906230-13-5



Lexile® Level	AR Level	Word Count
850L	5.6	5,152

www.realreads.co.uk



THE TIME MACHINE H. G. Wells



Retold by Eric Brown
Illustrated by Felix Bennett



THE TIME MACHINE

H. G. WELLS



www.realreads.co.uk

Retold by Eric Brown
Illustrated by Felix Bennett

Published by Real Reads Ltd
Newbury, Berkshire, UK
www.realreads.co.uk

Text copyright © Eric Brown 2008

Illustrations copyright © Felix Bennett 2008

The right of Eric Brown to be identified as author of
this book has been asserted by him in accordance with the
Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988

First published in 2008

Reprinted 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
2017, 2020

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any
form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including
photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval
system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

LEXILE® and the LEXILE® logo are trademarks of MetaMetrics,
Inc., and are registered in the United States and abroad. Copyright
© 2021 MetaMetrics, Inc. All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-1-906230-13-5

Accelerated Reader

Level 5.6

Word count: 5,152

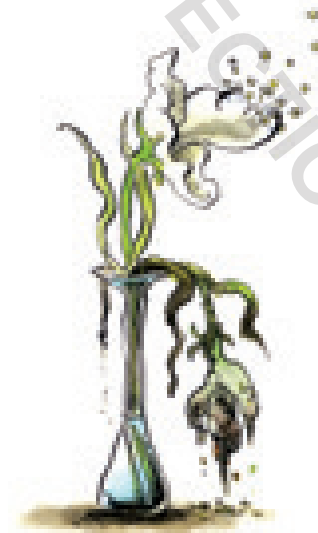


Lexile® level: 850L

Printed in Turkey by Imago Ltd.
Designed by Lucy Guenot
Typeset by Bookcraft Ltd, Stroud, Gloucestershire

CONTENTS

The Characters	4
The Time Machine	7
Taking things further	55



THE CHARACTERS



The time traveller

The time traveller has built a time machine. Can he really travel into the future to learn what becomes of humankind?

Filby

An old friend of the time traveller, but will he believe the incredible story of strange worlds?



The psychologist

The psychologist enjoys his talks with his time traveller friend. Has the inventor gone completely mad this time?



The medical man

He thinks the time traveller's tale is poppycock, but what does he make of the white flowers brought back from the far future?



The very young man

The young man really wants to believe in time travel, yet this story of danger and death in the future seems just too far-fetched.

Weena

Weena falls in love with the strange man from the past. How can she warn him of the dangers he faces?



The Morlocks

The Morlocks live brutish lives far underground. What is it that they eat when they come out at night?





THE TIME MACHINE

The time traveller was explaining a very complicated matter to his friends. They sat before the blazing fire, drinking wine and listening to his words.

‘You must follow me carefully,’ said the time traveller. ‘I shall have to explain one or two ideas that everyone takes for granted.’

‘That’s rather a grand claim to start with!’ said Filby, an argumentative man with red hair.

‘I do not mean to ask you to accept anything without reasonable ground for it,’ the time traveller said.

‘Then continue,’ said the psychologist.

‘Clearly,’ said the time traveller, ‘any object exists in four dimensions. It must have length, breadth, thickness – and duration.’

‘Yes, I understand,’ said the very young man.

‘The fourth dimension of duration,’ continued the time traveller, ‘is just another way of looking at time. Now, some philosophical people have been asking why we cannot move in time as we move in the other three dimensions.’

‘But,’ said the medical man, ‘you cannot move at all in time! You cannot get away from the present moment.’

The time traveller smiled. ‘My dear sir, that is just where you are wrong. This is the germ of my great discovery – that it is indeed possible to move along the time dimension.’

‘Surely that is against reason,’ said Filby.

The time traveller smiled. ‘Long ago,’ he said, ‘I had the vague inkling of a machine which could ...’

‘... travel through time?!’ exclaimed the very young man.

‘Yes, and I have experimental verification.’ Filby laughed.

‘It would be useful for the historian,’ the psychologist said. ‘He might travel back in time to the Battle of Hastings!’

‘One might visit ancient Greece,’ said the very young man, ‘and then there is always the future!’

The editor leaned forward. ‘You said you had experimental verification,’ he challenged the time traveller. ‘Then let’s see it. Though it’s all humbug, of course.’

The time traveller smiled at his friends, then stood and left the room.

‘I wonder what he’s got?’ the psychologist said.

‘Some magic trick or other,’ said the medical man.

The time traveller returned.

He was carrying a glittering metallic framework, a little larger than a small clock. He placed the mechanism upon a table, then drew up a chair and sat down.

speculates what might have happened to the time traveller – to which period of history, past or future, might he have gone this time?

Back in time

H. G. Wells lived at a time of great change. Victorian Britain had a mighty empire and ruled much of the world. Many people had great wealth and prestige – but many more lived lives of poverty. H. G. Wells was a socialist who believed in equality for all people. He recognised the dangers of a divided society, and his novels and short stories are a warning of these dangers.

The Time Machine was written almost forty years after Charles Darwin published *The Origin of Species*, which introduced the important idea of natural selection. Wells played with this idea, using it to imagine that humankind might in the future develop into two distinct races.

Though earlier writers had written fantasies about magically visiting another age, *The Time*

Machine was the first novel to speculate about travelling in time using the power of science. Wells' story of time travel started a popular tradition in science fiction, and hundreds of novels and short stories followed, speculating about life in every age of the planet's history. Some consider the complex problems that might arise if you could travel back or forward in time: these problems are called paradoxes. For example, what would happen if you went back in time and met your parents before you were even born, or were able to tell stone age people about modern scientific discoveries? Would this change the future you came from?

H. G. Wells had a scientific education, and he liked to make his stories realistic. He was one of the first writers to speculate on the theory of time, and this theory is detailed in the first part of *The Time Machine*. He was also the first writer to dream about the far future, the end of life on Earth millions of years from now, and the future of the sun. At the time, many people thought that the sun would burn out in a few million years,