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Website: www.akshiraa.com

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# **Unit - II British Literature - I**

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#### 18. H. G. Wells

#### Life:

- Herbert George Wells was born on 21 September 1866 in Kent, England.
- His parents were Joseph Wells and Sarah Neal.
- The family lived in poverty for many years as their hardware store provided a limited income due to poor location and inferior merchandise.
- He was apprenticed to a draper in early life.
- He received a scholarship to the Normal School of Science, where he studied biology.
- He received a degree in science from the University of London in 1890.
- After graduating, he became a science teacher.
- Due the ill-health, he quitted the job and he began to read and write for journals.
- He became a reader of everything from **Charles Dickens to Washington Irving.**
- He contributed to the periodicals such as 'The Fortnightly Review, Pall Mall Gazette, and Saturday Review.'
- He married his cousin Isabel Mary Wells in 1891.
- When the marriage would last only four years, he married Amy Catherine Robbins with whom he had two sons.
- He died on 13 August 1946 in London, England.

#### Career:

- H.G. Wells was an English novelist, journalist, sociologist, and historian.
- He is best remembered for his science fiction novels.
- He has been called the "Father of Science Fiction" along with Jules Verne.
- He wrote a number of **utopian works**.
- He forecasted the advent of aircraft, space travel, nuclear weapons, satellite television.
- He produced other numerous literary genres including history, social commentary, politics and text books.
- He was **nominated for the Nobel Prize** in Literature four times.
- His earliest specialised training was in biology, and his thinking on ethical matters took place in a Darwinian context.
- His studies under the great zoologist **T. H. Huxley** inspired his science fiction writing.

- He joined the **Fabian Society**, an intellectual, socialist movement that embraced reason and gradualism.
- He considered that a novel should serve as a platform of ideas and the discussion of contemporary social and political interest.
- He presented a vivid picture of the contemporary social scene among the lower middle classes in his novels.

#### Works:

- His first book, the 'Textbook of Biology,' was published in 1893.
- His first fiction novel, 'The Time Machine,' brought him instant fame, inspiring him to embark on a serious career as a writer.

#### Novels:

# The Time Machine

- It is science fiction novella published in 1895.
- It is generally credited with the popularization of the concept of time travel by using a vehicle or device.
- The term 'Time Machine' which was coined by Wells is now almost universally used to refer to such a vehicle or device.

# The Invisible Man

- It is a science fiction novel serialised in Pearson's Weekly in 1897.
- The Invisible Man to whom the title refers is Griffin, a scientist who has devoted himself to research into optics.

# The War of the Worlds

- It is a science fiction serialised in 1897 by Pearson's Magazine.
- It details a conflict between mankind and an extra-terrestrial race.

# \* The Island of Doctor Moreau

- It is a science fiction published in 1896.
- Edward Prendick is a shipwrecked man rescued by a passing boat.
- He is left on the island home of Doctor Moreau, a mad scientist who creates human-like hybrid beings from animals.

#### The First Men in the Moon

- It is a scientific romance serialised in 'The Strand Magazine'.
- It narrates the story of a journey to the Moon undertaken by the two protagonists: a businessman narrator, Mr. Bedford; and an eccentric scientist, Mr. Cavor.

# **When the Sleeper Wakes**

- It is a dystopian science fiction about a man who sleeps for two hundred and three years, waking up in a completely transformed London.
- He has become the richest man in the world.

# Love and Mr Lewisham

- Malai.Net
- It is subtitled as 'The Story of a Very Young Couple'.
- Events in the novel closely resemble events in Wells's own life.
- It narrates the story of a struggling teacher.

# **Kipps**

- It is subtitled as 'The Story of a Simple Soul'.
- It is a social novel published in 1905.

#### The War in the Air

- Its full title is 'The War in the Air: And Particularly How Mr. Bert Smallways Fared While It Lasted'.
- It is a military science fiction published in 1908.
- It is notable for its prophetic ideas, images, and concepts—particularly the use of aircraft for the purpose of warfare.

# Tono-Bungay

- It is a semiautobiographical novel published in 1909.
- It is narrated by George Ponderevo, who is persuaded to develop the business of selling Tono-Bungay, a patent medicine created by his uncle Edward.

# Ann Veronica

- It is a novel published in 1909.
- It is a feminist tract about a girl who defies her father and conventional morality by running off with the man she loves.

# The History of Mr. Polly

- It is a comic novel published in 1910.
- The protagonist is an antihero inspired by H. G. Wells's early experiences in the drapery trade.

# Non-fiction Works:

- The War That Will End War
- An Englishman Looks at the World
- God the Invisible King
- Russia in the Shadows
- A Year of Prophesying
- The Way the World is Going
- The New America: The New World

#### **Quotes:**

# . H.G. Wells says,

- "Humanity either makes, or breeds, or tolerates all its afflictions, great or small."
- "If you fell down yesterday, stand up today."
- Brian Aldiss referred to Wells as the "Shakespeare of Science Fiction".
- Charles Fort called him a "Wild Talent".



The Time Machine

# Title:

1 The Time Machine

# Genre:

- o Novella
- O Dystopian Novel
- O Science Fiction
- O Time Travel Novel

# Time:

- o bet in Victorian England
- 1 Time Travel in future, 8,02,701 AD
- o written in 1894 1895
- @ published in 1895

# Locale:

- o Richmond, London
- 1 Future World

# Structure:

- 0 12 chapters
- o Epilogue
- O First Person Narration
- 1 Time Traveller
- o Narrator





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Unit - II

# Source:

- o Charles Darwin's "On the Origin of Species"
- O H.G. Wells' "The Chronic Argonauts" (1888)
- · William Morris' "News from Nowhere" (1890)

# Theme:

- 6 Scientific and Technological Progress
- · Industrial Revolution
- · Capitalism
- @ Exploitation of the working Class
- O Communism
- O Class Division
- 1 Inequality
- · Darwinism and Evolution
- · Nature and Universe
- · Pessimistic Speculation



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Unit – II



The Moilocks	They are apelike creatures  O aggiessive, rude, rough  O antagonists in the novel  O The British Working class People evolved into a soce of the Morlocks.  O live beneath the earth's surface in the year 802701  They have been exploited by the Eloi for centuries  O They beame cannibalistic, preying on their evolutionary cousins, the Eloi.  O They are seen by the Time Traveller as an evil species.
Meena	o she is an Eloi woman o beautiful, elegant, affectionate o The Time Traveller saves her from drowning in the river o she adoins the Time Traveller with Howers as a sign of gratitude o accompanies the Time Traveller everywhere, he goes o the Time Traveller of the Time Traveller of the Time Traveller clies in an accidental wildfire.
The Floi	childlike creatures small, unintelligent, unaujous weak, benevolent, happy lazy, yrail, stupid not interested in intellectual pursuits evolutionary descendants of the British Upper class. They face no adversity in their lives except for food live on the surface of the earth in the year 802701. Play all day, feast on fruits in great halls sleep in a large communal chambers to protect from the Morlocks.

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Unit – II

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# The Time Machine

# Chapter 1:

- ❖ The book opens on **the narrator at a dinner party** of well-educated, upper-class professionals and specialists, including an eminent scientist, the Time Traveller.
- ❖ The narrator describes an after-dinner conversation among several men like the Time Traveller, a man named Filby, the Psychologist, a Very Young Man, the Medical Man, and the Provincial Mayor.
- ❖ The setting is a well-appointed English house of the late 19th century in **Richmond**, **London**.
- ❖ The Time Traveller is describing to his guests principles of science and maths, including the fourth dimension of time.
- **❖** He explains of how time travel might be possible.
- ❖ The assembled guests react with skepticism and excitement.
- The Time Traveller proves to them that he has actually created a mechanism for traveling in time.
- He tells them that he has invented a Time Machine and has experimental verification of it.
- He goes to his laboratory and returns with a small model of a machine made of metal and ivory in the size of clock.
- ❖ The group of dinner guests examines it to be sure that it's not a trick.
- ❖ The Time Traveller points to a lever and says that when he presses it, the machine will disappear into the future.
- **!** He explains that its two levers move the traveller forward or backward in time.
- ❖ The Psychologist insists that he presses the lever himself.
- When he does, the machine disappears.
- ❖ The Time Traveller then reveals that he has nearly finished building a life-size version of the model in his laboratory, and that it will allow him to make his own voyage in time.
- ❖ He leads the skeptical guests to his laboratory, where they observe a larger version of the machine.
- ❖ Despite the machine parts, blueprints, and the spectacle they have just witnessed, the guests still seem not to believe the Time Traveller.

# Chapter 2:

- ❖ The narrator reflects that nobody believed the Time Traveller at the time because he was considered to be too clever or not serious enough, to be believable.
- ❖ However, none of the dinner guests could get the notion out of their minds, and none forgot the disappearance of the model.
- **❖** The narrator receives another dinner invitation from the Time Traveller for the next Thursday.
- ❖ When the narrator arrives at the Time Traveller's house, the Medical Man is holding a note from the Time Traveller asking the guests to proceed with dinner, and saying that he will explain why he is late once he arrives.
- **❖** There are several men like the Narrator, the Medical Man, the Psychologist, the Editor, a Journalist, and a Silent Man in the room.
- As they sit down to dinner, one guest skeptically explains what happened with the model time machine to the guests who weren't there the previous week.
- ❖ In the midst of this explanation, the Time Traveller comes through the doorway, looking dirty, beat-up, and upset. ■
- He is pale and he looks exhausted.
- He tells the guests that he is going to wash up and change dress and then he will explain what happened to him.
- While the Time Traveller is washing up, his guests speculate about what has happened to him.
- The narrator suggests to the other guests that their host has been travelling in time.
- ❖ The others are unbelievable and make sarcastic remarks in reply.
- ❖ The Time Traveller returns and eats vigorously before telling the story to the guests.
- \* When he is finally ready to tell his story, the guests quickly raise objections.
- **\*** He says that he will tell the story, only if there are no arguments or interruptions because he is so exhausted.
- ❖ The guests agree, and the Time Traveller admits that what he says will sound like a lie, but he claims it is the absolute truth.
- ❖ As he tells his story in the darkened room, his pale face lit by a single lamp, all eyes are upon him.

# Chapter 3:

- ❖ The Time Traveller says that he finished his time machine the previous week and immediately decided to try it.
- ❖ When he pulled the lever, he felt a sensation of falling and **noticed the clock had moved a five hours into the future.**
- ❖ He then pulled the lever in earnest and suddenly it was night, then day, then night, then day again, in a series of rapid changes.
- **!** Eventually he was no longer indoors and the laboratory had been disappeared.
- ❖ Then, he was moving so fast that the movement of night and day merged into a perpetual greyness.
- ❖ The feeling of time travelling was excessively unpleasant.
- ❖ The lurching and swaying of the machine terrified him.
- ❖ Despite his worry about accidentally materializing inside a solid object, he pulled the lever and stopped the machine.
- Looking around, he found himself in a garden of strange flowers.
- ❖ He noticed a tall statue made of white stone nearby.
  - It was a Sphinx, a mythical figure with the head of a man, the body of a lion, and the wings of an eagle.
- **❖** The dials on his machine told him that the year was 8,02,701.
- ❖ He looked the future of man with fear rather than excitement.
- ❖ He saw huge buildings on a nearby hillside.
- **They were ornate 'with intricate parapets and tall columns'.**
- ❖ For some reason, he was suddenly very scared.
- **❖** He felt alone and vulnerable, 'naked in a strange world'.
- ❖ He compared himself to a bird in the air that knew a hawk was watching him from above, preparing to strike and kill him.
- ❖ He looked around and saw a group of figures wearing rich soft robes looking at him from a nearby building.
- ❖ Another group approached him, and he noticed that they were smaller than him.
- ❖ A man was approaching about four feet high, he was bareheaded, wearing a purple tunic with a leather belt and footwear like sandals; he appeared beautiful and delicate, like a child.

# Chapter 4:

- One of the men looked at the Time Traveller and smiled.
- The Time Traveller was taken by the man's lack of fear.
- One of them made some sounds that seemed to be their language.
- The Time Traveller realized that they could not communicate.
- The creatures were uniformly small, with curly hair; mild eyes; and thin red lips.
- All of the creatures began to touch him to make sure that he was real.
- The Time Traveller felt surprised that this was not at all threatening.
- They seemed friendly and they were so frail that he could throw them off, if he needed to.
- The Time Traveller unscrewed the levers from his time machine but left the frame in the garden.
- He pointed to himself, then the machine, then the sun.
- One of the little people made a sound like thunder.
- The Time Traveller realized that the little person thought the Time Traveller who had come from the sun in a storm.
- The little person has the mental capacity of only about a five-year-old.
- He was sorely disappointed and surprised that mankind had not advanced in the hundreds of thousands of years since his own time.
- One of them put a chain of flowers around his neck.
- The creatures led the Time Traveller to a large building in which there was exotic flowers, fruits, and bushes, and an even larger group of the beings.
- There was a tall arch decorated with what looked like 'old Phoenician decorations'.
- The Time Traveller sat with the beings on cushions on the metal floor and feasted on the strange fruits.
- He glanced around the building and noticed how it was dilapidated.
- He decided that the group living arrangement meant that the society might be communist.
- The Time Traveller remarked that these people were vegetarians and cattle, sheep, pigs, and other animals had become extinct.
- He decided to learn the language through gestures, and began by asking the beings to name fruits.

- He noted that his language lessons had to be short because the creatures would tire quickly.
- He observed, "I never met people more indolent or more easily fatigued".
- There were no biting bugs, no contagious diseases, no signs of work or struggle, no wars, not even dangerous wild animals.
- He recalled that once humankind had been 'strong, energetic, and intelligent' but now there were only these small, weak, unintelligent people.

# Chapter 5:

- The Time Traveller returned from the hills to find a place to sleep.
- As he approached the garden with the Sphinx statue, he realized that his time machine had gone.
- He was stranded in this strange future, the Time Traveller ran around looking for the machine.
- The creatures whom he met did not have the physical strength or intellectual curiosity to move the machine, so some unknown power might have done it.
- The Time Traveller ran through the bushes, caught a glimpse of a small white being that looked like a deer.
- The next morning he woke up, determined to make the best of his situation.
- He felt more rational, and he decided to find the hiding place of the time machine.
- If he could not find the machine, he would learn the ways of this new civilization.
- Questioning the little people, he got no help.
- He examined the lawn more closely and he noticed a single groove and narrow footprints leading to the pedestal nearby the White Sphinx stands.
- Knocking on the pedestal, he discovered that it was hollow which leads him to believe the machine was inside.
- He explored the surrounding countryside.
- He came across certain circular wells, huge and ringed with bronze.
- He discovered that the landscape was dotted with what look like wells, though there was no sign of water in them.

- The wells were connected to the tall towers that appeared here and there on the hills were an elaborate ventilation system for something underground.
- Then, he rescued a drowning woman from the river.
- Her name is Weena; she followed him wherever he went, and they became a pair.
- She attached herself to him, adorning him with flowers to express her gratitude.
- He met a 'queer little ape-like figure' that ran away when he touched it.
- It climbed down a ladder on the inside of one of the wells.
- He wondered if 'Man had not remained one species, but had differentiated into two distinct animals.'
- He concluded that 'this second species' had evolved as an underground creature.
- That was why it was white, like most animals that live in the dark.
- It had large eyes and avoided the daylight.
- There might be a vast system of underground tunnels.
- He concluded that it was the inevitable result of a gradual widening of the gap between the capitalist and the labourer.
- The latter built the subways and railroads.
- The former got better educated and more refined.
- The workers became more and more adapted to be being labourers.
- The 'Upper-worlders' had suffered 'a general dwindling of size, strength, and intelligence.'
- The above-ground beings were the descendants of the ruling class of the Time Traveller's society, and the underground beings were the working class.
- He then revealed the names of the two species: the Morlocks lived below ground, and the Eloi lived above the ground.

# Chapter 6:

- The Time Traveller began sleeping indoors with the Eloi because he had become afraid of the Morlocks.
- He understood that he could only retrieve the time machine by descending into the well.

- He walked farther and farther into the country and he saw some distance away a vast • Palace of Green Porcelain.
- The next morning, the Time Traveller resolved to descend into one of the wells.
- Weena ran after him, and when he left her at the mouth of the well, she was agonized and frightened.
- He climbed down quickly into the darkness some 200 yards and found a chamber built into the wall.
- He was awakened by the feeling of something touching his face.
- He quickly stroke a match to be able to see what it was.
- There are three Morlocks who immediately fled the light of the match.
- He noticed that they were likely afraid of the light, as their eyes had probably not evolved to meet it comfortably.
- He noticed the sounds of machines getting louder.
- He saw large machines and Morlocks flocking around them.
- **⊙** He smelled blood; the Morlocks were eating a corpse and he realized that they were carnivorous.
- In the darkness something touched his face and picked at his clothing.
- When the Time Traveller shouted, it went away and then came back more intensely.
- It was clear that multiple Morlocks were clutching at him.
- He suddenly realized that he only had a few matches left, which were his only weapon against the Morlocks.
- He had only the four matches he has left.
- As his match went out, the cavern was plunged into darkness.
- Morlocks surrounded him.
- He lighted a piece of paper from his pocket and fled back down the tunnel.
- They pursue him; as his light went out, the Morlocks grabbed him.
- He lighted a third match, making it to the ladder.
- The light went out and they clutched at his feet.
- He lighted his fourth and last match, scaring them off to get onto the ladder.
- Then, he climbed safely, and Weena was waiting for him at the surface.

# Chapter 7:

- The Time Traveller felt a sense of impending doom when he realized that the obstacle to returning to his own era.
- He decided that he must find some way to defend himself from the Morlocks.
- He feared the darkness of the new moon and the surface would be wholly vulnerable by the Morlocks.
- He reflected that the Eloi must have been the rulers, for thousands of years.
- The only reason the Morlocks hadn't yet claimed the surface was that their eyes could not adjust, but their strength, intelligence, and ambition was superior to the Eloi, and the Morlocks' eventual rule was inevitable.
- He determined to arm himself so that he might sleep without being vulnerable in the darkness.
- In order to search for materials that might be helpful against the Morlocks, the Time Traveller decided to find safety in the Palace of Green Porcelain building that he had seen before.
- He set off with Weena, but soon he realized the distance was greater than he thought.
- It was past sunset when he first glimpsed the building on the horizon.
- Throughout the journey, Weena had been filling his pockets with flowers.
- He, breaking his narrative, pulls two flowers from his pockets and places them on the table in front of his dinner guests. Then, he resumes telling his story.
- As darkness fell, Weena became frightened and tired and the Time Traveller had to carry her.
- He came to a thick wood and sensed the danger of crossing it in the darkness.
- He sat on the hillside, waiting for the moon to come up.
- He also realized that the meat he had seen underground was probably Eloi flesh.
- The Eloi were easily available source of food for the Morlocks.
- Waking the next day, he made four decisions: to make some sort of weapon, to find a source of fire, to create a tool to open the bronze pedestal and get his machine, and to take Weena back with him to his time.
- He barely slept during night and in the morning he and Weena crossed the wood.

# Chapter 8:

- Weena and the Time Traveller reached the Palace of Green Porcelain.
- The building was once a museum, as there were skeletons of extinct creatures on display.
- The Time Traveller found some display cases that seemed to be airtight, since their contents were so well preserved.
- He came across dinosaur skeletons, including a Brontosaurus.
- He explores galleries of minerals and mammals.
- He found **some machines**, stirring his imagination for how he could use such materials against the Morlocks.
- Weena's fear made the Time Traveller realize that the floor sloped into darkness.
- In the dark corners there was much less dust, which was a sign of the presence of Morlocks.
- He heard the sounds of Morlocks in the shadows, and broke a lever off a machine to use as a weapon against the Morlocks.
- Then, he found a gallery of technical chemistry where there was a well-preserved box of matches under glass, as well as a jar of camphor.
- He found a mining diorama with two sticks of dynamite.
- He was overjoyed; he tried to set fire but nothing happens.
- They were just models, not real.
- He decided that they should spend the night outside where they could light a fire to protect themselves.
- Finding these light sources gave the Time Traveller hope for retrieving his time machine, though he passed the rest of the day without finding any more useful implements.

# Chapter 9:

- The Time Traveller and Weena left the museum just before sunset.
- He vowed to walk as far as he could through the night.
- The Time Traveller and Weena would sleep by the safety of a fire so that he could retrieve his time machine in the morning.

- As they reached the thick wood, the Time Traveller felt a sense of doom and tiredness.
- He continues on into the darkness.
- Throughout the walk, he had been gathering sticks as firewood for the fire.
- He noticed that they were being followed by Morlocks, he wanted to light his matches.
- He had to put down the firewood to do so.
- He set it on fire hoping it would drive away the Morlocks, but he had to keep Weena away from the fire.
- For a while, the fire lighted the Time Traveller's walk.
- They had no need for matches.
- He was aware of the fire spreading, but he was not concerned.
- They reached an area that was dark enough for the Morlocks to appear.
- He felt them tugging at him.
- He struggled with the Morlocks, but they retreated once the match was lighted, and in its light, he saw that Weena had fainted.
- Picking her up, he realized that he no longer knew which direction he should go.
- He decided to camp for the night, and he would have a better idea of which way to go in the morning.
- He gathered firewood and lighted a fire.
- He sat down and accidentally fell asleep.
- When he awakened, everything was dark and the Morlocks were grabbing him.
- His match box had gone, and he panicked fearing death.
- Struggling with the Morlocks, he found the iron bar and began attacking them, killing the 'human rats'.
- The Morlocks retreated from the Time Traveller and were chattering nervously.
- Suddenly, the darkness was becoming lighter and the Morlocks were fleeing.
- It was the fire that the Time Traveller started hours before, but it was spreading through the forest.
- Then he realized that they were helpless, blinded by the flames.
- He looked for Weena but she had gone, so he flew alone holding his iron bar.

- Finally the Time Traveller emerged from the woods.
- He saw Morlocks running around on the bare hillside.
- He searched for Weena, but he could not find her.
- He determined that she had died in the fire, and he was heartbroken.
- He was exhausted and he began to walk back towards the Sphinx.
- He discovered a few loose matches in his pocket that must have fallen out when the Morlocks took the box.

# Chapter 10:

- The Time Traveller arrived back where he landed.
- He realized that the Eloi were an abundant source of food for the Morlocks.
- He slept and woke up just before sunset.
- He took his iron bar and approached the Sphinx.
- He found that the doors were opened in the bronze pedestal.
- He glimpsed his time machine on a raised platform.
- He entered the chamber with the time machine.
- He walked into the pedestal, and the panels slide shut behind him.
- The Morlocks began to approach, and the Time Traveller tried to strike a match.
- He realized that he had no matchbox to strike it against.
- He fought the Morlocks in the darkness while trying to attach the levers.
- Struggling against the Morlocks, he managed to fit the levers back onto the machine.
- He desperately moved onto the saddle of the machine screwing in the forward lever.
- He pushed it forward traveling in time and escaped into the future.

# Chapter 11:

- The Time Traveller travelled through time for a while before he realized that he was moving forward instead of backwards towards his own era.
- As he moved, he realized that the earth's revolutions were slowing and the sun ceased to set; the earth was in perpetual twilight.

- He slowed the machine until it came to rest on a desolate beach, where he noticed that the sun had become enormous and red and the air was cold.
- He heard a harsh cry and saw a white animal in the sky that looked like a huge butterfly.
- Then, he noticed that one of the nearby rocks was moving, and it appeared to be a crab as large as a table.
- He nervously seated himself on the time machine when he felt something brush his face.
- It was the antennae of another crab; before it could claw him, he pulled the lever further into the future.
- He was "drawn on by the mystery of the earth's fate, watching with a strange fascination the sun grow larger and duller in the westward sky and the life of the old earth ebb away."
- The earth got colder, the sun grew larger and finally he reached a place where algae on the rocks were the only sign of life.
- He saw that a solar eclipse was taking place and he remarked on the silence and darkness of the world.
- He began to feel horror, which was compounded by the sight of a moving tentacle creature.
- He placed himself back in the time machine, pulled the lever, and fainted.

#### Chapter 12:

- **⊙** The Time Traveller awakened on the time machine, moving backwards towards his own era.
- Slowly the landscape became more recognizable, the laboratory reappeared.
- He came to rest back in his home.
- He wonders for a moment if it had all been a dream, but realizes that the machine has landed several feet away from where it had begun its journey.
- He then realizes the time and date and hearing the voices of his dinner guests.
- He tells his dinner guests that he doesn't expect them to believe him; nonetheless, he asks them what they think.

- The doctor indicates that he doesn't believe the Time Traveller.
- When he inspects the flowers that Weena had put in the Time Traveller's pocket, he notices that they are highly unusual.
- He leads his guests into the laboratory to see the time machine, which is dented and covered in grass.
- On the way out, the guests express disbelief.
- The narrator states that he is undecided and he wants to go see the Time Traveller again the next day.
- When the narrator returns to the Time Traveller's house, the Time Traveller is carrying a backpack and a camera and is about to set off on another voyage.
- **⊙** The Time Traveller tells the narrator to wait a half hour for him.
- The narrator sits down in another room and the laboratory door closes.
- He hears a noise, a rush of air, and breaking glass of the laboratory.
- He goes to inspect, is empty, and a skylight has been blown in.
- The narrator waits for hours; he is still waiting and it has been three years.
- But, the Time Traveller hasn't returned.

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# **Epilogue:**

- Three years later, the narrator wonders whether the Time Traveller will ever return.
- He wonders if he returned to the past and was perhaps killed by savage cave people.
- He imagines if he went into the future again and found a happier, stronger society than the first time.
- He remembers that the Time Traveller did not believe that humankind necessarily advances over time.
- In fact, it may eventually destroy itself.
- He comforts himself with two strange white flowers, the ones the Time Traveller took from his pocket.
- They remind him that "even when mind and strength had gone, gratitude and a mutual tenderness still lived on in the heart of man."