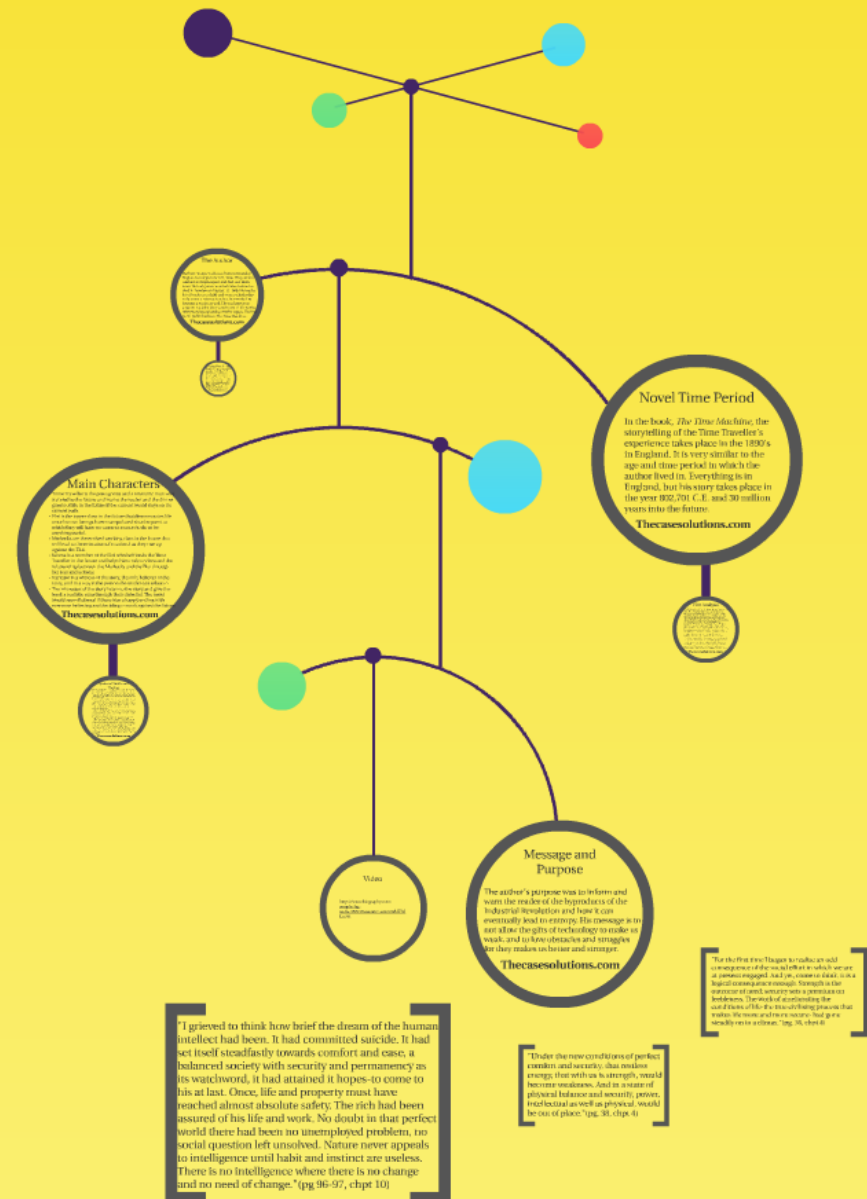
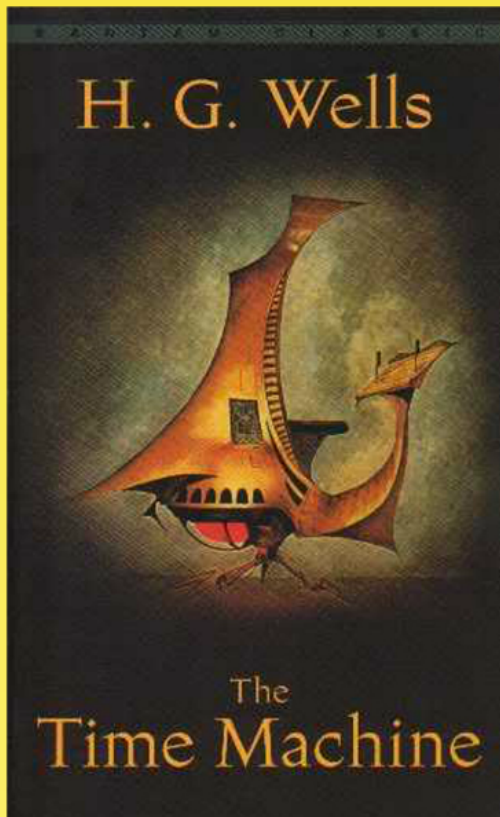


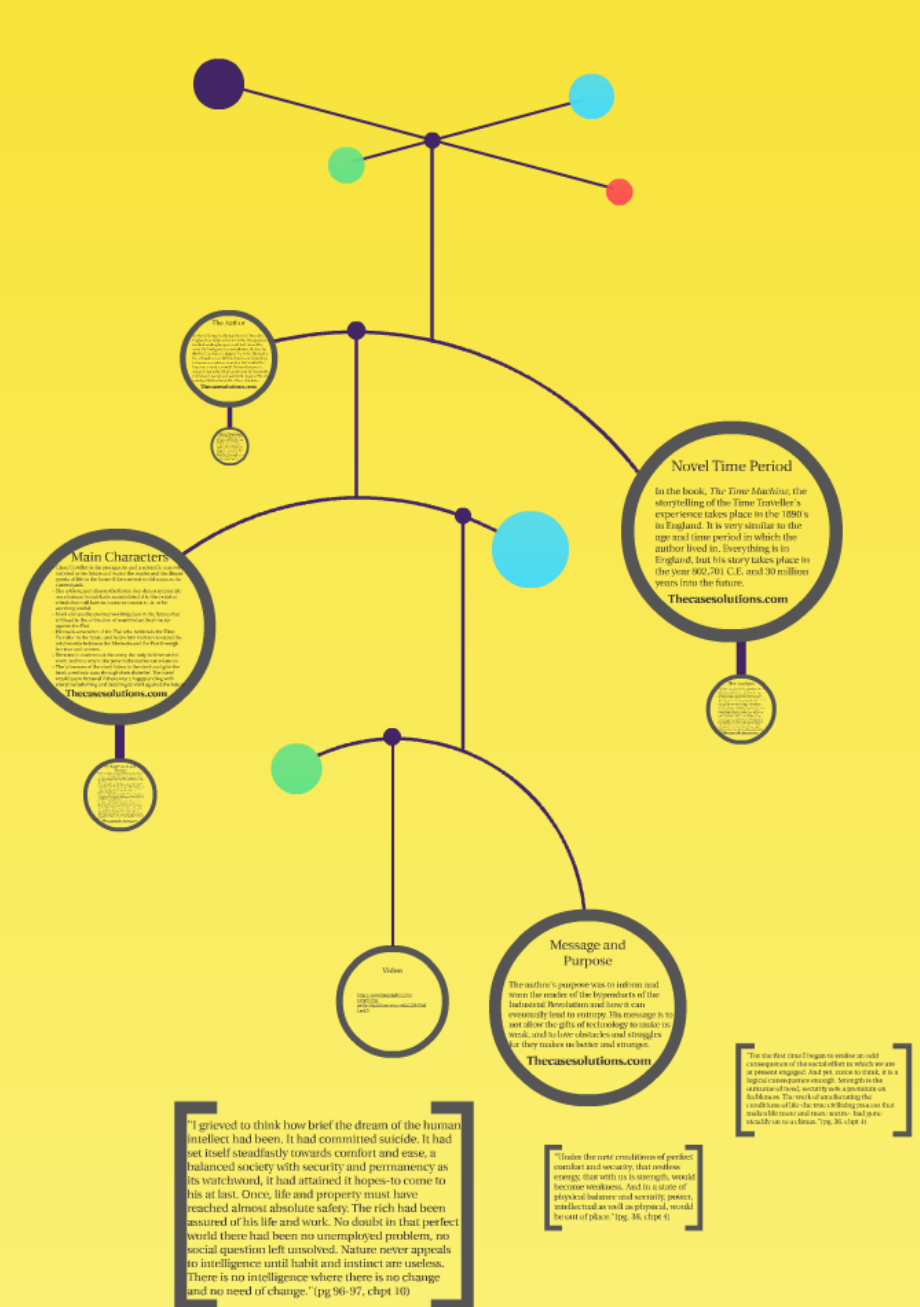
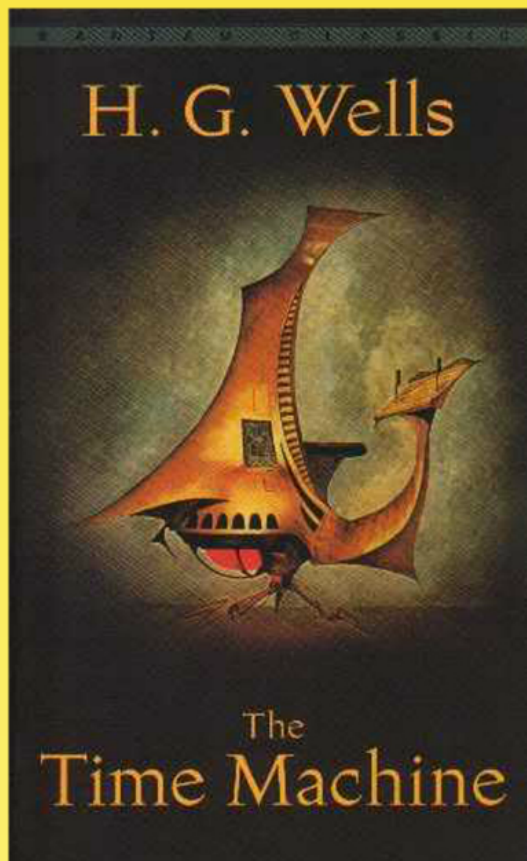
Time Machine

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The Author

Herbert George Wells was born in Bromley, England on September 21, 1866. His parents worked as shopkeepers and had two older sons. He had gotten married twice before he died in London on August 13, 1946. He read a lot of books as a child and won a scholarship to become a science teacher, but worked to become a writer as well. He was known to support socialist ideals and most of his works referenced social and scientific topics. His first novel published was *The Time Machine*.

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Writing Time Period

The novel, *The Time Machine* was published in 1895. The late 19th century was known for the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution was the increase of trade and goods, as a result of advancement in technology speeding up the mass production of goods such as textiles and metalwork. It is recognized as the time in which man had gone beyond normal transportation and movement with the invention of the steam engine and was the beginning of today's modern technology. Linked to the industrialization was the actual defining of class structure in society. The increased usage of factories created the difference seen between workers and the upper-class.

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Novel Time Period

In the book, *The Time Machine*, the storytelling of the Time Traveller's experience takes place in the 1890's in England. It is very similar to the age and time period in which the author lived in. Everything is in England, but his story takes place in the year 802,701 C.E. and 30 million years into the future.

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Plot Analysis

H.G. Wells predicts life in the future through the memory of the Time Traveller. Wells wrote the novel at a time where man was finally able to overcome distance faster and farther than the average horse. It makes sense that the story describes conquering time travel to see the future, which is a result of the present. His story mentions the consequences of the rising technologies and capitalism. When we have invented so many things to make life easier, the human race will no longer have to put in as much effort in anything. The results, in the story, were physically and intellectually weak descendants-called Eloi. The after affect of market economies was the complete division of the upper class(Eloi) and the working class(Morlocks). After years of slaving for the Eloi, the nocturnal Morlocks run out of food and herd the Eloi for food. Because the Eloi are weak, they just live in fear of the dark and all of this defies Social Darwinism and Evolution-which states as time goes on civilization expands and becomes more advanced- and leads to entropy-the theory that universe will decay into nothing.

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Main Characters

- Time Traveller is the protagonist and a scientific man who traveled to the future and warns the reader and the dinner guests of life in the future if the current world stays on its current path.
- Eloi is the upper class in the future that demonstrates life once human beings have manipulated it to the point at which they will have no cause or reason to do or be anything useful.
- Morlocks are the evolved working class in the future that will lead to the extinction of mankind as they rise up against the Eloi.
- Weena is a member of the Eloi who befriends the Time Traveller in the future and helps him truly understand the relationship between the Morlocks and the Eloi through her fear and actions.
- Narrator is a witness of the story, the only believer of the story, and in a way is the person the reader can relate to.
- The witnesses of the story listen to the story and give the book a realistic aura through their disbelief. The novel would seem fictional if there was a happy ending with everyone believing and deciding to work against the future.

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Symbols/Motifs and Themes

- The White Sphinx statue-It could possibly represent religion in that age just as the Egyptians worshiped it and had it facing the sun. It also stands as a barrier for the Time Traveller because it held his time machine which would allow him to escape the future. It is similar to the situation in which Oedipus also had the Sphinx as a barrier to his desired destination.
- Fire-It is ironic how the Time Traveller uses something from the past to overcome the Morlocks in the future. Something so basic and simple from even prehistoric times, appears and is used as a superior weapon. "I lit the block of camphor and flung it to the ground, and as it split and flared up and drove back the Morlocks and the shadows..." (pg 90, chpt 9)
- Flowers-They existed in both the present and future and represent the innocence and gentleness of mankind. "...occasionally darting off on either hand to pick flowers to stick in my pocket." (pg 72, chpt 7) It stands as a stationary and meek trait.
- Consequences of Capitalism-When one has no improvements to make or problems to solve, they become useless and weak.
- Evolution-According to Darwin, civilization is supposed to become diverse and more complex. Instead, in the story, it becomes simpler and more similar. "I felt that this close resemblance of the sexes was after all what one would expect; for the strength of a man and the softness of a woman, the institution of the family, and the differentiation of occupations are mere militant necessities of an age of physical force; where population is balanced and abundant, much childbearing becomes an evil rather than a blessing to the State..." (pg 34, chpt 4)

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Message and Purpose

The author's purpose was to inform and warn the reader of the byproducts of the Industrial Revolution and how it can eventually lead to entropy. His message is to not allow the gifts of technology to make us weak, and to love obstacles and struggles for they makes us better and stronger.

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