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The War of the Worlds
BY H. G. WELLS


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Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading

Technological Context

Objective: Developing an appreciation for the author's imagination

Activity

Science fiction, of which *The War of the Worlds* is a very early example, is writing which projects imaginary developments of present day technology into the future in a plausible fashion. When the work was published in 1898, the level of technology was still relatively unsophisticated. To develop an appreciation for the author's imaginative construction of what a first contact with an alien race might be like, it might be helpful to research some of the facets of today's technology that were unknown to H. G. Wells or not in general use at the time the book was written.

Using the chart that follows, make a list of the technological advancements that are a part of daily life today and research their inventors and the years in which they were invented or introduced. Indicate the impact that they have had on today's society. An example is given for you.

When you have completed your research, write a brief essay on how the relatively unsophisticated technology of the day would impact on an imaginative work of science fiction, such as *The War of the Worlds*.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter VI

An Alien Point of View

Objective: Rewriting a portion of the novel from the viewpoint of the Martian invaders

Activity

Imagine that you are the author and rewrite the story of this chapter's contact between the two species from the point of view of the alien invaders. We have written one or you as a sample of what it could look like. Try to make yours different from what we wrote.

Example:

How foolish and weak these Earth creatures are. They have no protection from our weapons, and our heat rays are set only on minimum. Their buildings and they themselves burn on contact and they now flee from us immediately. Things we do not understand, the large brown and green elements that grow from the soil of this planet that are alive, but seem not to be able to move, just explode into flames, but do not scream as the moving creatures do. Nothing has even attempted to impede our progress. This conquest will be easy.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XIII

Writing a Screenplay

Objective: Summarizing plot details

Activity

Imagine that you are a Hollywood screenwriter who must convert the book to a movie format. Each scene will be filmed separately, and the actors and crew will need help remembering the details of each scene. Outline Chapter XII scene by scene and assign a title to each scene. The title should reflect the content of the scene. Give suggestions to the director as to how the scene should be filmed. Use the following captions to explain your responses:

- Scene Title
- Action
- My Suggestions for Filming

We have completed one for you as a sample.

Scene Title:

Preparations to Escape

Action:

The two men discuss their route and ransack the house for supplies before departing. The scene should show the two men discussing their plans, grabbing what they need as they go through the house.

My suggestions for filming:

Quick shots of different rooms will emphasize the speed at which they are preparing to leave and the dangers in staying.

Name: _____

Date: _____

**Book Two
The Earth under the Martians**

Chapter I

Character Development

Objective: Gaining insight into the novel's characters

Activity

At this point in the story, it is obvious that the narrator and the curate are very different personalities. Using the forms below create a psychological profile for each character. In the "explanation" sections, provide at least one example to back up your numerical evaluation. Complete the profile with a paragraph describing the personality of each individual.

Psychological Profile of the Narrator

How frequently or to what degree does the narrator exhibit this tendency or characteristic?

Rating Scale

- 5—Always
- 4—Frequently
- 3—Sometimes
- 2—Rarely
- 1—Never

Kindness	5	4	3	2	1
----------	---	---	---	---	---

Explanation:

Cleverness	5	4	3	2	1
------------	---	---	---	---	---

Explanation:

Confidence:	5	4	3	2	1
-------------	---	---	---	---	---

Explanation:

Bravery:	5	4	3	2	1
----------	---	---	---	---	---

Explanation:

Personality Profile:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter VIII

Characterization
"I am" Poem

Objective: Understanding character motivation
Synthesizing character traits

Activity

Write an "I am" poem for the narrator. Draw your information from the character's words and actions in the novel. You may choose to use direct quotations where appropriate.

- Line 1: Begin with the words "I am."
Line 2: Write three nouns about which the narrator has strong feelings.
Line 3: Write a complete sentence about two things your character likes.
Line 4: Begin with three nouns that describe qualities your character appreciates in other people. End the sentence with the words "are important to me."
Line 5: Write a sentence explaining something positive your character likes about himself.
Lines 6, 7: Begin a sentence in line 6 in which you show something negative he sees in himself or others; finish the sentence in line 7 by showing that out of something bad can come good. Use the word "but" or "however" to link the two ideas.
Lines 8, 9, 10: Write three short sentences explaining things about which the narrator has strong feelings—likes or dislikes. These do not have to relate to each other or to the previous lines you have written.
Line 11: End the poem with the words, "I am _____." (Since the narrator's name is not given, you will have to supply a creative substitute.)

Example:

1. I am
2. Rain, Forests, and Sunsets.
3. I like long walks and quiet times.
4. Honesty, Humor and Peace are important to me.
5. I find satisfaction in a job well done.
6. I can be fearsome when my ideas are challenged,
7. But I thrive on intelligent conversation.
8. I love nature and animals.
9. I can be counted on to help.
10. I have strong feelings when a life is threatened.
11. I am _____.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up

Character Casting

- Objectives:** Understanding the importance of casting
 Identifying physical and psychological traits of a character
 Identifying appropriate modern day actors for characters

Activity

You are a Hollywood producer and plan to produce another version of *The War of the Worlds* different from the one with Tom Cruise. Concerned about the success of the venture, you wish to oversee the casting of the actors yourself. Using the Casting Chart, your job is to identify physical and psychological traits for the main characters. Then assign a modern actor to each role. Try to imagine the actors working together in a specific scene to judge if they will be able to interact well with each other. After you are through, write a sentence explaining why you chose a specific actor/actress.

CASTING CHART

Character	Physical Traits	Psychological Traits	Actor
Narrator			
Curate			
Narrator's Wife			
Soldier			
Other			