

Classical Science Fiction

Table of Contents

For the Teacher:

Introduction	2
Teaching Suggestions	2
Objectives	4
Resources	4
Group and Whole Class Activities	5
Biography Outline	7
Tracking Sheets	8
Peer Evaluation	10
Book Review Outline	11
Venn Diagram	12

Novel Studies

<i>War of the Worlds</i> by H. G. Wells	13
<i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley	19
<i>Portrait of Dorian Gray</i> by Oscar Wilde	26
<i>Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea</i> by Jules Verne	33
<i>The Time Machine</i> by H. G. Wells	38
<i>The Invisible Man</i> by H. G. Wells	44

Activity Cards	51
----------------------	----

War of the Worlds - Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Refer to the novel if necessary. Make sure that you have included all relevant information in your answer, and check the spelling and punctuation carefully.

1. What was the first indication of unusual activity on Mars?
2. What happened when the lid of the rocket ship fell off? What was the reaction of the Narrator?
3. Describe the first weapon used by the Martians against the people on Earth.
4. What did the Narrator see when he was returning from Leatherhead after leaving his wife at his cousin's home?
5. Describe what happened when the army engaged the Martians in battle.
6. Did the army have any success in fighting the Martians?
7. What was the effect of the Black Smoke?
8. When the order to evacuate London was given, how did the population react?
9. Why were the Narrator and the curate trapped in the ruined house?
10. How did the Martians feed themselves?
11. How did the curate react to the situation? What happened to him?
12. What did the Narrator see when he finally emerged from the ruined house?
13. The soldier from the artillery was determined to fight the Martians. How did he propose to do this?
14. Explain why the Martians were unable to survive on Earth.
15. What happened to the Narrator when he realized the danger was over?
16. After returning to his home, what event surprised the Narrator?

The War of the Worlds - Activities

1. Draw a diagram of the solar system.
Label the planets.
Mark the distances to the planets from Earth.
2. This novel was written many years ago in 1897 before space travel was a reality.
Comment on the plot based on what we know about Mars and space travel today.
What events in the novel could happen? What events are highly improbable.
Give reasons for your answers.
3. If an event, such as a Martian invasion, were to take place today television and newspaper reporters would be there.
Pretend you are a TV news reporter and write a report of any event that takes place in the novel.
Deliver your news report to the class. You must stick to the facts in the novel.
4. The Narrator's brother, Frank, was in London at the time of the invasion.
Write a letter that Frank might have written telling his brother what happened to him.
Include details of his feelings as well as descriptions of the events.
5. People have speculated about there being life on other planets for many years.
What is your opinion?
Write a one page essay giving your ideas and your reasons for holding this opinion.
6. On a sheet of 12"by 18" cartridge paper, illustrate any event from the novel, using paint, pastels or colored pencils.
Write a brief caption describing the event in your picture.
7. If aliens from another planet or solar system were to land on Earth, what do you think the reaction of the population would be?
Would everyone react in the same manner?
Justify your answer.

Activity 18

Select an event from the novel you have read and rewrite it in the form of a script to be presented on the radio.

Include directions to tell the actors how to deliver the dialogue.

When your script is complete, rehearse it with two or three friends.

Since this is a radio play, one person can play several parts.

When you are satisfied with the performance, record it on tape.

Adding sound effects will make the play more realistic.

Activity 19

The classic scientific fiction novels have settings that took place at least one hundred years ago.

Write an outline that retells one of the novels in a modern setting.

You may introduce modern technology, such as space travel or organ transplants, but you must maintain the overall theme of the original novel.

You should also keep the central characters in your outline.