

Book Questions: The time Traveler by H.G. Wells

1. Chapter 1 and 2:

a. How many dimensions are there?

According to the author there are four dimensions. The first 3 are length, width and depth, the fourth being TIME.

b. Is the time Traveler and the narrator the same person?

No, the narrator is describing the story but is not a character in the book.

c. What happened to the time traveler's small machine?

The time traveler pressed a button and the small machine disappeared, he claimed it traveled through time and was a prototype for a bigger machine.

d. Did the men of science believe the time traveler?

The men of science were very skeptical of the idea of time travel and dismissed the idea.

e. The following week they had dinner together. How did the time traveler look when he arrived?

His coat was dusty and dirty, and smeared with green down the sleeves; his hair disordered, and greyer. His face was ghastly pale; his chin had a brown cut on it. Overall, he looked quite tired and haggard.

f. Who is the Silent Man?

The students can come up with suggestions because when I was reading, I thought he might be someone important but turns out he was no one important. Best to let the students imagine, it might pique their curiosity for the next chapters.

g. How many days did the time traveler say he had lived since seeing the men of science? Were they good days?

The time traveler said he had lived 8 days since seeing his friends. 8 terrible days.

2. Chapter 3 and 4:

a. What does the time machine look like in the beginning of the chapter?

The time machine looks a little travel-worn and one of the ivory bars is cracked, also a brass rail bent;

b. What does time traveling feel like? Give some examples from the book  :

It apparently feels terrible, here are some examples:

- a. "I seemed to reel; I felt a nightmare sensation of falling;"

- b. 'I am afraid I cannot convey the peculiar sensations of time travelling. They are excessively unpleasant. There is a feeling exactly like that one has upon a switchback—of a helpless headlong motion!
- c. The twinkling succession of darkness and light was excessively painful to the eye.

c. How fast was the machine travelling?

He was going a year a minute.

d. Why was the Time Traveler afraid of stopping the time machine?

The time traveler was afraid of materializing inside some material placed in the future. He was moving in time and not space so if someone built something where the time traveler stopped, he might crash or merge into it. Kind of weird if you think about it...

e. What was the weather like when the Time Traveler stopped?

There was thunder and it was hailing.

f. The Time Traveler met a group of "people". What did they look like?

They were four feet tall and wore purple tunics girdled at the waist with a leather belt. Sandals or buskins on their feet. They also looked very frail. They had curly hair and small mouths and large eyes.

g. Where did they think the time Traveler had come from?

They thought he had come from the sun or the thunderstorm.

h. Was the "people's" society new and clean or old and dirty? Why?

Their society was neglected old and in ruins. They didn't do any work to upkeep their buildings and were content to just live in what were decaying buildings.

i. Are men and women different in the future? What reasons does the Time Traveler give?

There were no discernable differences between men and women. The time traveler speculated that in a time of complete peace there was no need to have a traditional family structure of a strong man and a sensitive woman. Children were raised with no fear of danger and people lived peacefully.

j. What explanation does the Traveler give to the short stature and low intelligence of the future "people"?

Humanity had conquered all problems and had lived in perfect peaceful bliss, but with no struggles and fights humanity's evolution also stopped

and feebleness was rewarded. Survival of the fittest wasn't necessary so people degenerated into simple happy childlike beings.

3. Chapter 5 and 6:

a. What did the time traveler find when he returned to the lawn in front of the sphinx?

His time machine was gone!

b. What clues did the time traveler find around the lawn where his time machine had been?

The time traveler found footprints like those of a sloth and grooves on the ground like drag marks leading into the statue. Though the statue was closed.

c. Where did he believe the time machine was?

He believed it was put into the pedestal of the statue.

d. What did the time traveler find when he was exploring the hills?

He found several circular wells. They looked like wells but were deep underground shafts.

e. How did the time traveler make a friend? Was it a good friendship?

The time traveler was watching the little humanoids swimming in the river and one was dragged away with the current. The others didn't help so the time traveler jumped in and saved it. It was a great friendship although definitely weird.

f. What scary thing did the time traveler see?

He saw ghostly white figures running around. Spooky! They looked like white apes.

g. What is a Have and a Have-not?

This question is more vocabulary and not story related. A "have" is someone with money and property and a "have-not" is someone with neither. Basically, rich and poor.

h. What do the Morlocks look like?

They are a dull white with big greyish-red eyes. They have dark black hair going down their backs. It has long arms which hang low when it runs.

i. The time traveler thinks that the Morlocks are workers and the Eloi are masters. Do you think he is right?

Depends on the students but the book says that humans split into two species. The frail Eloi people which live in the sun and eats fruit and

plays all day and the Morlocks, which live underground working and crawl out at night to eat.

4. Chapter 7 and 8:

a. Why were the Eloi getting reacquainted with fear? 🤖

The Morlocks come out at night and hunt the Eloi, the Eloi, which presumably feared nothing in their heyday now fear the nighttime.

b. What do the Morlocks eat now and what did they used to eat?

Possibly they had lived on rats and such-like vermin. Now they eat the Eloi as a weird form of Cannibalism.

c. The time traveler says that the Eloi were like cattle to the Morlocks. What does he mean?

The Morlocks feed them and care for them by making their clothes and taking care of them. This is similar to what people do with cattle. In the end, the Morlocks eat the Eloi.

d. The time traveler finds a building. What was the building's purpose?

He found the Palace of Green Porcelain, it used to be a museum.

e. What did he find in it to help him fight the Morlocks?

He found a mace he could use to fight the Morlocks and some fire starting chemical.

f. What's the time traveler's plan for the next day?

The time traveler planned to use the mace he had found to open the statue that contained, hidden, his time machine.

5. Chapter 9, 10 and 11:

a. What did the time traveler do to fend off the Morlocks?

He lit a match to scare off the Morlocks as they are scared of the light.

b. How did the Morlocks capture Meena and the time traveler?

The time traveler made a campfire and without realizing it fell asleep. While he was asleep the campfire went out and the Morlocks came after them. They grabbed Meena but the time traveler escape.

c. How did the time traveler free himself from them?

His campfire had started a forest fire with its sparks and was burning the Morlocks.

d. Did Meena survive?

She wasn't eaten but she didn't survive. The time traveler seems to think she was left in the flames of the forest fire.

e. When the Time traveler finds the time machine, in the sphinx, what happens?

The statue was opened, and his time machine was in view. He goes to it but it was a trap as the Morlocks spring out and attack him. The time traveler tried to light his match, but he had lost the matchbox and couldn't light one. He gets swarmed by the Morlocks but in a last-minute attempt he grabs the lever and time travels out of there.

f. In the end did people believe the time traveler?

No, they thought it was just a well told tale.

g. The time traveler left. Did he ever come back?

He said he would go again through time and return with photos but by the end of the story, three years had passed, and he had yet to return... Sad!