



The Time Machine



*Retold from the H.G. Wells original
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STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS
New York

What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



Have you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are

designed to help you look at the people, places, and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. When he learns about the time machine, the artist suggests that you could travel back in time and see all of history. Where in time would you most like to travel?

2. How does the Time Traveler communicate with the Eloi? Have you ever tried to speak to someone who couldn't understand you?

3. How does the Time Traveler react when he sees that his time machine is missing? Who did you think took it? Has anyone ever taken something that belonged to you?

4. Why are the Eloi afraid of the Sphinx? Do you think they are right to worry? What scares you?

5. The Time Traveler realizes that humans evolved into two species because some people lived aboveground and others spent all their time belowground. Where would you prefer to live?

6. When the Time Traveler climbs down the well, he brings one “weapon”—matches. Knowing what he did about the Morlocks, do you think this was a wise decision? What would you have brought down the well?

7. The Time Traveler says that he decided to bring Weena back to his own time. Do you think this is a good idea? How do you think Weena would react to 1845?

8. What kinds of displays do Weena and the Time Traveler find in the museum? Which room would you most like to explore?

9. How do the Time Traveler’s friends react to his story? Would you believe it if you were them? What is the strangest story anyone has ever told you?

10. What do you think the Time Traveler takes with him the second time he travels into the future? What would you take?