

THE TIME MACHINE

— EXTENDED WRITING QUESTIONS

On “changing the timeline” and the theme in the play that is not from the book.

4ème

1. What happened to Arthur on the fishing trip? Why does Horatio think it is his fault?
 2. Horatio goes back in time and saves Arthur. Do you think this is a good choice?
Why?
 3. At the end of the play, something dangerous comes from the future into the past.
What does this show about changing the past?
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1. Why is Arthur’s death so important to Horatio and Filby? Use examples from the play.
 2. Horatio goes back in time and saves Arthur. What are the good and bad results of his decision?
 3. “We should not change the past, even to stop something terrible.” Do you agree?
Write about Arthur, the fishing accident and the end of the play.
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Seconde

1. With close reference to the play, show how Horatio’s feelings about Arthur influence his use of the time machine.
 2. By saving Arthur, Horatio changes one tragic event. However, he may also allow elements of the Morlok future to enter Victorian England. Does the play suggest that every change to the past creates a new danger?
 3. Horatio believes that the future is not fixed and that human beings can change it. Make an argument for or against this idea, using the fishing trip, Arthur’s survival and the arrival of the Morlok statue in the past.
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Première

1. Analyse the moral conflict faced by Horatio when he returns to the moment of Arthur’s accident. Is his decision motivated by courage, guilt, love or selfishness?
 2. “Horatio saves one child but may condemn the whole of humanity.” Discuss this statement with close reference to Arthur’s rescue and the final image of the Morlok statue.
 3. To what extent does the play present time travel as a scientific achievement that humanity is not morally prepared to control? Refer to Horatio’s intentions, the alteration of the timeline and the unintended consequences of bringing the future into the past.
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