

The Time Machine

H. G. Wells

What should a reader do when the evidence breaks the theory?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The Time Traveller revises his theory
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter VIII · Explanation
START	I do not know how long I sat peering down that well.
END	The great triumph of Humanity I had dreamed of took a different shape in my mind.
PASSAGE ID	sec-06-the-time-machine

THE MOVE

Revise an interpretation when new evidence appears

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The Time Traveller begins with a theory that seems to explain the Eloi, but new evidence—fear, darkness, machinery, and the Morlocks—makes that theory inadequate. The passage models interpretation as provisional rather than as something a clever reader should defend at all costs.

MARK

Underline the parts of the original theory. Circle the new evidence that does not fit. Write REVISE beside the first moment the Traveller changes the explanation rather than forcing the evidence into the old one.

NOTICE

- What did the first theory explain well?
- Which new fact creates the biggest problem for it?
- What distinguishes revising an interpretation from simply abandoning it?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What should a reader do when the evidence breaks the theory? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What should a reader do when the evidence breaks the theory? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	A reader should revise the theory rather than defend it when new evidence no longer fits. The Traveller's first explanation of the Eloi works until fear, underground machinery, and the Morlocks require a different model of the future society.
EVIDENCE	Identify one claim from the first theory and one later observation that contradicts it. Strong answers explain what the new evidence forces the Traveller to change, not just that he becomes confused.
WATCH FOR	Do not say the original theory was foolish simply because it turns out incomplete. Good interpretation can be reasonable and still require revision.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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What should a reader do when the evidence breaks the theory?

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END ANCHOR	The great triumph of Humanity I had dreamed of took a different shape in my mind.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline the parts of the original theory. Circle the new evidence that does not fit. Write REVISE beside the first moment the Traveller changes the explanation rather than forcing the evidence into the old one.
2. NOTICE - What did the first theory explain well? Which new fact creates the biggest problem for it? What distinguishes revising an interpretation from simply abandoning it?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What should a reader do when the evidence breaks the theory?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.