

The War of the Worlds

H. G. Wells

At what point does the crowd stop treating the cylinder as an object and start treating it as a threat?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Curiosity becomes horror
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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	Book One, IV · The Cylinder Opens
START	When I returned to the common the sun was setting.
END	There was a general movement backwards.
PASSAGE ID	sec-wow-02

THE MOVE

Track a crowd's interpretation as evidence changes

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The crowd first treats the cylinder as a curiosity that can be watched, discussed, and approached. As new evidence appears, the same object becomes dangerous. Students can locate the exact moment interpretation changes because the evidence changes in front of the crowd.

MARK

Label the crowd's first three reactions as CURIOSITY, CONFUSION, or FEAR. Underline the new piece of evidence that causes each shift. Put a star at the first moment people act as if escape matters more than looking.

NOTICE

- What does the crowd assume while the cylinder remains only an object?
- Which new observation first makes that assumption impossible to maintain?
- Does the crowd revise its interpretation quickly enough once the evidence changes?

THINK

Answer provisionally: At what point does the crowd stop treating the cylinder as an object and start treating it as a threat? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: At what point does the crowd stop treating the cylinder as an object and start treating it as a threat? 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	The crowd's interpretation changes when the cylinder produces evidence that no longer fits harmless curiosity—movement, opening, heat, or the emergence of something threatening. The hinge is the first moment behavior shifts from watching toward escape.
EVIDENCE	Identify the crowd's early assumptions, the new observation that breaks them, and the first action showing fear has replaced curiosity.
WATCH FOR	Do not pick a dramatic moment without explaining what new evidence caused the change in interpretation.
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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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** - Label the crowd's first three reactions as CURIOSITY, CONFUSION, or FEAR. Underline the new piece of evidence that causes each shift. Put a star at the first moment people act as if escape matters more than looking.
2. **NOTICE** - What does the crowd assume while the cylinder remains only an object? Which new observation first makes that assumption impossible to maintain? Does the crowd revise its interpretation quickly enough once the evidence changes?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: At what point does the crowd stop treating the cylinder as an object and start treating it as a threat?
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.