

The War of the Worlds

H. G. Wells

Why does the narrator keep comparing Martian machinery to familiar human things?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The fighting-machine appears
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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, X · In the Storm
START	And this Thing I saw! How can I describe it?
END	And in an instant it was gone.
PASSAGE ID	sec-wow-03

THE MOVE

Use comparison to make the unfamiliar imaginable

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The fighting-machine is almost impossible to picture, so the narrator repeatedly reaches for familiar human objects and movements. Those comparisons never fully explain the machine, but they give the imagination temporary handles for something unprecedented.

MARK

Circle each comparison to a familiar human object, animal, or movement. Beside each one, write what feature of the Martian machine it helps you picture. Star the comparison that is useful but also obviously inadequate.

NOTICE

- Which parts of the machine can the narrator describe directly, and which require comparison?
- What does each comparison clarify—and what remains strange after the comparison?
- Why might repeated imperfect comparisons make the machine more frightening rather than less?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does the narrator keep comparing Martian machinery to familiar human things? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does the narrator keep comparing Martian machinery to familiar human things? 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 narrator uses familiar comparisons because the Martian machine exceeds ordinary categories. Human objects, animals, and movements provide temporary visual handles, but their inadequacy also keeps the machine strange.
EVIDENCE	Use at least two different comparisons and explain what feature each helps the reader imagine. Strong answers note what remains unaccounted for after comparison.
WATCH FOR	Do not list similes. The question asks why repeated comparison is necessary when direct description fails.
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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Why does the narrator keep comparing Martian machinery to familiar human things?

START ANCHOR	And this Thing I saw! How can I describe it?
END ANCHOR	And in an instant it was gone.

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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 - Circle each comparison to a familiar human object, animal, or movement. Beside each one, write what feature of the Martian machine it helps you picture. Star the comparison that is useful but also obviously inadequate.
2. NOTICE - Which parts of the machine can the narrator describe directly, and which require comparison? What does each comparison clarify—and what remains strange after the comparison? Why might repeated imperfect comparisons make the machine more frightening rather than less?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does the narrator keep comparing Martian machinery to familiar human things?
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.