

THE TIME MACHINE: MOVIE VERSION

Study Guide compares the book *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells to the movie *The Time Machine* (1960) starring Rod Taylor, Alan Young, and Yvette Mimieux. Directed by George Pal.

A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film.



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SAMPLE THE TIME MACHINE: MOVIE VERSION

THE MOVIE VERSION OF *THE TIME MACHINE* IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by H.G. Wells

RECOMMENDED MOVIE: *The Time Machine* (1960) starring Rod Taylor, Alan Young, and Yvette Mimieux. Directed by George Pal. A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film. The movie adds some characters and changes the plot substantially, but the film presents the core of the novel.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?

Plot: ★★☆☆☆ Characters: ★★☆☆☆ Setting: ★★☆☆☆
Structure: ★★☆☆☆ Symbols: ★★☆☆☆ Theme: ★★☆☆☆

WHAT'S IN THE BOOK THAT'S NOT IN THE MOVIE?

The nameless Time Traveler, nameless Narrator, hail storm, 4-foot tall Eloi with tentacles, Palace of Green Porcelain, dinosaur skeleton, camphor, iron bar, sore heel, forest fire, travel forward three million years, white flowers, giant crabs, the Psychologist, the Journalist, the Editor, the Very Young Man, the Quiet Shy Man with a red beard, camera, knapsack.

WHAT'S IN THE MOVIE THAT'S NOT IN THE BOOK?

Time Traveler named George, Filby's Shop, Filby's Department Store, mannequins, World War I scene, Filby's son James, World War II scene, nuclear war in the 1950s, plaque in the park, volcanic eruption, Eloi's library, talking rings, pink flower, the siren, fire and explosion in the Underworld, New Year's Eve, Dr. Philip Hillyer, Anthony Bridewell, Walter Kemp.

WHAT'S THE SAME?

London dinner parties, time machine, travel to 802, 701, Eloi, Morlocks, Weena, sphinx, matches, Mrs. Watchett.

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THE MOVIE: SUMMARY

The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

THE MOVIE: CHAPTER 1

OPENING SCENE: In London a man leaves Filby's Shop and walks across the street in the snow. (**ERROR:** Not in the book) The man is Mr. Filby who is attending a friend's dinner party. (**ACCURATE**) The host of the party is H.G. Wells, known as George. (**ERROR:** In the book the host is referred to only as the Time Traveler) The host is an upper class, wealthy, amateur inventor. (**ACCURATE**) Other guests are Dr. Philip Hillyer, Anthony Bridewell, and Walter Kemp. (**ERROR:** Not in the book)

The guests impatiently wait for their host to appear. (**ACCURATE**, but this scene appears in Chapter 2 at the second dinner party) Mrs. Watchett is the host's housekeeper. (**ACCURATE**) Mrs. Watchett hands Filby a note from the host to begin dinner without him. (**ERROR:** Not in the book) Mrs. Watchett screams. (**ERROR:** Not in the book) The host suddenly appears in a dirty, ragged, exhausted state. (**ACCURATE**, but this scene is in Chapter 2) The host asks for something to drink and is handed some wine. (**ACCURATE**) The host insists on telling his guests what has happened to him. (**ACCURATE**, but this scene appears in Chapter 2)

A flashback begins. (**ERROR:** Not in the book) The flashback portrays the first dinner party. (**ERROR:** In the book Chapter 1 begins with the first dinner party) The dinner takes place on New Year's Eve, 1899. (**ERROR:** In the book the year is 1895. There is no mention of New Year's Eve) The guests at the first dinner party are the same as those at the second dinner party. (**ERROR:** In the book the guests at the first dinner party are the Narrator, the Medical Man, the Psychologist, Mr. Filby, the Provincial Mayor, and a Very Young Man)

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