

## A Dinner Date with History

In The Time Machine, the Time Traveler is uncertain at first about whether he'll be travelling into the past or the future. What if you had the choice? Where would you go? If you went into the past, who would you hope to meet? What questions would you ask? For this assignment, you are going to plan a dinner party for a group of individuals you have collected from your travels through history. As you select your dinner guests, try to choose people who not only interest you, but who would interact well with one another (or at least whose differing opinions would make for a lively dinner discussion).

### The Assignment:

- **Cover.** The cover for this project should mimic a formal invitation to a dinner party. Make sure it includes your name!
- **Guest list.** The guest list must include FOUR (no more, no less) people from history (real, historical figures only— no fictional characters, as much fun as that would be). Write two paragraphs about each individual on the guest list (for a total of EIGHT paragraphs). The first paragraph should be a short biography on the individual (you may use outside resources for “general knowledge,” but the biography must be completely original—in your own words, no paraphrasing for this project). The second paragraph for each guest should be your reasons for inviting this person. The biography paragraph must be at least six sentences long. The reasons why paragraph should be at least four sentences.
- **Menu.** Your menu should include at least five courses (but you are welcome to have more). A typical five course meal could include the following: soup, appetizer, salad, entrée, dessert. Your dinner party menu should look like a menu (text centered on page, graphics welcome). Below the name of each dish, provide a brief description of the food item. Be specific about why you selected each dish (which guest you had in mind. For example: if Julius Caesar is invited, find a food item that was popular in Ancient Rome).
- **Seating arrangements.** Illustrate your table and label who will sit next to whom. In addition, include one or two sentence justifications for your choice of seats.
- **A list of conversation topics.** A good host will have conversation topics in mind to keep all guests involved in the discussion. Make sure you have at least two conversation topics that will interest each guest and be specific. For instance, if you have invited Henry Ford, do not list “Cars” as a possible conversation topic. Instead, list “How the use of an assembly changed car manufacturing.”
- **Conversation transcript.** Provide a “transcript” of one conversation from your list of possible topics. Make sure each guest contributes at least once and in his or her character (try to make them sound like themselves based on what you know from their biographies—though, you can pretend your guests all speak English). The transcript should be at least one page typed (double spaced, Times New Roman, font size twelve). It should be written as a transcript, which means speaker’s names are aligned to the left, after the names comes a colon, then the words he/she has spoken.
- **Extra credit opportunity:** On the final due date, you will present about your project to the class. A minimum of five points of extra credit will be given to anyone who brings a food item from his/her menu to share with the class.

### Final Draft

- Due Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>
- Please staple project in the order each section is listed above.
- Wherever possible, use standard formatting requirements listed in the syllabus.