

The Time Machine: Chapter Summaries

As we read *The Time Machine*, you will be required to turn in one paragraph per chapter. This means that every time you have reading homework due, you are expected to bring a paragraph to class that contains a short summary of the chapter(s). Paragraphs must be completed prior to class.

The Assignment

- For each chapter of *The Time Machine*, write a three to four sentence summary of the chapter.
- Identify the main ideas/key concepts/significant plot points of the chapter. Include only the most important and relevant events and characters of each chapter. Avoid details that are not directly related to major story events.
- Begin your paragraph with an introductory phrase, such as “In chapter six of *The Time Machine*...”
- Use transitional language throughout the paragraph to make it flow smoothly. Transition language includes words like *next, furthermore, finally, lastly, meanwhile, etc...*
- Finish your paragraph with a concluding statement. For example: “At the end of the chapter...”
- Write your paragraphs in third person, present tense: “In chapter one, the Time Traveller invites guests to his house for a dinner party.”

FAQs

1. Why do I have to do this?

This trimester we are focusing on improving our paragraph writing skills. So as you write, pay attention to the mechanics of your paragraph—spelling, punctuation, capitalization, subject-verb agreement, tense consistency, etc. Also, focus on the overall structure of your paragraph: a cohesive main idea that binds the paragraph together, complete sentences that flow smoothly, and a strong concluding sentence. Lastly we are doing this, because summarizing helps improve reading comprehension, while building vocabulary and paraphrasing skills.

2. What if I’m absent?

You are responsible for turning in a paragraph even if you are absent the day the reading was assigned or if you are absent the day the paragraph is due. Use your course calendar to keep track of reading assignments on days you are not in class. If you are absent the day a paragraph is due, you may turn it in the first day you are back in class. Other than late work because you are absent the day a paragraph is due, credit will not be given for assignments turned in after the lecture/in-class discussion.

3. Can I type my paragraphs?

Yes.

4. Are there any formatting requirements I should know about?

Why, yes. Yes, there are. Thank you for asking. As always, put your name and date in the top right corner of the page. Your name should be above the date. In the center at the top of the page, please title the assignment: *Chapter __ Summary of The Time Machine*. Please double space your paragraphs. If handwritten, use cursive. If typed use Times New Roman, font size 12 with one inch margins.

5. Is there an example paragraph available?

Again, I’m so glad you thought to ask. Please turn your paper over for an example.

Miss Lambert

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Chapter One Summary of *The Time Machine*

In chapter one of H.G. Wells' landmark novel *The Time Machine*, the reader is introduced to the Time Traveller, an enigmatic inventor. As the novel begins, the Time Traveller has invited several guests, including the unnamed narrator, to his house for dinner and conversation. The Time Traveller and his guests debate whether or not time travel is possible. All are skeptical when the Time Traveller demonstrates a model time machine and announces his intention to explore the fourth dimension: time itself.