

Year 6 Literacy Homework – due in Friday 12th October 2018

Read the biography and facts about HG Wells below, and answer the comprehension questions on the following page in your homework book. Any problems come and see me. Good luck! 😊

H.G. Wells (Herbert George Wells) was an author most known for his fiction novel *The War of the Worlds*. H.G. Wells was born on September 21st, 1866 in Bromley, Kent, England, to Joseph Wells and Sarah Neal. His father was a domestic gardener, shopkeeper and professional cricket player and his mother was a former domestic servant. In 1874 H.G. Wells broke his leg and it was during this time that he started to develop a love of reading, which led to his interest in writing. He attended a private school until family finances forced him to seek apprenticeship work. He later gained work as a teacher at Midhurst Grammar School. A scholarship gained him access to the Normal School of Science, where he wrote for the school magazine. In 1896 his novel *The Time Machine* was published and he became instantly famous.

Interesting H. G. Wells Facts:

H.G. Wells used to draw and sketch, calling the images 'picshuas'.

The first non-fiction bestseller written by H.G. Wells was *Anticipations of the Reaction of Mechanical and Scientific Progress Upon Human Life and Thought*, published in 1901. It predicted what the world would be like in the year 2000. He was correct on many ideas but also missed the mark on a few of his predictions.

H.G. Wells wrote novels that were considered 'scientific romances' in his early career, including *The Time Machine*, *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896), *The Invisible Man* (1897), *The War of the Worlds* (1898), *When the Sleeper Wakes*, and *The First Men in the Moon*.

Kipps was published in 1905 and became one of H.G. Wells' favourites. It explored social class economic disparity, topics that intrigued him and caused him to become a member of the Fabian Society for a time.

H.G. Wells ran for Parliament in 1922 and 1923 as a Labour Party candidate but was unsuccessful. He had wanted to use a political position to advance his ideas.

In the 1930s H.G. Wells travelled to Hollywood. He wrote *Things to Come*, a film adaptation of his 1933 novel *The Shape of Things to Come*. It was released in 1936.

On October 30th, 1938 Orson Welles performed a radio play of *The War of the Worlds*. It was an adaptation of H.G. Wells' book and caused panic as audiences were led to believe that it was real. The novel was made into Hollywood movies and the radio broadcast and its effects are still talked about today.

H.G. Wells passed away on August 13th, 1946. He wrote more than 114 books in his lifetime, more than 50 of which were novels.

Questions

1. Why have I chosen HG Wells as the topic of this comprehension?
2. When was HG Wells born?
3. In which year did he publish his novel *The Time Machine*?
4. Who performed a radio play of Wells's book *War of the Worlds* in 1938?
5. How old was Wells when he passed away?
6. Why do you think breaking his leg sparked his love of reading?
7. Why do you think he called his drawings 'picshuas'?
8. Why do you think the radio play adaptation of *The War of the Worlds* caused widespread panic?
9. How can you tell that HG Wells was a science fiction writer? Provide evidence to support your answer.
10. What political ideas do you think Wells wanted to advance by running for parliament? Refer to the text as part of your answer.