

29/4/23

VISTAS

CHAPTER - 1

THE THIRD LEVEL

— JACK FINNEY

★ ABOUT THE CHAPTER

It is a story about a 31-year-old man name, Charley. This is a psychological story that refers to the subway at the Grand Central Railway Station which takes passengers to Galesburg. This subway becomes the interconnection between the narrator's harsh reality and fantasy. The third level was a way of escape for Charley. As life in the modern world is full of uncertainties, worries and stress, it takes Charley to the world of 1890s. This story shows the connection between time and space.

★ QUESTION - ANSWERS

Q1.) Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley? Why?

Ans. Charley was an ordinary man, employed in New York. One day, while entering Grand Central Station, he reached at the third level. It was totally unbelievable experience for him. Charley wanted to visit that level again but he could not find it again. ~~that~~

Q2.) What do you infer from Sam's letter to Charley?

Ans. Sam reached ~~the~~ the third level and ^{started} ~~starting~~ living in Galesburg. In order to inform Charley about the existence of the third level, Sam sent a letter to Charley's grandfather who is still alive. Sam was aware of the fact that Charley's grandfather would be alive in 1894 and having a stamp collection which would be passed onto Charley.

(Q3.) "The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and stress. What are the ways in which we attempt to overcome them?"

Ans. The modern world has become a rat race ~~which~~ with survival of the fittest. Everybody is running after power, money and success. To combat such situations, one starts imagining of about what we really want to happen as it makes the feeling of insecurity go away temporarily. In the story, Charley starts imagining about his grandfather and the village he came from. He wants to go there as if it promises freedom from insecurities.

(Q4.) Do you see an intersection of time and space in the story?

Ans. Yes, we see an intersection of both time and space in the story. The narrator, age 31, lives in the New York. He goes to the second level at Grand Central Station to catch a suburban train to get home. Charlie admits that he has been in and out of Grand Central hundreds of times. But, he is always bumping into new corridors and stairs and doorways. The narrator is transported in time to the world of 1890s where people wore green eye shades and long sleeve ~~to~~ protectors. The dim and flickering lights of, wood ~~of~~ and brass were in use, woman wore typical Victorian costumes, people still used gold watches. Sam's letter to Charley from Galesburg confirms that there is an intersection of both time and space.

(Q5.) What does the third level refer to?

Ans. The third level at the Grand Central Station refers to the level at the station from where trains leave for far-flung destinations in space and time such as Galesburg. Sam had succeeded in using the third level to fulfill his long cherished ambition.

Q6) Would Charley ever go back to the ticket-counter on the third level to buy tickets to Galesburg for himself and his wife?

Ans. Charley had by chance reached to the ticket counter on the third level at the Grand Central Station. Charley wanted to buy two tickets to Galesburg, one for himself and other for his wife, Lovisa. The booking clerk calculated the fare but refused to accept the money Charley offered. He noticed money in the cash drawer was old-style bills. He drew three-hundred dollars out of the bag. He bought old-style currency less than two-hundred in old-style bills. Charley went back to the Grand Central Station. He could not find the corridor that led to the third level.

Q7) Apparent illogicality sometimes turns out to be a futuristic projection? Discuss.

Ans. Logic helps in thinking about something or explaining the reasons. There are certain thoughts, feelings, actions and phenomena which don't seem to be sensible or thought out in a logical way. All the great scientists, philosophers, poets are visionary. The vision of the atom as a source of immense power led to the creation of atom bomb.

Q8) Philately helps keep the past alive. Discuss other ways in which this is done. What do you think of the human tendency to constantly move between the past, the present and the future?

Ans. There are many ways people keep the past alive such as telling stories from one generation to the next, displaying historical artifacts in museums, studying physical remains through archaeology, and reading fictional books about the past. These ways help us understand how people lived in the past.

Humans naturally think about the past, present and future. We use our experiences from the past to make decisions, act in the present, and plan for the future. We might remember our childhood or think about

past events. We also make plans for our future like choosing a career, starting a family, or saving for retirement. It's important to balance our thoughts and not dwell too much on any one time period. We should appreciate our past, enjoy the present, and work towards our future goals.

Q7.) You have read 'Adventure' by Jayant Narlikar in Hornbill Class XI. Compare the interweaving of fantasy and reality in the two stories.

Ans. In 'Adventure' Jayant Narlikar expressed that many world exist simultaneously though they appear to be separated by time. He expressed that the other world also existed and prospered with the world we are aware of. On the other hand, in the third level, Charley a young New York commuter wandering Grand Central Station by accident finds a gateway that leads to a real past of 1894. Seizing the opportunity, Charley attempts to escape the rat race by buying a one way ticket to his childhood town of Galesburg. Not having proper currency for that period, he forced to postpone his plan to escape to the past.

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5/5/23