



**The Man in Hyde Park**

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# Introduction

Read and discuss the questions below with a partner or in small groups.

Share your ideas, listen to others, and try to give full answers.

These questions will help you think about the theme of time travel and prepare you for the story.

1. Have you ever imagined travelling to the past or the future? Where would you go?
2. What do you think life was like in London over 100 years ago?
3. Do you think people in the past would believe you if you told them about modern technology? Why or why not?
4. If you suddenly found yourself in a different time,

what would you do first?

# The Man in Hyde Park

He knew something was wrong the moment he saw the street.

No cars.

No buses.

No hum of engines, no glow of traffic lights. Only the clatter of hooves on stone and the distant creak of wooden wheels.

At first, he thought it was a film set.

London did that sometimes. Period dramas. Costumes. Extras.

But there were no cameras. No cables. No crew shouting instructions.

Just people, hundreds of them, moving with purpose, dressed in dark coats, long skirts, stiff collars.

And none of them were looking at their phones.

Ben turned slowly, his heart beginning to hammer. The

buildings were right. Familiar shapes, London shapes, but older and dirtier.

No glass towers. No signage he recognised.

He grabbed a man by the sleeve.

“Excuse me, what’s going on? Is this... what is this?”

The man recoiled slightly, looking him up and down.

“What are you wearing?”

“Just—just tell me the date.”

The man frowned.

“March. Nineteen-oh-five.”

The words landed like a blow.

He laughed at first. A short, sharp, disbelieving sound.

But the man didn’t laugh with him.

The police station smelled of tobacco and damp wool.

“I’m telling you, I don’t know how I got here,” Ben said, his voice rising despite himself. “I was just walking. Near the river. And then—this.”

The officer behind the desk leaned back, unimpressed.

“And where exactly is ‘here’?”

“London,” Ben said. “But not... not my London.”

A pause.

The officer exchanged a glance with another constable.

“You been drinking, son?”

“No!”

“Because you sound like you’ve had a skinful.”

“I’m not drunk! I’m telling you the truth!”

The officer stood.

“That’ll do. Out. Now.”

“But you don’t understand—”

A firm hand on his arm.

“We’ve got no time for this nonsense.”

They pushed him out into the street. The door shut behind him with a final, hollow thud.

By evening, the panic had drained into something heavier.

Hunger.

Ben hadn’t eaten all day. His head throbbed. His legs ached from walking nowhere, searching for something that

made sense.

Nothing did.

He ended up in a park. Wide, open spaces and scattered with bare trees. Hyde Park, he realised dimly. At least that hadn't changed.

He found a bench. Sat. Then lay down.

The last thing he saw before sleep took him was the sky. And it was full of stars.

More than he had ever seen in his life.

Morning came with cold.

And hunger, sharper now.

Ben wandered the streets again, slower this time. Watching. Listening. Trying to understand the rhythm of this place.

At a bakery window, he stopped.

The smell alone nearly broke him.

He hovered there too long.

A woman inside noticed. Opened the door.

“You going to stand there all day?”

“I—sorry. I just...”

He swallowed.

“I don’t have any money.”

She studied him. His odd clothes. His face.

Then, with a sigh, she handed him some bread.

“Go on now. Don’t make a habit of it.”

“Thank you,” he said, and meant it more than anything.

Later, drawn by noise, he found himself back in Hyde Park.

A crowd had gathered—thick, shifting, alive with murmurs.

At the centre, a man stood on a small wooden crate, speaking loudly, passionately.

“...and I tell you, the working man cannot survive under such conditions!”

A ripple of agreement moved through the crowd. A smattering of applause.

The speaker gestured wildly, his voice rising and falling, pulling the people with him.

No microphones. No screens. Just a voice—and attention.

The man listened, transfixed.

Anyone could do this.

Anyone could stand up and speak—and be heard.

He stayed for a long time, watching different speakers take their turns. Some shouted. Some joked. Some argued.

And then, slowly, a thought formed.

He could tell them.

He knew things.

Things no one here could possibly know.

He stepped forward.

At first, no one noticed him.

Then a few turned.

He climbed onto the crate.

The crowd quietened slightly, curious about this man's odd attire.

He took a breath.

“My name doesn't matter,” he began. His voice sounded

strange to his own ears. “But I need you to listen to me.”

A few chuckles.

“I’m not from here,” he said. “Not from this time.”

More laughter now. Nudges. Smirks.

“Aye, and I’m the King,” someone called out. The crowd laughed.

Ben pressed on.

“I’m serious. I’m from the future.”

Now the laughter spread. More people joined the growing crowd to look at this strange man.

But he kept going.

“In nine years—1914—there will be a war. A great war. Bigger than anything you’ve ever seen.”

The laughter faded, just slightly.

“Millions will die. Men will go to fight thinking it will all be over by Christmas. It won’t be. It will last years. Trenches. Mud. Gas. Whole generations lost.”

The crowd shifted.

“Then—twenty years later—another war. Even worse. Bombs dropped from the sky. Cities destroyed. Millions

more dead.”

Now they were listening.

Faces changed. Tightened.

“That’s nonsense,” someone muttered—but not loudly.

He saw it. The doubt. The unease.

So he pushed further.

“You have the telephone now, yes? But it will change.

You will speak into a small device, and your voice will travel across the world in an instant.

And then—pictures. Not still images, but moving pictures, sent through the air into people’s homes.

You will sit in your living room and watch stories, news, and events as they happen. They will call it television.”

Silence.

“And later—much later—something called the internet. A network that connects the entire world. Every piece of information, every message, shared instantly.

You will not need books or newspapers. You will search for what you want, and it will appear in front of you in seconds.

And these machines—small enough to fit in your pocket.  
You will carry them everywhere.

You will speak to anyone, anywhere, at any time. You  
will even see their face as you talk.”

No one laughed now.

They stared.

“How...?” someone whispered. “How could you know  
this?”

He smiled, just slightly.

“Because I’ve seen it.”

A murmur spread through the crowd, low and uneasy.

And then—

A voice.

Cold. Sharp.

“Have you, now?”

The crowd parted.

A man stepped forward.

Not a policeman. Not quite. Well-dressed. Clean.  
Watching him carefully.

“And what else have you seen?” the man asked.

Ben hesitated.

Something about this man felt wrong.

“I’ve seen progress,” he said. “Great change.”

The man nodded slowly.

“Yes,” he said. “I think you have.”

He turned to the others.

“This man is either a lunatic, and has escaped from Bedlam,” he said calmly, “or something far more interesting.”

A pause.

“Either way, he should not be speaking freely.”

Hands grabbed him.

Ben tried to release himself from their strong grip.

“Wait—what are you doing?”

“You’ll come with us now,” said the man.

“I was just telling the truth!”

“Yes,” the man said softly. “That’s the problem.”

They took him away.

The crowd watched in silence.

No one laughed now.

Years later, a photograph would surface.

Faded. Sepia-toned.

A crowd in Hyde Park. A man standing on a crate.

Historians would study it, puzzled.

Because the man's clothes—

His face—

His expression—

None of it matched the time.

And more strangely still—

In the records of that day, there was a note.

The note was brief and official.

A man was detained for making disturbing predictions  
about future conflicts and technologies.

Deemed dangerous.

Sentence carried out.

No name.

No further detail.

But in the margins of the document, in a different hand,  
a single line had been added:

His predictions began to come true within nine years.

# Reading Comprehension Questions

Read the story carefully and answer the reading comprehension questions. Some questions focus on specific parts of the story, so make sure you follow the order of the text as you read. Take your time, look back at the story if needed, and try to answer in full sentences.

You can find the model answers at the back of the lesson plan. Your answers may be different, and that is fine, as long as they are correct. If you are unsure, check your answers with your teacher.

1. Who is the main character in the story?
2. What unusual things does the man see?
3. What things are missing from the street?
4. How are the people dressed?
5. What city does the story take place in?

6. How does the story describe the buildings?
7. What question does the main character ask the man?
8. How does the man react to Ben?
  
9. Where does the next scene take place?
10. How is Ben feeling at this point in the story?
11. What does the police officer believe about Ben?
  
12. How does Ben protest?
13. What do the police do with him?
  
14. How does Ben feel at this point in the story?
15. Where is he?
16. Where does he lie down?
17. What does he notice about the sky?
  
18. What kind of shop does Ben see?
19. What does the woman ask him?
20. How does Ben answer the woman?
21. What act of kindness does the woman perform for

Ben?

22. How does Ben react to her kindness?
23. Where does Ben go?
24. What does he see there?
25. What are the people doing?
26. What realisation does Ben come to?
27. What does he believe he can do?
28. What action does he take?
29. How does the crowd respond to seeing Ben?
30. Does Ben introduce himself?
31. What does Ben tell them?
32. Does the crowd respond positively to him?
33. What comment does one person shout out?
34. What event in the future does Ben warn the crowd about?
35. When do people think the war will end?

36. How long does Ben say the war will actually last?
37. What is the second event that Ben warns them about?
38. What does Ben say will be dropped from the sky?
39. How many people does he say will die?
40. How does the crowd respond to him now?
  
41. What comment does someone from the crowd say at this point?
42. What current technology of 1905 does Ben mention?
43. How does Ben describe communication in the future?
44. What very popular technology does Ben tell them about?
  
45. In this part of the story, what technology does Ben tell the people about?
46. How does he describe it?
47. What does he say people can put in their pockets?

48. What is the crowd's response to this?
49. What question does someone ask Ben?
50. And how does he reply?
51. Who comes forward to question Ben?
52. Does Ben feel comfortable with this man?
53. How does the man explain to the crowd Ben's predictions?
54. What does the man say Ben should not be allowed to do?
55. What happens to Ben?
56. How do the crowd react?
57. Are they laughing?
58. What visual image does the story introduce now?
59. How is it described?
60. What is unusual about Ben's clothing?

61. What does the official note say?
62. What was later added in the margin?

# The Man in Hyde Park — story and reading comprehension questions

Read the story in sections and answer the questions after each part. This can make it easier to understand the story step by step and check your understanding as you go. Take your time, follow the order carefully, and try to answer each question in full sentences.

You can find the model answers at the back of the lesson plan. Your answers may be different, and that is fine, as long as they are correct. If you are unsure, check your answers with your teacher.

## **Section 1**

He knew something was wrong the moment he saw the street.

No cars.

No buses.

No hum of engines, no glow of traffic lights. Only the clatter of hooves on stone and the distant creak of wooden wheels.

At first, he thought it was a film set.

London did that sometimes. Period dramas. Costumes. Extras.

But there were no cameras. No cables. No crew shouting instructions.

Just people, hundreds of them, moving with purpose, dressed in dark coats, long skirts, stiff collars.

And none of them were looking at their phones.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

1. Who is the main character in the story?
2. What unusual things does the man see?
3. What things are missing from the street?
4. How are the people dressed?

## **Section 2**

Ben turned slowly, his heart beginning to hammer. The buildings were right. Familiar shapes, London shapes, but older and dirtier.

No glass towers. No signage he recognised.

He grabbed a man by the sleeve.

“Excuse me, what’s going on? Is this... what is this?”

The man recoiled slightly, looking him up and down.

“What are you wearing?”

“Just—just tell me the date.”

The man frowned.

“March. Nineteen-oh-five.”

The words landed like a blow.

He laughed at first. A short, sharp, disbelieving sound.

But the man didn’t laugh with him.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

5. What city does the story take place in?
6. How does the story describe the buildings?
7. What question does the main character ask the man?
8. How does the man react to Ben?

### **Section 3**

The police station smelled of tobacco and damp wool.

“I’m telling you, I don’t know how I got here,” Ben said, his voice rising despite himself. “I was just walking. Near the river. And then—this.”

The officer behind the desk leaned back, unimpressed.

“And where exactly is ‘here’?”

“London,” Ben said. “But not... not my London.”

A pause.

The officer exchanged a glance with another constable.

“You been drinking, son?”

“No!”

“Because you sound like you’ve had a skinful.”

### **Reading Comprehension Questions**

9. Where does the next scene take place?
10. How is Ben feeling at this point in the story?
11. What does the police officer believe about Ben?

## **Section 4**

“I’m not drunk! I’m telling you the truth!”

The officer stood.

“That’ll do. Out. Now.”

“But you don’t understand—”

A firm hand on his arm.

“We’ve got no time for this nonsense.”

They pushed him out into the street. The door shut behind him with a final, hollow thud.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

12. How does Ben protest?
13. What do the police do with him?

## **Section 5**

By evening, the panic had drained into something heavier.

Hunger.

Ben hadn't eaten all day. His head throbbed. His legs ached from walking nowhere, searching for something that made sense.

Nothing did.

He ended up in a park. Wide, open spaces and scattered with bare trees. Hyde Park, he realised dimly. At least that hadn't changed.

He found a bench. Sat. Then lay down.

The last thing he saw before sleep took him was the sky. And it was full of stars.

More than he had ever seen in his life.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

14. How does Ben feel at this point in the story?
15. Where is he?
16. Where does he lie down?
17. What does he notice about the sky?

## **Section 6**

Morning came with cold.

And hunger, sharper now.

Ben wandered the streets again, slower this time.

Watching. Listening. Trying to understand the rhythm of this place.

At a bakery window, he stopped.

The smell alone nearly broke him.

He hovered there too long.

A woman inside noticed. Opened the door.

“You going to stand there all day?”

“I—sorry. I just...”

He swallowed.

“I don’t have any money.”

She studied him. His odd clothes. His face.

Then, with a sigh, she handed him some bread.

“Go on now. Don’t make a habit of it.”

“Thank you,” he said, and meant it more than anything.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

18. What kind of shop does Ben see?
19. What does the woman ask him?
20. How does Ben answer the woman?
21. What act of kindness does the woman perform for Ben?
22. How does Ben react to her kindness?

## **Section 7**

Later, drawn by noise, he found himself back in Hyde Park.

A crowd had gathered—thick, shifting, alive with murmurs.

At the centre, a man stood on a small wooden crate, speaking loudly, passionately.

“...and I tell you, the working man cannot survive under such conditions!”

A ripple of agreement moved through the crowd. A smattering of applause.

The speaker gestured wildly, his voice rising and falling, pulling the people with him.

No microphones. No screens. Just a voice—and attention.

The man listened, transfixed.

Anyone could do this.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

23. Where does Ben go?

24. What does he see there?

25. What are the people doing?

## **Section 8**

Anyone could stand up and speak—and be heard.

He stayed for a long time, watching different speakers take their turns. Some shouted. Some joked. Some argued.

And then, slowly, a thought formed.

He could tell them.

He knew things.

Things no one here could possibly know.

He stepped forward.

## Reading Comprehension Questions

26. What realisation does Ben come to?
27. What does he believe he can do?
28. What action does he take?

### Section 9

At first, no one noticed him.

Then a few turned.

He climbed onto the crate.

The crowd quietened slightly, curious about this man's odd attire.

He took a breath.

“My name doesn't matter,” he began. His voice sounded strange to his own ears. “But I need you to listen to me.”

A few chuckles.

“I'm not from here,” he said. “Not from this time.”

More laughter now. Nudges. Smirks.

“Aye, and I'm the King,” someone called out. The crowd

laughed.

Ben pressed on.

“I’m serious. I’m from the future.”

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

29. How does the crowd respond to seeing Ben?

30. Does Ben introduce himself?

31. What does Ben tell them?

32. Does the crowd respond positively to him?

33. What comment does one person shout out?

## **Section 10**

Now the laughter spread. More people joined the growing crowd to look at this strange man.

But he kept going.

“In nine years—1914—there will be a war. A great war. Bigger than anything you’ve ever seen.”

The laughter faded, just slightly.

“Millions will die. Men will go to fight thinking it will all be over by Christmas. It won’t be. It will last years.

Trenches. Mud. Gas. Whole generations lost.”

The crowd shifted.

“Then—twenty years later—another war. Even worse. Bombs dropped from the sky. Cities destroyed. Millions more dead.”

Now they were listening.

Faces changed. Tightened.

### **Reading Comprehension Questions**

34. What event in the future does Ben warn the crowd about?
35. When do people think the war will end?
36. How long does Ben say the war will actually last?
37. What is the second event that Ben warns them about?
38. What does Ben say will be dropped from the sky?
39. How many people does he say will die?
40. How does the crowd respond to him now?

### **Section 11**

“That’s nonsense,” someone muttered—but not loudly.

He saw it. The doubt. The unease.

So he pushed further.

“You have the telephone now, yes? But it will change.

You will speak into a small device, and your voice will travel across the world in an instant.

And then—pictures. Not still images, but moving pictures, sent through the air into people’s homes.

You will sit in your living room and watch stories, news, and events as they happen. They will call it television.”

Silence.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

41. What comment does someone from the crowd say at this point?
42. What current technology of 1905 does Ben mention?
43. How does Ben describe communication in the future?
44. What very popular technology does Ben tell them

about?

## **Section 12**

“And later—much later—something called the internet. A network that connects the entire world. Every piece of information, every message, shared instantly.

You will not need books or newspapers. You will search for what you want, and it will appear in front of you in seconds.

And these machines—small enough to fit in your pocket. You will carry them everywhere.

You will speak to anyone, anywhere, at any time. You will even see their face as you talk.”

No one laughed now.

They stared.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

45. In this part of the story, what technology does Ben tell the people about?

46. How does he describe it?
47. What does he say people can put in their pockets?
48. What is the crowd's response to this?

### **Section 13**

“How...?” someone whispered. “How could you know this?”

He smiled, just slightly.

“Because I’ve seen it.”

A murmur spread through the crowd, low and uneasy.

And then—

A voice.

Cold. Sharp.

“Have you, now?”

The crowd parted.

A man stepped forward.

Not a policeman. Not quite. Well-dressed. Clean.

Watching him carefully.

### **Reading Comprehension Questions**

49. What question does someone ask Ben?
50. And how does he reply?
51. Who comes forward to question Ben?

## **Section 14**

“And what else have you seen?” the man asked.

Ben hesitated.

Something about this man felt wrong.

“I’ve seen progress,” he said. “Great change.”

The man nodded slowly.

“Yes,” he said. “I think you have.”

He turned to the others.

“This man is either a lunatic, and has escaped from Bedlam,” he said calmly, “or something far more interesting.”

A pause.

“Either way, he should not be speaking freely.”

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

52. Does Ben feel comfortable with this man?
53. How does the man explain to the crowd Ben's predictions?
54. What does the man say Ben should not be allowed to do?

## **Section 15**

Hands grabbed him.

Ben tried to release himself from their strong grip.

“Wait—what are you doing?”

“You’ll come with us now,” said the man.

“I was just telling the truth!”

“Yes,” the man said softly. “That’s the problem.”

They took him away.

The crowd watched in silence.

No one laughed now.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

55. What happens to Ben?

56. How do the crowd react?  
57. Are they laughing?

## **Section 16**

Years later, a photograph would surface.

Faded. Sepia-toned.

A crowd in Hyde Park. A man standing on a crate.

Historians would study it, puzzled.

Because the man's clothes—

His face—

His expression—

None of it matched the time.

And more strangely still—

In the records of that day, there was a note.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

58. What visual image does the story introduce now?  
59. How is it described?  
60. What is unusual about Ben's clothing?

## **Section 17**

The note was brief and official.

A man was detained for making disturbing predictions about future conflicts and technologies.

Deemed dangerous.

Sentence carried out.

No name.

No further detail.

But in the margins of the document, in a different hand, a single line had been added:

His predictions began to come true within nine years.

### **Reading Comprehension Questions**

61. What does the official note say?
62. What was later added in the margin?

# True or False?

Read each statement and decide if it is true or false.

You can find the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.

1. Ben first thinks he is on a film set.
2. The people in the street are using mobile phones.
3. The man tells Ben that the year is 1915.
4. The police officer believes Ben and offers to help him.
5. Ben spends the night sleeping in Hyde Park.
6. A woman at a bakery gives Ben some food.

7. In Hyde Park, people are listening to speakers giving public talks.

8. The crowd immediately believes that Ben is from the future.

9. Ben says that a war will begin in 1914.

10. Ben is allowed to finish his speech and leave freely.

# Essential Vocabulary

recoiled	faded	calmly
unimpressed	trenches	freely
constable	generations	release
skinful	shifted	grip
nonsense	tightened	surface
hollow	muttered	sepia-toned
drained	unease	historians
throbbed	network	puzzled
ached	instantly	matched
dimly	devices	records
hovered	appeared	detained
murmurs	murmur	disturbing
gestured	uneasy	predictions
transfixed	parted	conflicts
curious	hesitated	technologies
attire	progress	margins
chuckles	nodded	
nudges	lunatic	
smirks	escaped	

pressed on	Bedlam	
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## Vocabulary Practice Exercise

Follow the steps below to help you learn and remember new words and phrases more effectively:

- Write each new word or phrase in your vocabulary notebook.
- Look up the meaning of each word in a dictionary and write a clear, simple definition.
- Write your own sentence using the word or phrase correctly. Try to make your sentence meaningful and connected to your own life or experiences.

## Examples

**Generations** – *all the people born and living at about the same time, especially when considered as a group over time.*

**Example sentence:** *Traditions are often passed down through several generations of a family.*

**Nonsense** – *ideas, statements, or behaviour that have no meaning or seem foolish or untrue.*

**Example sentence:** *He said the story was complete nonsense and refused to believe it.*

### **Why do this?**

Doing this regularly will help you improve all areas of your English—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. By writing definitions and creating your own examples, you actively use the language, which helps it stay in your memory.

# What is the Correct Synonym?

Match each word with its correct synonym.

A synonym is a word of similar meaning.

Read all the options carefully and think about the meaning of each word before you decide.

You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.

<b>Word</b>	<b>Synonym (match the correct pair)</b>
recoiled	fascinated
unimpressed	withdrew
throbbled	murmured
transfixed	unimpressed
muttered	pulsed
unease	confusion
instantly	discomfort
refused	immediately
detained	declined
puzzled	held

# What is the Correct Antonym?

Match each word with its correct antonym.

An antonym is a word of similar meaning.

Read all the options carefully and think about the meaning of each word before you decide.

You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.

<b>Word</b>	<b>Antonym (match the correct pair)</b>
familiar	noisy
older	modern
loud	young
silence	familiar
strange	full
empty	different
serious	calm
dangerous	safe
crowded	unimportant
important	quiet

# Words and Meanings

Match each word with the correct meaning. Read all the options carefully and choose the meaning that best fits each word.

You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.

## **Word List:**

unimpressed, recoiled, throbbed, transfixed, muttered, unease, hovered, puzzled, detained, dimly

## **Meanings:**

1. felt confused and unable to understand something
2. kept near a place without moving away
3. held or kept in custody
4. felt a continuous strong pain
5. felt slightly worried or uncomfortable

6. spoke very quietly and unclearly
7. not feeling any interest or admiration
8. only a little; not clearly
9. was so interested that you could not look away
10. moved back suddenly because of fear or shock

# Gap Fill Exercise

Complete each sentence using a word from the box. Read each sentence carefully and choose the word that best fits the meaning.

You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.

## **Word Box:**

recoiled, throbbed, transfixed, murmurs, hovered, puzzled, detained, unease, shifted, dimly

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ in fear when she saw the snake on the path.

2. His head \_\_\_\_\_ after working long hours without a break.

3. The audience sat \_\_\_\_\_ as the magician performed

his final trick.

4. Quiet \_\_\_\_\_ spread through the room as people began to worry.

5. He \_\_\_\_\_ near the door, unsure whether to go in or leave.

6. The teacher looked \_\_\_\_\_ when no one could answer the question.

7. The suspect was \_\_\_\_\_ by the police for questioning.

8. There was a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_ in the air before the announcement.

9. The mood in the meeting \_\_\_\_\_ after the manager spoke.

10. The lights were \_\_\_\_\_ visible in the distance.

# Discussion Questions

Discuss the questions below with a partner or in small groups. Share your ideas, give reasons for your answers, and listen to different opinions.

How do you think you would feel if you suddenly found yourself in a different time like Ben?

Do you think Ben reacted in a sensible way at the beginning of the story? Why or why not?

If you were in Ben's situation, what would you do first?

Why do you think the police did not believe Ben?

Do you think the police treated him fairly? Why or why not?

If you were hungry like Ben, would you beg for food?

Why or why not?

How would you feel if a stranger gave you food like the woman in the bakery?

Why do you think people were willing to listen to speakers in Hyde Park?

Do you think it was a good idea for Ben to speak to the crowd? Why or why not?

If you were Ben, what would you tell people from the past?

Do you think the crowd's reaction to Ben was realistic? Why or why not?

At what point do you think the crowd started to take Ben seriously?

Which part of Ben's speech do you think was the most shocking for people in 1905?

Do you think people today would react differently if someone made similar predictions? Why?

Do you think it is dangerous to tell people too much about the future? Why or why not?

Why do you think the well-dressed man wanted to stop Ben from speaking?

Do you think Ben was right to tell the truth, even though it caused trouble?

If you could travel back in time, would you try to change history? Why or why not?

Do you think knowing the future is a good thing or a bad thing? Explain your answer.

What do you think is the main message or theme of the story?

# Time Travel Discussion Activity

Work in pairs or small groups. Ask and answer the questions below. Try to give full answers and ask follow-up questions.

## **Part 1: Going to the Past**

If you could travel to the past, where would you go?  
Why?

What time period would you choose?

Who would you like to meet in the past?

What would you want to see or experience?

Would you change anything in history? Why or why not?

What problems do you think you would have living in the past?

## **Part 2: Going to the Future**

If you could travel to the future, how far would you go?

What do you think the world will be like?

What technology would you like to see?

What would you be most excited about?

What would worry you about the future?

Would you want to stay in the future or return to the present? Why?

## **Part 3: Personal Choices**

Would you prefer to travel to the past or the future?  
Why?

Would you tell people that you are from a different

time? Why or why not?

What would you miss most about your own time?

Do you think time travel would be a good idea for humanity? Why or why not?

If time travel were possible, who should be allowed to use it?

### **Extension (Optional – Strong Discussion)**

Imagine you can only travel once.

***Where would you go, and what would you do?***

Be ready to explain your choice to the class.

### **Teacher Tip!**

Encourage students to:

- ask follow-up questions (“Why?” “What would happen next?”)

- compare answers
- disagree politely

# Radio Play Role Play Activity

In this activity, students will perform a short radio play based on the story.

Students should focus on:

- clear pronunciation
- expressive speaking
- using emotion in their voices

***No acting is required—only voice.***

## **Roles**

- Narrator
- Ben
- Man in the street
- Police officer
- Bakery woman
- Hyde Park speaker
- Well-dressed man
- Crowd (can be one or more students)

## **Instructions**

- Divide students into groups.
- Assign each student a role.
- Give students time to read and practise their parts.
- Students then perform the radio play for the class.
- Encourage students to use tone and emotion to make the story interesting.

## **Radio Play Script**

### **Narrator:**

Ben knew something was wrong the moment he saw the street. There were no cars. No buses. Only horses and wooden wheels.

### **Ben:**

Excuse me... what's going on? What is this place?

### **Man in the street:**

What are you wearing?

### **Ben:**

Just tell me the date.

**Man in the street:**

March. Nineteen-oh-five.

**Narrator:**

The words hit Ben hard.

**Narrator:**

Later, Ben went to a police station.

**Ben:**

I don't know how I got here! I was just walking, and then  
—this!

**Police officer:**

You been drinking, son?

**Ben:**

No! I'm telling the truth!

**Police officer:**

That's enough. Out.

**Narrator:**

They pushed him back onto the street.

**Narrator:**

Hungry and tired, Ben walked through the city until he reached a bakery.

**Bakery woman:**

You going to stand there all day?

**Ben:**

I... I don't have any money.

**Bakery woman:**

Here. Take this. But don't make a habit of it.

**Ben:**

Thank you.

**Narrator:**

Later, Ben returned to Hyde Park. A crowd had gathered around a speaker.

**Hyde Park speaker:**

The working man cannot survive under these conditions!

**Narrator:**

Ben watched. Then he stepped forward.

**Ben:**

Listen to me! I'm from the future!

**Crowd:**

(laughing, murmuring)

**Crowd member:**

Aye, and I'm the King!

**Ben:**

In nine years, there will be a war. Millions will die.

**Narrator:**

The laughter began to fade.

**Ben:**

And later—another war. Even worse.

**Crowd:**

(quiet now)

**Ben:**

You will have machines in your pockets. You will speak to anyone in the world.

**Narrator:**

The crowd fell silent.

**Well-dressed man:**

Have you, now?

**Narrator:**

A man stepped forward.

**Well-dressed man:**

This man is either a lunatic—or something more interesting. Either way, he should not be allowed to speak.

**Narrator:**

They grabbed Ben.

**Ben:**

Wait! I'm telling the truth!

**Well-dressed man:**

Yes. That's the problem.

**Narrator:**

They took him away.

# Writing

**This is a writing exercise.**

## **A Time Traveller's Story**

Write a short story about a person who travels through time.

Use the questions below to help you.

### **Writing Task**

You wake up in a different time.

Write about what happens next.

### **Ideas to help you**

- Where are you? (past or future)
- What year is it?
- What is different from your world?
- Who do you meet?
- What problems do you have?
- What do people think about you?

- Do you tell people the truth?
- What happens at the end?

### **Useful language**

- *I suddenly realised that...*
- *At first, I thought...*
- *I tried to explain that...*
- *No one believed me because...*
- *People began to...*
- *In the end...*

### **Word guide**

Write between 150 and 300 words.

# Reading Comprehension Questions — Model Answers

These are the model answers below.

**Who is the main character in the story?**

*The main character in the story is a man named Ben.*

**What unusual things does the man see?**

*The man sees horses, wooden wheels, and people dressed in old-fashioned clothes.*

**What things are missing from the street?**

*There are no cars, buses, engines, or traffic lights on the street.*

**How are the people dressed?**

*The people are dressed in dark coats, long skirts, and stiff collars.*

**What city does the story take place in?**

*The story takes place in London.*

**How does the story describe the buildings?**

*The buildings are described as familiar but older and dirtier.*

**What question does the main character ask the man?**

*The main character asks the man what is going on and what the place is.*

**How does the man react to Ben?**

*The man recoils and looks at Ben with confusion and suspicion.*

**Where does the next scene take place?**

*The next scene takes place in a police station.*

**How is Ben feeling at this point in the story?**

*Ben is feeling confused, anxious, and desperate.*

**What does the police officer believe about Ben?**

*The police officer believes that Ben is drunk.*

**How does Ben protest?**

*Ben protests by saying that he is not drunk and that he is telling the truth.*

**What do the police do with him?**

*The police push him out of the station and throw him onto the street.*

**How does Ben feel at this point in the story?**

*Ben feels hungry, tired, and overwhelmed.*

**Where is he?**

*He is in Hyde Park.*

**Where does he lie down?**

*He lies down on a bench.*

**What does he notice about the sky?**

*He notices that the sky is full of stars.*

**What kind of shop does Ben see?**

*Ben sees a bakery.*

**What does the woman ask him?**

*The woman asks him if he is going to stand there all day.*

**How does Ben answer the woman?**

*Ben tells the woman that he does not have any money.*

**What act of kindness does the woman perform for Ben?**

*The woman gives Ben some bread.*

**How does Ben react to her kindness?**

*Ben thanks her sincerely and appreciates her help.*

**Where does Ben go?**

*Ben goes back to Hyde Park.*

**What does he see there?**

*He sees a large crowd gathered around a speaker.*

**What are the people doing?**

*The people are listening to a man speaking and*

*reacting to his words.*

**What realisation does Ben come to?**

*Ben realises that he can speak to the crowd and share his knowledge.*

**What does he believe he can do?**

*He believes that he can tell them about the future.*

**What action does he take?**

*He steps forward and climbs onto the crate to speak.*

**How does the crowd respond to seeing Ben?**

*The crowd responds with curiosity, laughter, and amusement.*

**Does Ben introduce himself?**

*No, Ben does not introduce himself.*

**What does Ben tell them?**

*Ben tells them that he is from the future.*

**Does the crowd respond positively to him?**

*No, the crowd does not respond positively and instead laughs at him.*

**What comment does one person shout out?**

*One person shouts out that he is the King.*

**What event in the future does Ben warn the crowd about?**

*Ben warns the crowd about a great war that will begin in 1914.*

**When do people think the war will end?**

*People think the war will end by Christmas.*

**How long does Ben say the war will actually last?**

*Ben says that the war will last for several years.*

**What is the second event that Ben warns them about?**

*He warns them about a second, even more destructive war.*

**What does Ben say will be dropped from the**

**sky?**

*Ben says that bombs will be dropped from the sky.*

**How many people does he say will die?**

*He says that millions of people will die.*

**How does the crowd respond to him now?**

*The crowd becomes silent and starts to listen seriously.*

**What comment does someone from the crowd say at this point?**

*Someone in the crowd says that what Ben is saying is nonsense.*

**What current technology of 1905 does Ben mention?**

*Ben mentions the telephone.*

**How does Ben describe communication in the future?**

*He describes people speaking into small devices and communicating instantly across the world.*

**What very popular technology does Ben tell them about?**

*He tells them about television.*

**In this part of the story, what technology does Ben tell the people about?**

*Ben tells the people about the internet.*

**How does he describe it?**

*He describes it as a network that connects the entire world and shares information instantly.*

**What does he say people can put in their pockets?**

*He says that people can carry small machines in their pockets.*

**What is the crowd's response to this?**

*The crowd becomes silent and stares at him in amazement.*

**What question does someone ask Ben?**

*Someone asks Ben how he can know these things.*

**And how does he reply?**

*He replies that he has seen these things.*

**Who comes forward to question Ben?**

*A well-dressed man comes forward to question Ben.*

**Does Ben feel comfortable with this man?**

*No, Ben does not feel comfortable with this man.*

**How does the man explain to the crowd Ben's predictions?**

*The man suggests that Ben is either a lunatic or something unusual.*

**What does the man say Ben should not be allowed to do?**

*The man says that Ben should not be allowed to speak freely.*

**What happens to Ben?**

*Ben is grabbed and taken away by the men.*

**How do the crowd react?**

*The crowd watches in silence.*

**Are they laughing?**

*No, they are not laughing anymore.*

**What visual image does the story introduce now?**

*The story introduces a photograph of a crowd in Hyde Park.*

**How is it described?**

*It is described as faded and sepia-toned.*

**What is unusual about Ben's clothing?**

*Ben's clothing does not match the time period.*

**What does the official note say?**

*The official note says that a man was detained for making disturbing predictions and was punished.*

**What was later added in the margin?**

*The added sentence says that his predictions began to*

*come true within nine years.*

# True or False — Answers

These are correct answers below.

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. False
9. True
10. False

# What is the Correct Synonym — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

<b>Word</b>	<b>Correct Synonym</b>
recoiled	withdrew
unimpressed	unimpressed
throbbled	pulsed
transfixed	fascinated
muttered	murmured
unease	discomfort
instantly	immediately
refused	declined
detained	held
puzzled	confusion

# What is the Correct Antonym — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

<b>Word</b>	<b>Correct Antonym</b>
familiar	strange
older	young
loud	quiet
silence	noisy
strange	familiar
empty	full
serious	calm
dangerous	safe
crowded	empty
important	unimportant

# Words and Meanings — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

1. unimpressed – not feeling any interest or admiration
2. recoiled – moved back suddenly because of fear or shock
3. throbbed – felt a continuous strong pain
4. transfixed – was so interested that you could not look away
5. muttered – spoke very quietly and unclearly
6. unease – felt slightly worried or uncomfortable
7. hovered – kept near a place without moving away

8. puzzled – felt confused and unable to understand something

9. detained – held or kept in custody

10. dimly – only a little; not clearly

# Gap Fill Exercise — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

1. recoiled
2. throbbed
3. transfixed
4. murmurs
5. hovered
6. puzzled
7. detained
8. unease
9. shifted
10. dimly

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