



ELA Virtual Learning

English IV

April 20, 2020



English IV

Lesson: April 16, 2020

Objectives/Learning Targets:

- I can draw conclusions, infer, and analyze by citing textual evidence to support analysis of the text as well as what the text leaves uncertain.
- I can determine two or more themes in a text, analyze their development within the text, and relate the themes to human nature and the world.
- I can explain my thinking in a well-organized and developed written response using relevant textual evidence.

BELL RINGER

A Dystopian text attempts to depict a future, fictional world, and criticizes the modern world's problems. Watch the Disney Pixar movie clip WALL E. then answer the following questions on a sheet of paper that you will use for your notes.

What message is the writers trying to convey about technology and our future? Do you agree or disagree with this message? Do you see any similarities between the video and modern day? Explain.



***The Machine Stops* - A Dystopian Short Story Overview**

In this eerily prophetic science fiction story from 1909, E.M. Forster creates a world ruled by 'The Machine' in which isolated people are spoiled with convenience and starved of human interaction.

Learn

- As the author develops the themes of technology and society, students will analyze similarities between their world and the warnings of a Dystopian story.

Note: If you need to review them, read this PowerPoint:

[Theme](#)

Read Closely:

In your notes, draw a t-chart like this one:

T-Chart

As you read the story and listen to the audio, write down possible themes that emerge and quotes that support the themes on the left side. On the right side, write down any connections you make with the story.

Read: [The Machine Stops](#)

Listen: [The Machine Stops](#)

Practice:

After reading and listening to the story, answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.



Question 1 Part A

In paragraph 31, Vashti declares: “I dislike seeing the horrible brown earth, the sea, and the stars when it is dark. I get no ideas in an air-ship.” Which of the following best summarizes how this line establishes humanity’s view of the earth?

- A. This remark shows that the humans living in the Machine have no respect for the earth because they no longer need it.
- B. This remark tells us that much of humanity has lost its appreciation for earth and nature, to the point of resenting its mere appearance.
- C. This remark embodies an attitude of ambivalence towards nature.
- D. This remark tells us that humanity’s minds have become narrow and dark, like the underground Machine.

Question 1 Part A Answer

B. This remark tells us that much of humanity has lost its appreciation for earth and nature, to the point of resenting its mere appearance.

A is wrong as the people need the earth

C implies that Earth is worthy of being appreciated

D compares the people to being evil

Question 2 Part B

Which of the following passages best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. Paragraph 63
- B. Paragraph 98
- C. Paragraph 113
- D. Paragraph 119

Answer Question 2 Part B

A. Paragraph 98

So when Vashti found her cabin invaded by a rosy finger of light, she was annoyed, and tried to adjust the blind. But the blind flew up altogether, and she saw through the skylight small pink clouds, swaying against a background of blue, and as the sun crept higher, its radiance entered direct, brimming down the wall, like a golden sea. It rose and fell with the air-ship's motion, just as waves rise and fall, but it advanced steadily, as a tide advances. Unless she was careful, it would strike her face. A spasm of horror shook her and she rang for the attendant. The attendant too was horrified, but she could do nothing; it was not her place to mend the blind. She could only suggest that the lady should change her cabin, which she accordingly prepared to do.

Question 3

Which of the following best explains what Kuno's description of the Mending Apparatus reveals about his and Vashti's different points of view?

- A. Kuno describes it as a worm, while Vashti calls Kuno "sinful" for describing the Mending Apparatus in such a way; in this way Kuno regards the Apparatus (and thus the Machine) as monstrous, while to Vashti it is god-like.
- B. Kuno describes it as a worm, implying a level of disgust and irreverence; Vashti, on the other hand, respects the Machine.
- C. Kuno describes the Mending Apparatus as "evil" and something to be feared, but to Vashti it is simply an aspect of the Machine, which cares for her almost maternally.
- D. Kuno describes the Mending Apparatus as a predator, implying malice; while in Vashti's later life the Apparatus breaks down, leading directly to the failure of the Machine and her death.

Question 3 Answer

A. Kuno describes it as a worm, while Vashti calls Kuno “sinful” for describing the Mending Apparatus in such a way; in this way Kuno regards the Apparatus (and thus the Machine) as monstrous, while to Vashti it is god-like.

Answer A shows Vashti’s reaction to Kuno calling the Machine a worm - he suggests that he is sinful which implies Vashti worships the Machine.

Apply what you learned - Constructed

Response

Using your notes, respond to the following prompt on a sheet of paper. Use the RACES method.

- How does the story's resolution contribute to the overall theme of the text?

RACES Method

R Restate the question in the form of a sentence.

A Answer the question

C Cite the source using two details from the text

E Explain your responses

S Summarize your claim

Constructed Response Answer Key

(Answers will Vary)

- Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:
 - Did you write in complete sentences?
 - Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
 - Did you respond to the prompt?
 - Did you support and explain your answer using at least 2 details from the article?
 - Did you explain your responses?
 - Did you summarize your claim?

Exemplary Response

*In **The Machine Stops**, the story's conclusion impacts the overall theme of the costs and benefits of technology. What, for example, does it mean if humanity is wiped out completely by the Machine? The story becomes a tragedy: humanity crushed by its own hubris. What was believed to be the epitome of civilization only led to the human race's downfall. They rejected (and most likely poisoned) the earth, choosing to retreat below it, and in turn it buries them. It's a grim resolution, though with a sliver of hope: that those who survived **Homelessness**, as mentioned by Kuno, can be given a fresh start. It is unknown whether these survivors actually exist or if Kuno is speaking figuratively. For example, they could be the constellations he mentions in the beginning of the story. Either way, it begs the question: at what cost will humanity have "learnt its lesson?"*

Reflection - Make a Connection

Reflect back to the Bell Ringer. A Dystopian text attempts to depict a future, fictional world, and criticizes the modern world's problems. In your notes, revise your responses now that you have read the short story. Did your attitude about humanity's relationship with technology change? If so, how? Do you see any similarities right now as many people are detached from other humans (either by choice or through quarantine)?

Additional Resource

Click on the following link to watch this video from Bloomberg Businessweek as Ashlee Vance heads out into a city where you can't use cash or credit cards, only your smartphone, where AI facial-recognition software instantly spots and tickets jaywalkers, and where at least one factory barely needs people.

[Inside China's High-Tech Dystopia](#)