



Introduction

This worksheet is designed to accompany the study of H.G. Wells' classic science fiction novel, War of the Worlds. The activities and questions in this worksheet are intended to help students develop a deeper understanding of the novel's historical context, literary devices, and themes.

Historical Context

1. What was the historical context in which War of the Worlds was written?
2. How did the late 19th century setting influence the novel's themes and plot?
3. What were some of the major scientific and technological advancements of the time, and how are they reflected in the novel?

Activity: Timeline Creation

Create a timeline of major historical events during the late 19th century, including the publication of War of the Worlds. How do these events relate to the novel's themes and plot?

Literary Devices

1. What literary devices does H.G. Wells use in War of the Worlds, and how do they contribute to the novel's atmosphere and themes?
2. Analyze the use of imagery in the novel. How does Wells use descriptive language to create a sense of realism and immersion?
3. What role does symbolism play in the novel, and how do symbols like the red weed and the black smoke contribute to the story's meaning?

Activity: Literary Device Identification

Identify and explain examples of literary devices used in the following passage from War of the Worlds: [insert passage]. How do these devices contribute to the novel's themes and atmosphere?

Character Analysis

1. What is the role of the narrator in War of the Worlds, and how does his character influence the story?
2. Analyze the character of the artilleryman. What motivates him, and how does he contribute to the novel's themes?
3. How does the character of the curate relate to the novel's exploration of science and religion?

Activity: Character Profile

Create a character profile of the narrator, including his background, motivations, and relationships with other characters. How does his character influence the story and its themes?

Themes

1. What are the major themes of War of the Worlds, and how are they developed throughout the novel?
2. Analyze the theme of imperialism in the novel. How does Wells use the Martian invasion to comment on British colonialism and imperialism?
3. What role does the theme of science vs. nature play in the novel, and how does it relate to contemporary debates about science and technology?

Activity: Theme Mapping

Create a concept map illustrating the novel's themes and how they relate to each other. How do the themes contribute to the novel's overall meaning and impact?

Critical Thinking

1. How does War of the Worlds relate to contemporary issues and debates, such as the ethics of scientific discovery and the impact of technology on society?
2. Analyze the novel's portrayal of science and technology. What commentary does Wells offer on the role of science in society, and how does this relate to contemporary debates?
3. What message do you think Wells is trying to convey through the novel's ending, and how does this relate to the novel's themes and literary devices?

Activity: Debate

Prepare for a debate on the following topic: "The Martian invasion in War of the Worlds is a commentary on the dangers of unchecked scientific progress." Argue for or against this statement, using evidence from the novel to support your position.

Creative Writing

1. Imagine you are a survivor of the Martian invasion. Write a diary entry describing your experiences and emotions.
2. Write a short story set in a world where the Martians have successfully colonized Earth. How do humans adapt to their new role in society?
3. Create a piece of artwork inspired by the novel's themes and imagery. What symbols or motifs do you use, and how do they relate to the novel's meaning?

Activity: Creative Writing Workshop

Share your creative writing pieces with a partner or in a small group. How do the different pieces relate to the novel's themes and literary devices? What insights do they offer into the human experience?

Reflection

1. What did you learn about the historical context of War of the Worlds, and how did it influence your understanding of the novel?
2. How did the novel's literary devices contribute to its atmosphere and themes, and what impact did they have on your reading experience?
3. What themes or messages from the novel resonated with you, and why?

Activity: Reflection Journal

Write a reflection journal entry about your experience reading War of the Worlds. What did you learn, and how did the novel impact you? What questions or insights do you still have, and how might you explore them further?

Extension

1. Research the science behind the Martian technology in the novel. How does it relate to contemporary scientific discoveries and advancements?
2. Create a multimedia presentation (e.g. video, podcast, or infographic) exploring the historical context of War of the Worlds. How does the novel reflect the social, cultural, and scientific developments of the late 19th century?
3. Write a comparative analysis of War of the Worlds and another science fiction novel, such as The Time Machine or 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. How do the novels relate to each other in terms of themes, literary devices, and historical context?

Activity: Extension Project

Choose one of the extension activities above and complete it. How does it relate to the novel and its themes, and what insights does it offer into the science fiction genre?

Assessment

1. What are the key elements of a strong literary analysis essay, and how can you apply them to an essay about War of the Worlds?
2. How can you use evidence from the novel to support your arguments and analysis, and what types of evidence are most effective?
3. What are some common pitfalls or challenges in writing about War of the Worlds, and how can you avoid them?

Activity: Essay Workshop

Write a literary analysis essay about War of the Worlds, using evidence from the novel to support your arguments and analysis. Share your essay with a partner or in a small group, and provide feedback on each other's work.

Conclusion

1. What are the key takeaways from your study of War of the Worlds, and how can you apply them to your future studies and interests?
2. How does the novel relate to contemporary issues and debates, and what insights does it offer into the human experience?
3. What do you think is the most important theme or message in War of the Worlds, and why?

Activity: Conclusion Reflection

Write a reflection essay about your experience studying War of the Worlds. What did you learn, and how did the novel impact you? What questions or insights do you still have, and how might you explore them further?

