LICEO SCIENTIFICO STATALE ALBERT EINSTEIN – MILANO

Compiti di Lingua Inglese per le vacanze estive, Classe 4 I

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Summer Homework - English

Fourth-year Classes | The Time Machine and Bartleby, the Scrivener

Main goal: read two complete texts in English, understand different narrative styles, collect useful vocabulary, and express a personal and critical response to language and themes.

1. Required reading

Read *The Time Machine* by H. G. Wells.

Read *Bartleby, the Scrivener* by Herman Melville.

Both works are available in free access on Project Gutenberg. You may read them online or download them in a suitable format:

- The Time Machine - Project Gutenberg
- Bartleby, the Scrivener - Project Gutenberg

Use a reliable and complete version. Do not rely on summaries or automatic translations.

2. Main activities

- A complete Reading Journal on both texts.
- Two short written insights, 150-180 words each.
- Vocabulary work: 12 useful words or expressions from the two texts.
- A short comparison of the two texts, focusing on language, style and themes.
- Careful revision of the language topics studied during the school year.

3. Reading Journal

Complete all the sections below. Write clearly and use your own words as much as possible. Do not translate the texts word by word: focus on understanding, vocabulary, style and personal response.

Part A - The Time Machine

1. Who is the Time Traveller?
2. What does he invent, and what does it allow him to do?
3. What kind of future world does he discover?
4. Who are the Eloi? Describe them briefly.
5. Who are the Morlocks? Why are they frightening or disturbing?
6. Choose one scene that you found surprising, frightening or memorable. Explain briefly.

7. Does the future described in the story look like progress, decline, or both?

Part B - Bartleby, the Scrivener

1. Where is the story set? Why is the setting important?
2. Who is the narrator? How would you describe him?
3. What is Bartleby's job?
4. What does Bartleby refuse to do?
5. How does the narrator react to Bartleby's behaviour?
6. Why is the sentence "I would prefer not to" so powerful?
7. Choose one scene that you found strange, sad or meaningful. Explain briefly.

Part C - Characters and figures

Complete the table.

Text	Character / figure	3 adjectives	Role or symbolic meaning
The Time Machine	The Time Traveller		
The Time Machine	The Eloi		
The Time Machine	The Morlocks		
Bartleby	The narrator		
Bartleby	Bartleby		

Part D - Vocabulary

Write down 12 useful words or expressions from the two texts: 6 from The Time Machine and 6 from Bartleby. For each one, write the Italian meaning and one original sentence in English.

Text	Word / expression	Meaning	My sentence

Part E - Key moments

Choose two important moments from each text. For each moment, answer the questions below.

1. What happens?
2. Why is this moment important?
3. What atmosphere does the writer create?
4. What does this moment suggest about human beings or society?

Part F - Style and themes

Answer the following questions briefly.

1. Which text is more dynamic and adventurous? Which text is more static and psychological?
2. How is the narrator important in Bartleby?
3. How are descriptions important in The Time Machine?
4. What do the two texts suggest about modern society?
5. Which text did you find more difficult to read? Why?

4. Short written insights

Choose two questions and answer each one in 150-180 words.

Do not simply retell the plot. Express your opinion clearly and support it with examples from the texts.

1. Does The Time Machine present the future as progress, decline, or a warning?
2. Is Bartleby weak, rebellious, ill, free, or impossible to understand? Explain your opinion.
3. In both texts, human beings seem isolated or dehumanised. Discuss.
4. Which text feels more relevant today? Explain your answer.
5. Compare the two texts: what do they suggest about modern life and society?

Suggested structure

- Opening sentence: state your idea clearly.
- Explanation: give one or two reasons.
- Evidence: refer to at least one moment, character or image from the text.
- Final comment: conclude your reflection briefly.

5. Language revision

You are strongly advised to revise all the language topics studied during the school year. Use your textbook, workbook, notebook and the materials provided by the teacher on Google Classroom.

Recommended revision work

- Review grammar rules and examples studied in class.
- Redo selected exercises from the textbook and workbook, especially the ones you found difficult.

- Review vocabulary units and word lists.
- Revise writing structures used during the year, including paragraph writing, essay organisation, connectors and argumentative writing.
- Check the materials uploaded by the teacher on Classroom.

6. Work after the summer

At the beginning of the school year, the Reading Journal may be checked and discussed in class. You may also be asked to take part in a short discussion or write a short comparative paragraph about the two texts.

Possible discussion questions

1. What does Bartleby really refuse?
2. Is the Time Traveller optimistic or pessimistic about the future?
3. What do the Eloi and the Morlocks suggest about society?
4. Why is Bartleby so difficult to understand?
5. Which text presents the most disturbing vision of human beings?
6. Which text did you prefer, and why?

Final reminder: The purpose of this summer work is to revise, read, understand, compare, think and write in English, as well as enjoy the pleasure of reading.