

Anonymous

English 202

6/24/08

Comment [j1]: According to MLA convention you would have your last name next to the page number – the idea being if I dropped the hard copy fo your paper and the pages came loose and dispersed, I could put your paper back togetehr in order – not applicable sicne reading this electronically but for future reference when you ahnd in a paper

Comment [j2]: Final Grade: A

H.G. Wells in 'Time After Time'

The character H.G. Wells in the movie, "Time After Time," was a brilliant scientist who through his own invention experienced time in a way no other man had before him.

Comment [j3]: Great opening! Bold and clear statement

He was the first to invent the technology allowing a human to travel in time using a time machine. Although he was cautious to use his newly invented machine, obligation to save a future society that he imagined to be perfect from a murderer persuaded him into action. Although Wells felt that he had the power and the obligation to save the future from this murderer, the consequences of his actions played out only to be effective to accomplish what the future had already written. He was merely acting the part he was already cast.

Comment [j4]: Nice!

Wells' obligation to time was to simply observe it and fulfill his place in it. His power to alter events was limited to what was already set forth into action, including his time machine and what that discovery might affect. (Time After Time).

Comment [j5]: Don't actually need an in-text reference here

Wells' time machine was his most proud accomplishment. He enjoyed discussing his theories and boasting of the possibilities that his machine could bring. He was even so proud as to assume that he knew what the future would be like. It is true that his machine was an amazing scientific discovery, but it was his pride in his superiority in the field of time travel that lead to his hard situations when he realized that the universe was bigger than his invention.

Comment [j6]: Would have like to see maybe some quoted dialogue to enhance your statements – to add that specificity

Comment [j7]: Good transition – still carrying the reader's interest

Well's initial motivation for time travel was to stop his friend John, also known as "Jack the Ripper," from destroying the utopian world that Wells imagined the future to

be. Instead he found that the future was already written with many disasters making it far from utopian. His friend “Jack the Ripper” was just another part of this new world. Wells might have waited a long time before testing out his new invention if it were not for his friend using the machine to elude the authorities and Wells self-given obligation to save the world from his creation.

Comment [j8]: Needs to be possessive

Wells’ cost for his abilities was the anguish and responsibility that he put on himself to prevent the negative effects of his invention from taking form. What he did not realize was that this power was out of his control. Although he was the inventor of the time machine he was not in control of the events that take place in time. This too showed Wells’ pride in the fact that he thought himself to have more power over the events in the universe than he truly had.

Comment [j9]: Nice point!

Wells’ life was mapped out a certain way because of his invention of the time machine. It may seem that because of Wells’ time machine that he was altering the events of the future and the past along with it but, on the contrary, he was simply fulfilling what history had already written.

Comment [j10]: This belongs on fabrics – you mean “seem”

When Wells and Amy tried to save other victims of “Jack the Ripper” that they read about in the paper they discovered on their trip to the future, they were not able to because those events were set in history. Even Amy’s death that was published in the paper was not accurate. Wells and Amy would later find out that the woman that was killed in Amy’s apartment was actually Amy’s friend. The newspaper had printed that the wrong person had died. (Time After Time). Due to these events, the movie proves that H.G. Wells and Amy were not able to change the events of the future even if they knew about them beforehand. Instead they were already mapped out for them.

Comment [j11]: But she was in Amy’s apartment – so maybe HG’s interference only changed the body – in a way “Amy” still did die to her time

Comment [j12]: delete

Comment [j13]: it was

Wells was out of place in the future that was far from how he imagined. It was his pride and neglect for the history of mankind that lead to this disillusionment of the future. Even as he arrived in the future, he viewed everything through this notion and was therefore confused and misunderstood **my** things until his friend John showed him what the future was really like. (Time After Time).

Comment [j14]: by

Comment [j15]: delete

John on the other hand had no disillusionment about the future. He was debating with Wells earlier in the movie about his utopian hypothesis. John was the one to bring up the point that throughout history mankind had kept a pattern, which included war and violence. John saw the future as the perfect home for himself, a place where violence was rampant. John even saw that the violence in the future surpassed his own ideas. (Time After Time).

Comment [j16]: delete

Wells traveled alone in his time machine on his first journey, and so did his **processor**, John. The machine was capable of carrying two people, which happened when H.G. Wells did bring his companion Amy with him on two occasions. Wells and Amy's first journey was only a few days into the future.

Comment [j17]: wrong word

When Wells tried to explain to Amy that he was a visitor from the future and how he took a time machine to get to this point, she thought he was crazy. Wells took Amy with him to the museum where his machine was on display to show her that he was telling her the truth about who he was and where he had come from. When Amy still did not believe him he had to take her in the machine to a few days in the future to prove to her that he was telling the truth. Wells also brought Amy with him on his final trip of the movie, back to the past with him because he had a destiny to fulfill and she was part of that destiny.

The specifics of how H.G. Wells' machine worked is based on the time travel view that is held throughout this movie. This belief is that the past, present and future are all points in space that one could travel to just like points on a map. The fact that the characters can go into the future suggests that the future is already in existence, that the future is a point in space that can be traveled to like one travels to a point on a map.

Comment [j18]: already used the map analogy – bit redundant

In the future, H.G. Wells' past is laid out for him in his museum display, showing many of his life accomplishments. This event shows that the past is fixed as well since, although he had not experienced these events, they were recorded in the future nonetheless. The fact that he is in the future does not change his past but on the contrary is fulfilling the past that has already been mapped out. These points show that the view of time travel represented in the movie "Time After Time" is Eternalism.

Comment [j19]: either underline or italicize movie titles only

Comment [j20]: delete

The consequences of the characters actions in the movie, "Time After Time," are little more than the fulfilling of their destiny. H.G. Wells' consequence of inventing the time machine was that he had to go into the future to stop his friend from killing his future wife. Wells had the pressure of feeling that he was responsible for the events that were taking place in the future. The catch is that these events were already set into action before the machine was invented.

H.G. Wells also had to deal with the fact of knowing the future and being helpless to change it. Such as when he and Amy saw what would happen to certain girls at the hands of "Jack the Ripper" but not being able to change the outcome of these events. Wells did carry the burden that his technology was what allowed these murders to happen although it was how the future was already written. In the movie "Time After Time" H.G. Wells

consequences for his time travel were that he had to try to kill his best friend and had the stress of seeing the future and the feeling of wanting to change it but being unable.

Wells also had to suffer the loss of his idealistic views of the future. He learned that with advances in technology there are always two sides **to the effects**. Wells was optimistic to the point of fault thinking that the time machine would be nothing but good. He had to suffer the learning curve that comes with any new advancement. Think of cars, they enable people to get places much faster, but it is also the speed that causes death and injury when a car crashes. In Wells case, he saw that time travel was valuable to learn about the future and that it was needed to accomplish certain events in his life, but with that, seeing the future can also bring a lot of suffering, guilt and helplessness.

Comment [j21]: delete, unnecessary

Wells was not the only one to suffer consequences attributed to time travel. Amy had to endure the stress and pain of knowing the details of her pending death. Although ultimately the death she read of was not hers, she still suffered through the emotions as if it was.

Amy also had the unique experience of meeting someone from another time and falling in love. Although this was a good thing for her and Wells, Amy had to choose between her life in the future without Wells, or being with the one she loved but giving up all that she knew. The movie doesn't show Amy's experience in the past when she leaves with Wells, but I can be sure that there were many times she suffered the loss of her old life. She gave up the job that she loved, the way of life that she understood, many modern technologies as well as everyone that she knew.

Wells obligation to time was that he was the one to invent the machine and was the cause of the events that would follow. His obligation stopped at what he would

accomplish. To think that Wells had anymore power than that would be to give him too much credit. The movie "Time After Time" represents a universe that is beyond the control on one person. Not that the individual has no effect on the universe or that they are powerless to do any good or bad, but that there power was limited to what was already written in time. Because time is a series of points that can be traveled to, one cannot change those points any more than someone could change any destination that they traveled to.

Comment [j22]: of

As for the consideration if Wells had the right to alter the events in time, I think that the proper question would be more to the effect of does he have the ability? The answer to this question would be, as stated before, that the ability to change time only goes as far as what is already set to take place in that point in time.

Wells' invention of the time machine and the events that would follow were set into action before he even invented anything. The events that were taking place in the future were witness to what was already set into motion. Although Well's intended to save the future from his friend and the implications of the machine he invented, he actually just played out what was to take place anyway. He was not able to make any more of an impact on the events that would take place, other that which would already occur.

Comment [j23]: ^ than

Meeting Amy and all that he did was already written into the future. Wells obligation to time was to participate in it.

Comment [j24]: ^ .

Works Cited

Time After Time. Dir. Myer, Nicholas. Perf. Malcolm McDowell, David Warner, and
Mary Steenburgen. 1979, DVD, Warner Home Video, 2002.

Comment [j25]: Indent second line

(Time After Time).

Comment [j26]: delete