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THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

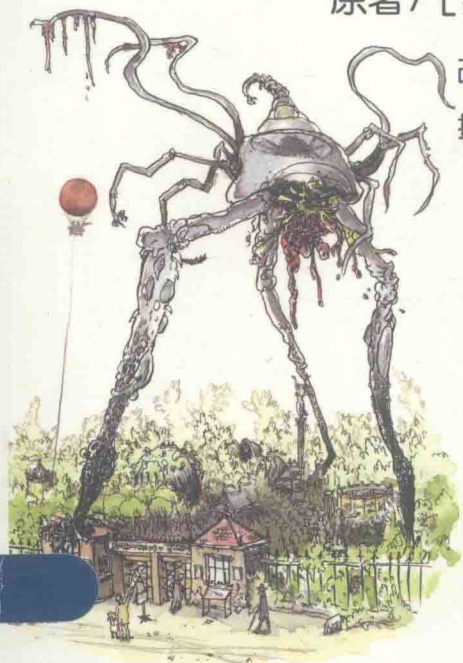
世界大战

原著 / [英] 赫伯特·乔治·威尔斯

改编 / [英] 埃瑞克·布朗

插画 / [英] 菲利克斯·本内特

阅读经典科幻小说
遨游科幻想象世界



人大附中、新东方名师推荐

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

世界大

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前言

人大附中英语组 杨乐硕士

赫伯特·乔治·威尔斯 (Herbert George Wells, 1866—1946), 英国著名小说家, 尤以科幻小说创作闻名于世。从1891年开始, 威尔斯为一些报刊撰写文章。1893年患上了肺出血, 休养期间, 开始写作短篇小说、散文和评论, 同时也开始了科普创作, 例如《百万年的人》(The Man of the Year Million) 中他大胆设想在自然选择影响下未来人类的形象, 巨大的眼睛, 细长的手。随后《全国观察家》发表了威尔斯关于时间旅行的设想的连载文章, 后来在1895年把这些文章改为《时间机器》(The Time Machine) 的小说发行。此书的出版引起轰动, 也奠定了他作为科幻小说作家的声誉。此后, 他又陆续发表了

《莫洛博士岛》（The Island of Dr. Moreau）、《隐身人》（The Invisible Man）、《世界大战》（The War of the Worlds）、《神的食物》等科幻小说，还写了大量的论文和长篇小说。他还是一位社会改革家和预言家，曾是费边社的重要成员，会晤过罗斯福和斯大林，撰写了《基普斯》《托诺—邦盖》《波里先生和他的历史》《勃列林先生看穿了他》《恩惠》《预测》《世界史纲》等大量关注现实，思考未来的作品。

《世界大战》

小说描写在19世纪末期，火星上从即将灭亡的火星上来到地球，对英国发动战争，进而希望统治全世界。人类开始和他们进行了友好的会晤，被扼杀后才同火星上开始了战斗。作者以目击者和当事人的角度描写了人类对火星人的反

击，但是由于双方科技相差太远，根本无法对抗火星。火星人摧毁城镇，屠杀人类。而且火星人只是将人类视为一种低等动物，甚至以人类作为食物。就在火星人即将取得胜利的时候，他们受到了地球上细菌的感染而全部死去。

本书曾被多次改编，有广播剧、电影、音乐剧等多个版本，影响深远。有评论认为，作者在小说中借火星人屠杀地球人，批判了殖民主义的残酷无情。另外，小说所描述的对世界末日的恐慌，是西方19世纪末无数对世纪即将结束的紧张情绪的文学作品之一。

科幻小说阅读与英语学习

科学幻想小说（Science Fiction）简称科幻小说，主要描写想象的科学或技术对社会或个人的影响的虚构性文学作品。科幻小说是西方近代文

学的一种新体裁。它的情节不可能发生在人们已知的世界中，但它的基础是有关人类或宇宙起源的某种设想，或是有关科技领域（包括假设性的科技领域）某种虚构出来的新发现。在当代的西方世界，科幻小说因其大胆的梦想，带给了人们新奇、刺激的阅读体验，并成为广受欢迎的通俗读物。

英语长篇小说的阅读不仅可以帮助读者积累大量原汁原味的英语表达方式，同时对于提高文章理解力以及写作能力也很有帮助，使读者能更加有效地驾驭英语阅读，快速把握关键信息并在英语写作中更有逻辑性同时富有感染力。此外，科幻小说独有的将科学想象转化为语言叙事的写作风格亦能提高读者对于科技领域事件的叙述能力。

科幻小说与人文思辨

科幻小说充满了对于科学的论辩或是理论叙述，在阅读之前，我们可能对于这些科学概念充满幻想，然而在阅读的过程中我们又会在作者的带领下不断挑战并修正这些幻想与观点。例如在《科学怪人》中，我们一开始赞叹科学的成就，可以创造出一个新的人类，但是后来这个新人类却因为无法融入现有的人类社会变成了一个暴力怪物，同时这个怪物在犯下各种罪行后还会为自己辩解。我们到底是该同情他还是该谴责他呢？我们不仅开始怀疑科学创造智慧生物的神话是否可行，如果可行的话，我们又会面临哪些道德问题，该如何处理。人类目前掌握的克隆技术以及机器人的开发是否应受到严格的控制呢？这一连串的科技与人类如何共处的争议话题引领读者进

入了一个思辨的世界。在阅读科幻小说的过程中，读者一方面可以体验科技发展的巨大潜力，开发想象力，另一方面也可以思考科技发展对人类社会的影响，提高人文素养。

THE CHARACTERS



The narrator

The narrator witnesses a Martian invasion. Can he escape their aggression? Will his life ever be the same again?

The narrator's wife

The narrator's wife flees to the nearby town of Leatherhead, but is that far enough? Will they ever see each other again?



The curate

The curate is a terrified man. Will his fear put both him and the narrator in even greater danger?

• curate (n.) 助理牧师

The artilleryman

The artilleryman is a fine soldier. Can the human race depend upon such men to defeat the invaders?

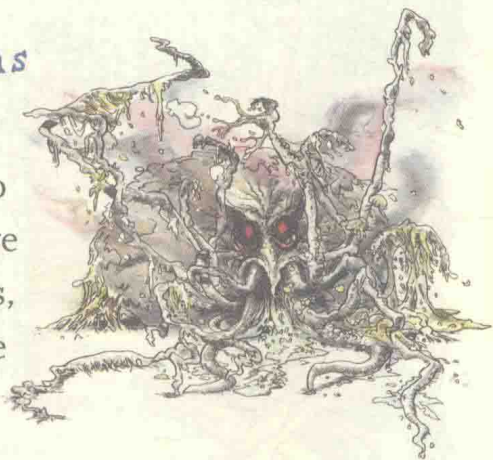


Ogilvy

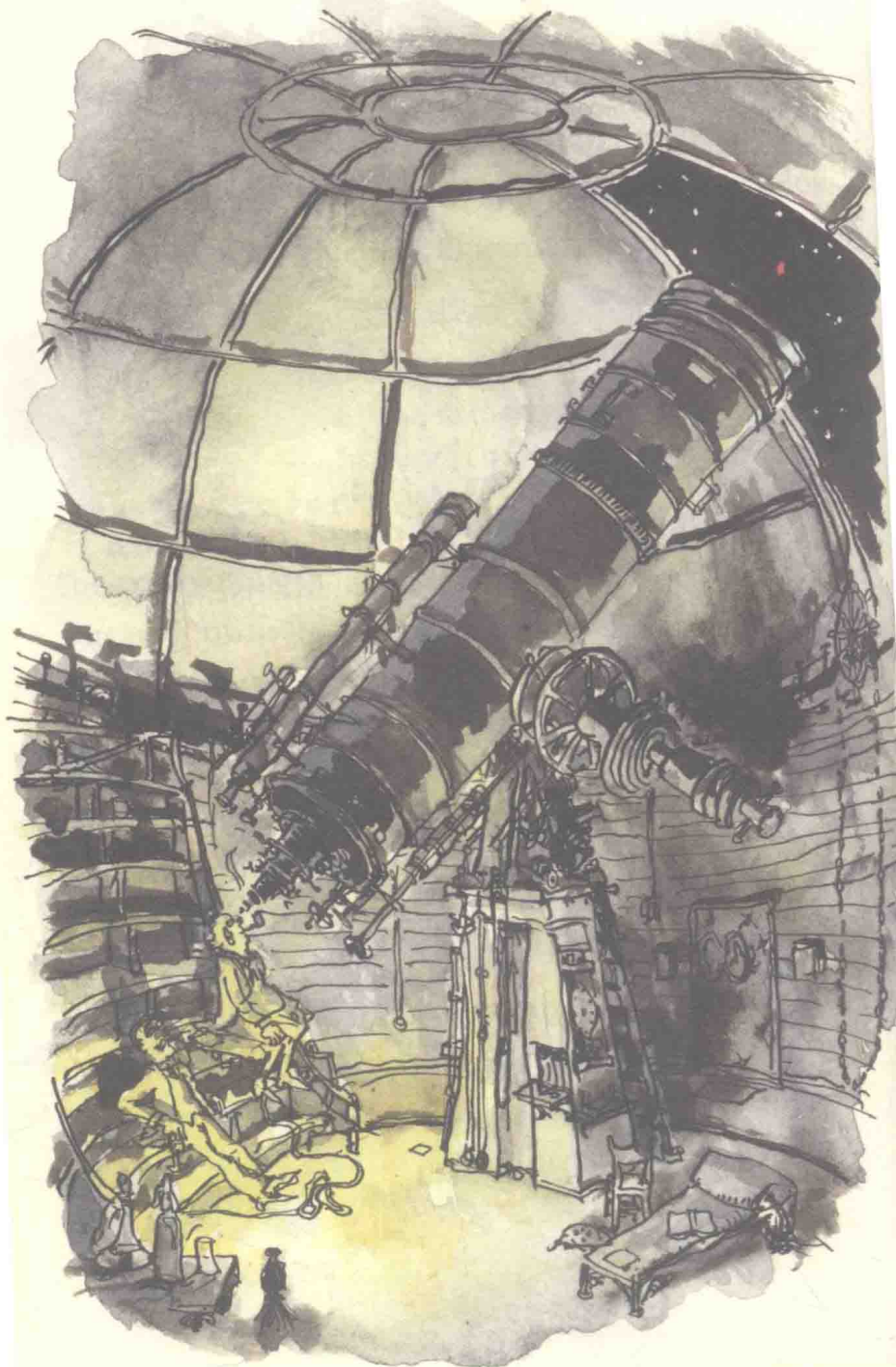
Ogilvy is one of the first men to greet the Martians. Will he live to tell the tale?

The Martians

Escaping their own dying planet, the Martians want to settle on earth. Can they live in harmony with us, or must the human race fight to survive? How do you kill a Martian?



• artilleryman (n.) 炮兵



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英文延伸阅读



THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

♪₀₁

No one would have believed at the end of the nineteenth century that planet earth was being watched by beings more intelligent than humankind, who regarded our planet with envy and were drawing up plans against us. The planet Mars, I will remind you, orbits the sun at a distance of one hundred and forty million miles. It has air and water and all that is necessary to support life. And yet over the millennia the planet has cooled, its air has thinned, and its oceans diminished. Mars is a slowly dying world. The Martians, gazing acquisitively across the gulf of space, watched our own warm and watery planet – and planned invasion.

One night six years ago, astronomers on earth beheld a huge explosion of gas upon the surface of Mars. Their instruments indicated a mass of flame moving towards the earth at great

- orbit (v.) 环绕(天体等)的轨道运行
- millennium (n.) 千禧年
- acquisitively (adv.) 贪得无厌地

speed. The newspapers paid little attention, so most people on earth remained ignorant of one of the greatest dangers that has ever threatened the human race.



♪02

The next night, through the telescope of my astronomer friend Ogilvy, I saw the phenomenon with my own eyes. For the next ten nights, at exactly the same time, we and many other observers saw the same thing happen. A flaming mass heading towards earth, one each night.

Although I watched in fascination, I did not for one moment dream that Martians had fired missiles towards us, and that these missiles were now **hurtling** through space at thousands of miles a second, getting nearer and nearer. I did not even begin to consider that these flames would bring so much **calamity** and death to the earth. Each night, I returned home from Ogilvy's **observatory** to my comfortable home and my loving wife. Everything seemed so safe and tranquil.

• hurtle (v.) 猛冲

• calamity (n.) 灾难

• observatory (n.) 天文台

Then came the night of the first falling star, a line of flame high up in the atmosphere. Below, hundreds of thousands of people in London and the Surrey countryside were sleeping in peace.

03 Convinced that a meteorite had landed on the common, Ogilvy rose early the next morning and strode out to investigate. On the grassy hillside, he found that a huge hole had been blasted violently into the earth, with sand and gravel flung in every direction. In places, the heather was on fire.



- meteorite (n.) 陨星，流星
- common (n.) 公共用地

- blast (v.) 炸开
- gravel (n.) 沙砾，碎石

Then he saw the thing itself, half buried in the pit. It was a metal cylinder, more than thirty yards in diameter. Ogilvy knew that it could not be a meteorite. A noise came from within the cylinder. 'Good heavens,' said Ogilvy. 'There's someone in it. They must be half roasted to death and trying to escape!'

He rushed forward to help, but was beaten back by the great heat radiating from the cylinder. Unable to assist, he turned and ran wildly towards town. His route took him past the house where a journalist acquaintance, Henderson, lived.

'Henderson,' he called, 'you saw that shooting star last night?'

'Well?' said Henderson.

'It's out on Horsell Common now. But it's not a meteorite. It's a cylinder! And there's something inside. I'm wondering if it has anything to do with the Martian flares.'

Ogilvy told him all that he had seen.

• cylinder (n.) 圆柱状物

• flare (n.) 火光