*Works of H.G. Wells*

***The Island of Doctor Moreau*** is the account of Edward Prendick, a shipwrecked Englishman with a scientific education. A passing ship takes him aboard, and a man named Montgomery revives him. Montgomery has a grotesque bestial assistant named M'ling, who later turns out to be only half-human. The ship’s captain is cruel, and is going to cast Prendick out to sea, so Montgomery brings him to his destination island.

The island belongs to Dr Moreau. Prendick remembers that he has heard of Dr. Moreau, formerly an eminent physiologist in London whose gruesome experiments in [vivisection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vivisection) had been publicly exposed.

The next day, Dr Moreau begins working on a [puma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cougar). Prendick gathers that Dr Moreau is performing a painful experiment on the animal, and its anguished cries drive Prendick out into the jungle. While he wanders, he comes upon a group of people who seem human but have an unmistakable resemblance to [hogs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pig). As he walks back to the enclosure, he suddenly realizes he is being followed, then chased, by a figure in the jungle. Prendick manages to stun him with a stone and observes the pursuer is a monstrous hybrid of animal and man. When he returns, Montgomery refuses to tell him what Dr. Moreau is doing on the island.

Prendick awakes the next morning and investigates. He sees a humanoid wrapped in bandages on a bed, and guesses that Dr. Moreau has been vivisecting humans and that he is the next test subject. He flees into the jungle where he meets a colony of half-human/half-animal creatures.

Suddenly, Dr. Moreau bursts into the colony looking for Prendick, but Prendick escapes to the jungle. He makes for the ocean, where he plans to drown himself rather than allow Dr. Moreau to experiment on him. Dr. Moreau explains that the creatures called the Beast Folk were not formerly men, but rather animals. Prendick returns to the enclosure, where Dr. Moreau explains that he has been on the island for eleven years and has been striving to make a complete transformation of an animal to a human. He explains that while he is getting closer to perfection, his subjects have a habit of reverting to their animal form. Dr. Moreau regards the pain he inflicts as insignificant and an unavoidable side effect in the name of his scientific experiments.

One day, Prendick and Montgomery encounter a half-eaten rabbit. Since eating flesh and tasting blood are strong prohibitions, Dr. Moreau calls an assembly of the Beast Folk and identifies the [Leopard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopard)-Man as the transgressor (and had been the one that chased Prendick the first time he wandered into the jungle). Knowing that he will be sent back to Dr. Moreau's compound for more painful sessions of vivisection, the Leopard-Man flees, but Prendick takes pity and shoots him and spares him more pain in Dr. Moreau’s lab.

As time passes, Prendick becomes inured to the grotesqueness of the Beast Folk. However one day, the puma rips free of its restraints and escapes from the lab. Dr. Moreau pursues it, but the two end up killing each other. Montgomery has a nervous breakdown, and dies after a scuffle with the Beast Folk. The compound burns down, but Prendick can’t get off the island without any boat.

****Prendick lives with the Beast Folk on the island for months after the deaths of Moreau and Montgomery. As the time goes by, the Beast Folk increasingly revert to their original animal instincts, beginning to hunt the island's rabbits and returning to walking on all fours. They cease to follow Prendick's instructions and eventually one of them kills his faithful companion, a Dog-Man created from a [St. Bernard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Bernard_%28dog%29), before being shot dead by Prendick in self-defense. Luckily for Prendick, a raft floats to shore and he uses it to leave the island and is picked up three days later. But when he tells his story he is thought to be mad, so he feigns amnesia.

Back in England, Prendick is no longer comfortable. Now, he notices how humans act more like beasts, and seem to him to be about to revert to the animal state. He leaves London and lives in near-solitude in the countryside.

**The Time Machine**’s [protagonist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protagonist) is an English [scientist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientist) and gentleman [inventor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inventor) living in [Richmond](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richmond%2C_Surrey), Surrey in [Victorian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian_era) England, and identified by a narrator simply as the Time Traveler. The beginning recounts the Traveler’s lecture to his weekly dinner guests that time is simply a fourth [dimension](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dimension), and his demonstration of a tabletop model machine for travelling through it. He reveals that he has built a machine capable of carrying a person through time, and returns at dinner the following week to recount a remarkable tale.

Next, the Time Traveler tests his device with a journey that takes him to [A.D.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anno_Domini) 802,701, where he meets the [Eloi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eloi), a society of small, elegant, childlike adults. They live in small communities within large and futuristic yet slowly deteriorating buildings, doing no work and having a [frugivorous](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frugivore) (fruit-eating) diet. The Eloi do not work and do not seem intelligent.

Returning to the site where he arrived, the Time Traveler is shocked to find his time machine missing, and eventually concludes that it has been dragged by some unknown party into a nearby structure with heavy doors, locked from the inside, which resembles a Sphinx. Luckily, he had removed the machine's levers before leaving it. Later in the dark, he is approached menacingly by the [Morlocks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morlock%22%20%5Co%20%22Morlock), [ape](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ape)-like [troglodytes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caveman) (underground dwellers) who live in darkness underground and surface only at night. Within their dwellings he discovers the machinery and industry that makes the above-ground paradise possible. He alters his theory, speculating that the human race has evolved into two species: the leisured classes have become the ineffectual Eloi, and the downtrodden [working classes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Working_class) have become the brutish light-fearing Morlocks. Deducing that the Morlocks have taken his time machine, he explores the Morlock tunnels, learning a terrible truth: the Morlocks *eat the Eloi!* The relationship between Eloi and Morlocks are not lords and servants but cows and humans. The Time Traveller theorizes that intelligence is the result of and response to danger; with no real challenges facing the Eloi, they have lost the spirit, intelligence, and physical fitness of humanity at its peak.

Meanwhile, he saves an Eloi named [Weena](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weena_%28The_Time_Machine%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Weena%20%28The%20Time%20Machine%29) from drowning as none of the other Eloi take any notice of her plight, and they develop an innocently affectionate relationship over the course of several days. He plans to take Weena back to his own time. Because the long and tiring journey back to Weena's home is too much for them, they stop in the forest, and they are then overcome by Morlocks in the night, and Weena faints. The Traveller escapes only when a small fire he had left behind them to distract the Morlocks catches up to them as a forest fire; Weena presumably dies in the fire, as are the pursuing Morlocks.

The Morlocks open the Sphinx to use the time machine as bait to ensnare the Traveller, not understanding that he will use it to escape. He reattaches the levers before he travels further ahead to roughly 30 million years from his own time. There he sees some of the last living things on a dying Earth, menacing reddish crab-like creatures slowly wandering the blood-red beaches chasing butterflies in a world covered in simple moss. He continues to make short jumps through time, seeing Earth's rotation gradually cease and the sun grow larger, redder, and dimmer, and the world falling silent and freezing as the last degenerate living things die out.

Overwhelmed, he goes back to the machine and returns to Victorian time, arriving at his laboratory (since he has travelled in time, not space) just three hours after he originally left. Interrupting dinner, he relates his adventures to his disbelieving visitors, producing as evidence two strange flowers Weena had put in his pocket. One of his guests returns to the Time Traveler’s house the next day, finding him prepared for another journey. The Traveler promises to return in half an hour, but three years later, the guest despairs of ever learning what became of him.

In **The Invisible Man**, a mysterious man, [Griffin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Griffin_%28The_Invisible_Man%29), arrives at the local inn of the English village of [Iping](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iping%22%20%5Co%20%22Iping), West Sussex, during a snowstorm. The stranger wears a long-sleeved, thick coat and gloves, his face hidden entirely by bandages except for a fake pink nose, and a wide-brimmed hat. He is excessively reclusive, irascible, and unfriendly. He demands to be left alone and spends most of his time in his rooms working with a set of chemicals and laboratory apparatus, only venturing out at night. While staying at the inn, hundreds of strange glass bottles arrive that Griffin calls his luggage. Many local townspeople believe this to be very strange. He becomes the talk of the village (one of the novel's most charming aspects is its portrayal of [small-town](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Small-town) life in southern England, which H.G. Wells knew from first-hand experience).

Meanwhile, a mysterious burglary occurs in the village. Griffin has run out of money and was trying to find a way to pay for his board and lodging. When his landlady demands he pay his bill and quit the premises, he reveals part of his invisibility to her in a fit of pique. An attempt to apprehend the stranger is frustrated when he undresses to take advantage of his invisibility, fights off his would-be captors, and flees to [the downs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Downs).

There Griffin coerces a homeless man, Thomas Marvel, into becoming his assistant. With Marvel, he returns to the village to recover three notebooks that contain records of his experiments. When Marvel tries to turn him into the police, Griffin nearly kills him but Marvel hides in a police station.

Griffin's furious attempt to avenge his betrayal leads to his being shot. He takes shelter in a nearby house that turns out to belong to Dr. Kemp, a former acquaintance from medical school. To Kemp, he reveals his true identity: the Invisible Man is Griffin, a former medical student who left medicine to devote himself to optics. Griffin recounts how he invented medicine capable of rendering bodies invisible and, on impulse, performed the procedure on himself.

Griffin tells Kemp of the story of how he became invisible. He explains how he tried the invisibility on a cat, then himself. Griffin burns down the boarding house he was staying in along with all his equipment he used to turn invisible to cover his tracks, but soon realizes he is ill-equipped to survive in the open. But now he imagines that he can make Kemp his secret confederate, describing his plan to begin a "Reign of Terror" by using his invisibility to terrorize the nation.

Kemp has already denounced Griffin to the local authorities and is waiting for help to arrive as he listens to this wild proposal. But Griffin fights his way through the police, shoots one, and the next day leaves a note announcing that Kemp himself will be the first man to be killed in the "Reign of Terror." Kemp, a cool-headed character, tries to organize a plan to use himself as bait to trap the Invisible Man, but Griffin breaks into Kemp's house. Kemp bolts for the town, where the local citizenry comes to his aid. Griffin is seized, assaulted, and killed by a mob. The Invisible Man's naked, battered body gradually becomes visible as he dies. A local policeman shouts to cover his face with a sheet, then the book concludes.

In the final chapter, it is revealed that Marvel has secretly kept Griffin's notes.