

UNIT 6 Journeys / Visions of the Future
Independent Reading

A STEM school
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation



HISTORY LESSON

WITH
JIM SOTO

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Nothing lasts forever. That is especially true about us. One day, we will not be around and will most likely be forgotten forever.

But...

what if you could leave something behind to be remembered?

What would **you** leave behind to be discovered? Why?

Take a minute to answer in the notebook.

"History Lesson" is a science fiction short story by British writer Arthur C. Clarke, first published in 1949. The two-part story speculates on the cooling of the Sun as a doomsday scenario for Earth and an evolutionary advent for Venus.

Earth has entered its final ice age—precipitated by the cooling of the sun. In this forbidding climate, a small tribe of nomadic human survivors travel toward the equator ahead of glaciers moving down from the North Pole, carrying with them a handful of relics from the 21st century—and racing against the ice to preserve them from annihilation.



THE END OF HUMANITY



We're living on a planet with an expiration date. One day, Earth will die or explode — and if we're lucky, some of us won't be there. Science fiction literature and cinema is full of stories where humanity abandons a dead Earth like in literary works such as **Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** by Douglas Adams and Dan Simmons' **Hyperion** or films like **Oblivion** and **After Earth**. The “**dead Earth**” trope is a very familiar one.



LITERARY CONCEPT

Symbols

A **symbol** is something such as an object, picture, written word, sound, or particular mark that represents something else by association, resemblance, or convention.

Examples of symbolism in literature include:

- a Heart : represents love, compassion and health.
- a Dove: represents peace, love, and calm.
- a Raven: represents death and doom.
- a Tree: represents growth, nature, stability, and eternal life.



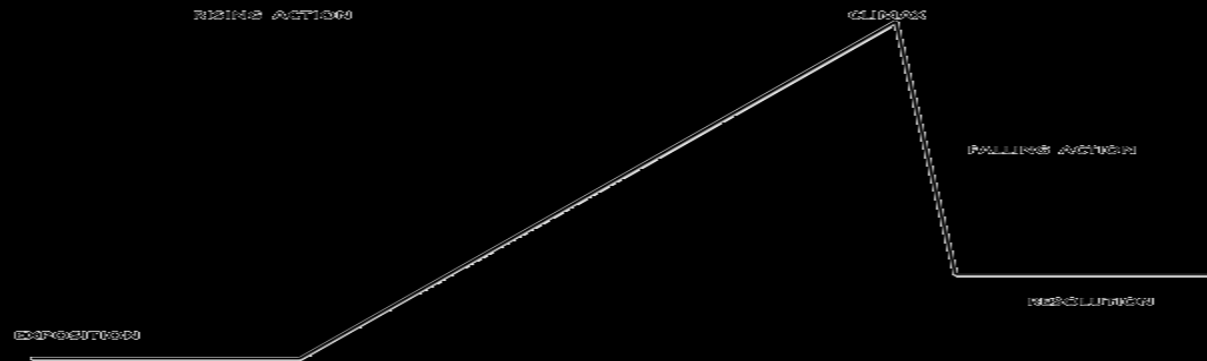
Sir Arthur C. Clarke was one of the most important and influential figures in 20th century science fiction. He spent the first half of his life in England, serving in World War Two as a radar operator, before emigrating to Ceylon in 1956. He is best known for novels such as *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Childhood's End*, *Rendezvous with Rama* and *The Fountains of Paradise*.

ASSESSMENT

After reading the short story, complete these activities:

1. ANALYZE LITERATURE

- **Plot** - Write about the events that occur in each part of the plot of "History Lesson." Use the plot diagram to help you remember the function of each part.



1. Exposition: _____
2. Rising Action: _____
3. Climax: _____
4. Falling Action : _____
5. Resolution : _____

After reading the short story, complete these activities:

2. ANALYZE LITERATURE SYMBOLS

- Identify and explain the symbols in the story “History Lesson.” (Three of the possible symbols are listed.) Identify their meanings. Then identify four other symbols and their meanings.

Symbol	Meaning
glaciers	
mountains	
atlas	



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