

UNIT 6 Journeys / Visions of the Future
Independent Reading

A STEM school

FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Home of the Space Generation



HG WELLS'S THE STAR

WITH
JIM SOTO

SPEAK YOUR MIND

The End of the World!

Again.

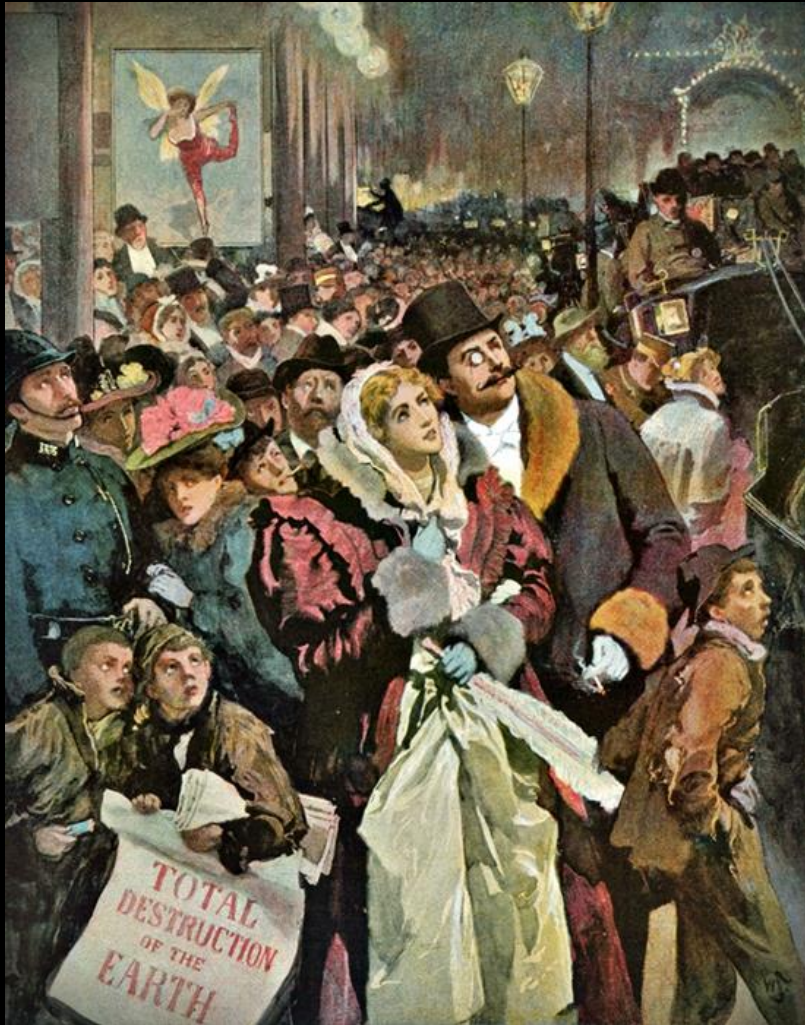
However, remember that whatever your take on it is, endings are followed by beginnings.

How do you imagine or believe the end will be?

What informs this belief or conclusion?

Take a minute to answer in the notebook.


IT ENDS... ALWAYS



H.G. Well's wrote **The Star** in 1897, but **apocalyptic/disaster fiction** had already existed for millennia. A quick Google search will tell you that hundreds of seers have prophesized the end of mankind. Unfortunately for some or fortunately for others, it hasn't happened... yet!

Yet, these countless predictions prove a point about our very own human nature: many of us contemplate an 'end of the world'. Christians call it Armageddon or Apocalypse. Vikings called it Ragnarök. Buddhists call it Maitreya. This **motif** about our eventual end on this earth has a common thread: there is some greater reason for our end to occur – most of the time, it involves the triumph of good over evil.





This is where *The Star* differs from others. Instead of focusing on some grand narrative of good gods achieving a final victory over the forces of evil, it sticks to describing the end of the world with surgical precision.

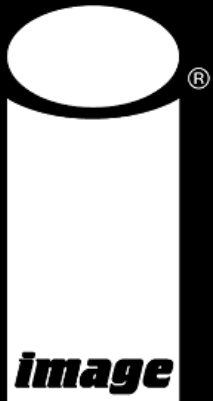
Here, Wells is not interested in a “grand design” or “fate”. In his take on the end of the world, “stuff” just happens for no particular reason. For him, there is a randomness in the universe.

Instead of reading the original story, you’ll be reading a graphic novel adaptation.

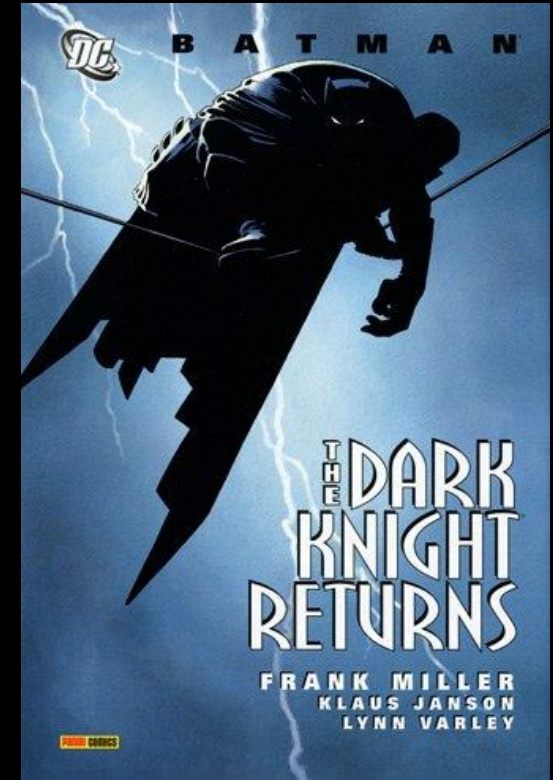
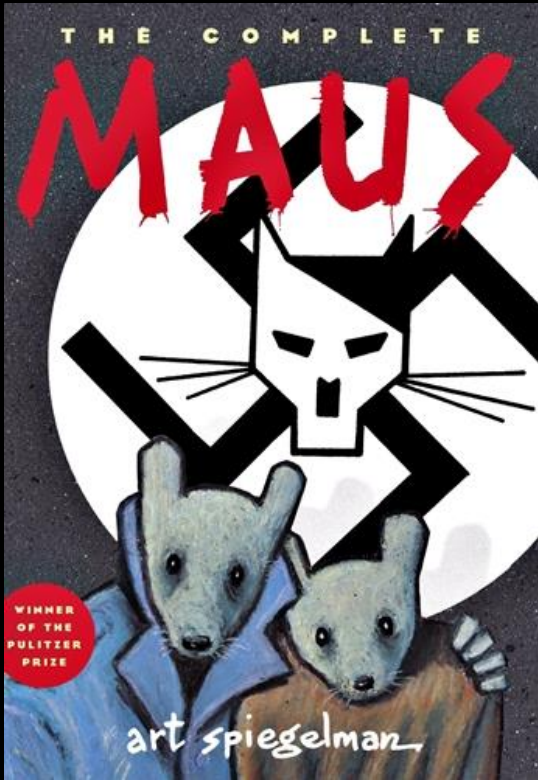
WHAT ARE GRAPHIC NOVELS?



MARVEL



Graphic novels are not new. The term was coined in the 1980s, when a number of comics were collected into single volumes. Since then, graphic novels are considered to be a genre on their own with sophisticated illustrations, as well as longer and complex storylines with a beginning and an end, much like regular novels. Still, many dismiss them as mere longer versions of comic books.



Whatever the case, the rise of the graphic novel cannot be disputed. Their sales figures are substantial enough to have led to the increase of publishing houses that are dedicated solely towards their publication. And the trend of converting regular novels into graphic ones is now picking up.

Though you can find graphic novels in comic book stores, you'll find them at traditional bookstores and websites like Amazon or B&N.

Themes in graphic novels tends to be more mature than in many comic books. This again can get confusing, since there are definitely comic book series that are for mature audiences only, particularly many of the Japanese **Manga** series.



However, in the main, the graphic novel demographic are not kids, and some are completely inappropriate to younger readers due to their subject matter, whereas some comic books are written specifically for kids or young teen audiences.



A HERALD OF MODERN SCIENCE FICTION

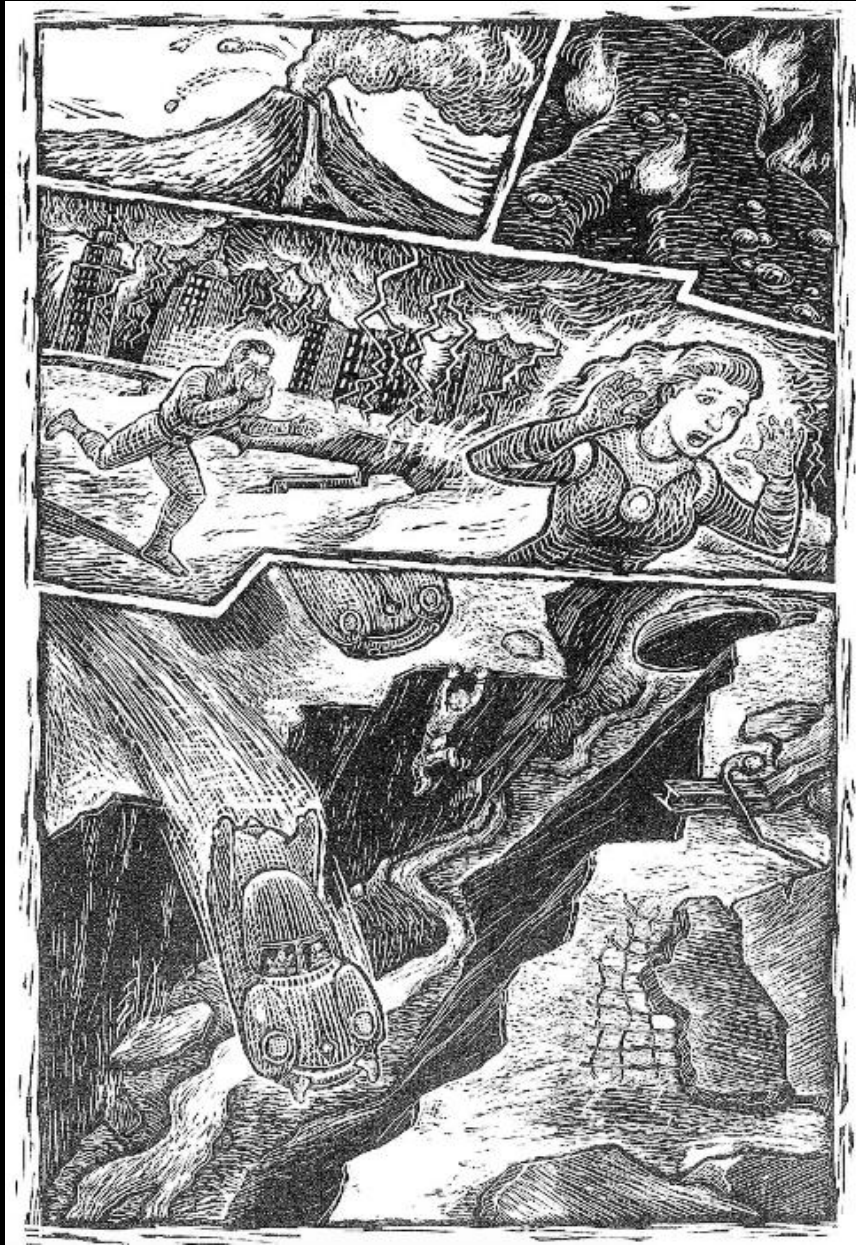
H. G. Wells is known for his **romantic, futuristic** approach to writing. Wells helped invent modern science fiction, and he also gave the new genre some of its most important traits. He was one of the first to see that writing about flying machines and time travel provided authors with opportunities for social commentary, satire, and criticism. Among his better known works are: **The Time Machine** and **The War of the Worlds**. The War of the Worlds was adapted to a radio broadcast so realistic that some viewers believed the world was under attack.



THE STAR

A GRAPHIC STORY









IT IS AMAZING WHAT LITTLE DAMAGE THE EARTH HAS SUSTAINED. THE MASSES OF THE SEAS REMAIN INTACT. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE SEEMS TO BE A SHRINKAGE OF POLAR ICE.

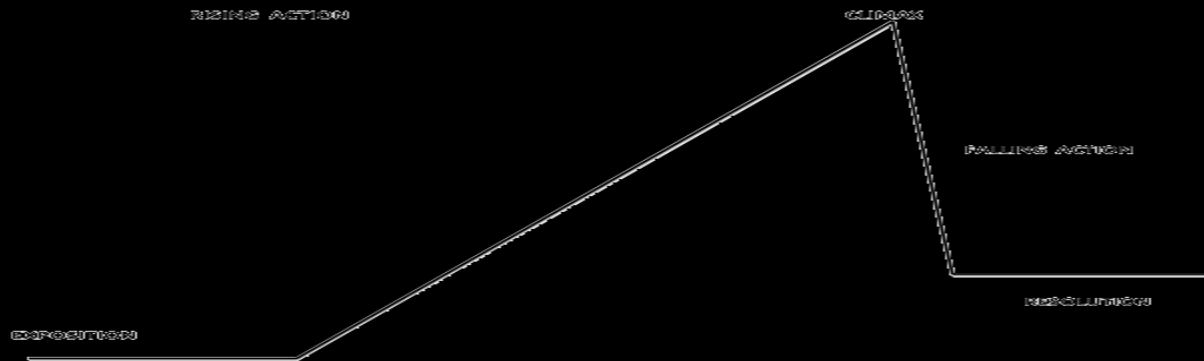
THE END

ASSESSMENT

After reading the graphic story, complete these activities:

1. ANALYZE LITERATURE

- **Plot** - Write about the events that occur in each part of the plot of "The Star." 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 graphic story, complete this activity:

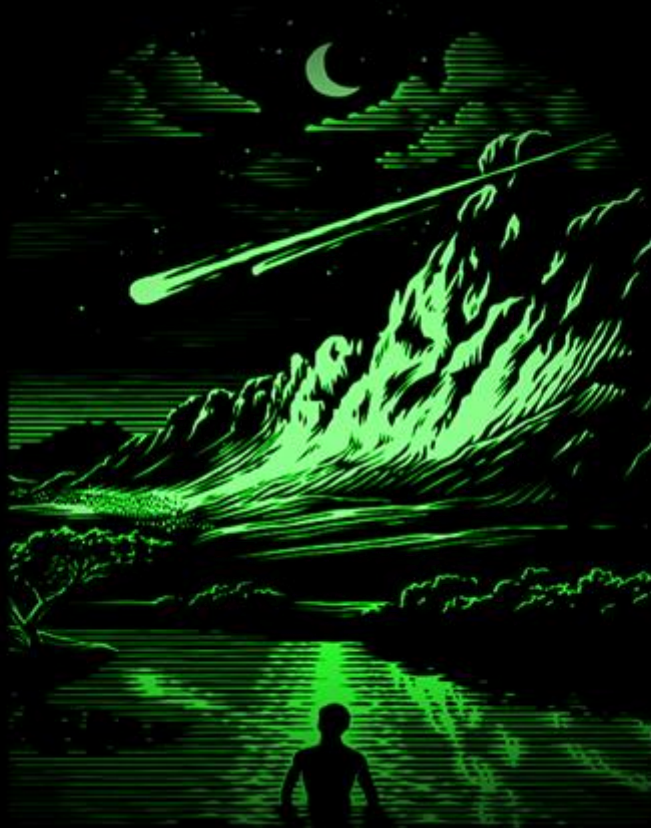
2. DESCRIBE AND CRITIQUE: FICTION

- Describe the story "The Star." Write the information to fill in this chart.

H.G. Wells' The Star	
Title and Author _____	
Summary _____	

How well do the illustrations convey the story? _____	

What is your opinion of the story? What do you like and dislike about it? Why?	



Jim Soto © 2023