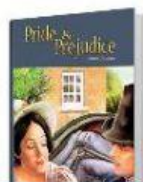


Module 5
Reading for pleasure p. 63 SB

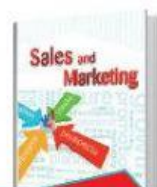
Self-Check

Look at the books given (A-H)

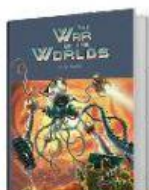
Which of them are **fiction** (*created from the imagination*)? **non-fiction** (*based on the facts*)?



A Romance Novel



B Business Report



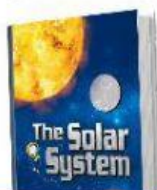
C Science-fiction Novel



D Fantasy Story



E Travel Guide



F Science Textbook



G Health & Fitness Book



H Mystery Novel

Read the theory. Highlight and remember the features about **non-fiction** texts

Non-fiction
biography, review, encyclopaedia, entry, etc

- fact-based – real people/ events/subjects
- purpose – to inform
- any person or no point of view
- contains an intro/main body/ conclusion
- idea development
- language is dependent on genre, but is generally quite restrained
- often has photos, diagrams, charts

Read the text and decide if statements (1-5) are **T** (true), **F** (false) or **DS** (doesn't say). ...

- 1 The narrator of the story remains nameless.

T **F** **DS** ...

- 2 Woking is part of London.

T **F** **DS** ...

- 3 The Martians kill many people.

T **F** **DS** ...

- 4 In the end of the book, humans manage to defeat the Martians.

T **F** **DS** ...

- 5 The writer thinks *The War of the Worlds* is a little old-fashioned.

T **F** **DS** ...

The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells, is one of the most famous science-fiction stories of all time. It is a gripping novel, narrated by a writer whose name we never learn, about Martians arriving on Earth with a plan to conquer humanity and settle on their planet.



The story, set at the end of the 19th century, begins one summer night when a strange cylinder falls to Earth near the English town of Woking, just south-west of London. Not many people are interested at first, but then the cylinder unscrews and a strange creature emerges. These are aliens from Mars, and after a short while they have created huge machines, equipped with heat-rays and chemical weapons, which attack humans and rain death upon the land. As people attempt to escape from London and the surrounding counties, the narrator must find a way to stay alive and be reunited with his wife. Will humans finally defeat the Martians? Will the narrator survive and find his wife?

The exciting plot keeps the reader absorbed to the very end. It is full of thrilling moments and dark tension among people who are forced to fight for their lives. What adds to the novel is its realistic portrayal of people struggling amongst the chaos, as society breaks down.

The War of the Worlds is highly recommended. Even though it is over 100 years old, its ideas and themes are still fresh. If you like science-fiction stories and excitement, this satisfying novel will not disappoint you!

The Ruined House

While my brother was trying to get away, I and the curate had hidden in an empty house at Halliford. I was worried for my wife. I imagined her terrified, in danger, and believing I was dead. I walked up and down the rooms of the house and cried out loud when I thought of all the things that might happen to her. My cousin was brave, but he was not the kind of man who realized danger quickly, or acted immediately. What was needed now was not bravery, but carefulness. My only hope was to believe that the Martians were on their way to London and away from her.

All this worrying made me tired. I got angry with the curate's constant remarks and his selfish hopelessness, so I kept away. The Black Smoke had crept around the house, surrounding it and making prisoners of us. Then, on Monday morning, a tripod came and washed it all away with steam. When it was safe, we looked out of the window. I realized that it was time to leave. I immediately started planning our next steps, but the curate was unwilling and had very little energy. He kept repeating the same words.

"We are safe here. Safe here."

The fact is that the curate and I had completely different characters and habits of thought and action. The danger and our hiding only emphasised those differences. He was a child, lacking all calmness and control.

I decided to leave him. When he realised I was leaving, he got up to come with me. Everything was quiet all through the afternoon, so we set off towards Sunbury at about five o'clock. We walked past dead men

and horses, carts and luggage lying upside down, all covered with a thick coat of black dust. We met some people in Twickenham, but they had no news to share. Like us, they were like frightened animals, trying to find a safer place. The roads were full of signs of crowds leaving urgently.

We didn't see any Martians until Kew. There, we saw people running and a tripod, taller than the trees and metallic, less than a hundred yards away. We were too scared to go on, but we hid in a shed in a garden. When inside, the curate went down onto the ground and wrapped his arms around his knees. He cried silently and refused to move again. But I had made up my mind to reach Leatherhead, so, right before it went completely dark, I went on my way again. I left the curate behind, but he came hurrying after me. Leaving like that was the bravest and silliest thing I ever did, because the Martians were all around us in their deadly machines.

When the curate reached me, we saw a towering tripod across the meadows chasing four or five men. In three steps of its long legs, the Martian was among them. He did not use the Heat-Ray to destroy them. He picked them up one by one. Then, he threw them into the metal container hanging like a workman's basket behind him. That's when I realized that the Martians might have a different plan for us. We stood for a moment, frozen with fear, then turned and ran for our lives.

- 1 The narrator can't leave the house at first because
 - A there are Martians outside.
 - B the Black Smoke is dangerous.
 - C he doesn't know where to go.
- 2 The curate leaves with the narrator because
 - A he wants to help him find his wife.
 - B he doesn't want to be left alone.
 - C he thinks it's too dangerous to stay where they are.
- 3 The narrator learns that the Martians
 - A don't just want to kill humans.
 - B are fairly easy to escape from on foot.
 - C are using human tools and containers.

Read the theory.

Highlight and remember the features about **fiction** texts

Fiction *novel, crime story, myth, etc*

- imaginary – made-up people/events
- purpose – to entertain
- first/third-person point of view
- contains a plot with a climax & resolution
- character development
- language is stylistic/descriptive/unrestrained with, idioms, metaphors, etc
- often has illustrations

