

# THE TIME MACHINE

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Level 4



## WORDS USED

Story 21

Story 22

Story 23

Story 24

Story 25

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### KEY WORDS

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cable  
contain  
instrument  
somersault  
strap  
tug

cheerful  
expert  
fuss  
legend  
scout  
tough

article  
awkward  
effect  
fortunate  
popular  
result

acrobat  
anxious  
area  
carpenter  
giggle  
type

according  
beak  
damage  
imagination  
skunk  
squawk

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### NECESSARY WORDS

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inventor

ruins

torn



# A NEW MACHINE



*Our friend, the inventor, brought out a model of his Time Machine and placed it on the table. The other guests and I watched as the amazing test began.*

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
  2. Look at the picture.
  3. Read the sentences under the picture.
  4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
  5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that

- a. the inventor was telling a crazy joke.
- b. none of the guests would laugh at the inventor.
- c. the inventor believed he could travel through time.
- d. many people had tried to travel into the past.

*Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.*

**Now read the story.**

Read to find out if what the inventor says is true.



# A NEW MACHINE

"I've invented a machine that I think will travel through time," our friend told us. At first no one said anything. Our friend liked to make jokes, but tonight he looked very serious. It was also true that he was an inventor. Even the chairs we were sitting in were not ordinary chairs, but his own special design.

Then one of the other guests laughed. "Travel through time?" he chuckled. "That's not possible."

"That's what everyone thinks," our friend replied, nodding. "Perhaps that's why no one has ever bothered to try."

There was more laughter.

"If you don't believe me," our friend said, "I guess I'll have to show you."

He left the room but soon he was back again. "Where is the Time Machine?" we asked. I had expected to see some sort of car or rocket, and I guess the others did too.

"Here," our friend answered. Looking closely, we saw that his hands did contain a small metal object. He explained that it was just a model of the machine he had talked about, but it would really work.

"All I have to do," he told us, "is push this bar forward to make the machine travel into the future. This other one will bring it back again." A cable joined each of these bars to an instrument which he said would measure days and years as the machine passed through them. If this was a joke, he had certainly worked hard on it. There was even a tiny seat with a safety strap.

He let us look at the model as long as we wished. Then he told us to watch carefully. Setting the tiny machine on the table, he asked one of our friends to push the bar he had shown us before. The Time Traveller took the guest's hand. The inventor did not have time to coax and tug at the surprised man.

At last the guest touched his finger to the shiny bar. For one second, the machine trembled as if it were about to do a somersault. And then, right before our eyes, right beneath his shaking hand, the Time Machine disappeared!

There were cries of surprise, and one guest even looked under the table. But the machine was gone, completely gone. "Do you really expect us to believe that it has traveled into the future?" someone asked.

Our friend smiled. "Of course," he said. "That is just what has happened." After a minute, he spoke again. "Now I have something else to show you."

We went with him down the hall to his workroom, wondering what new surprise it would contain. He opened the door, and there stood another Time Machine. It was like the first one, but many times larger. The seat was big enough for a man to sit on. The metal bars, the cable, and the instrument for measuring time were all the same as those on the model.

"Are you really serious?" one of the guests asked. "Or is this a trick, like that ghost you made last year?"

"On this machine," our friend said quietly, "I will

explore time. I was never more serious in my life."

There was a long silence. One of the other guests caught my eye and gave me a wink to show he still thought it was a joke. I wasn't at all sure what I thought.

The next week we went to our friend's house again for dinner. There we found a note from him saying that he'd gone out. If he wasn't back by dinner time, we should go ahead and eat without him.

We did go ahead with our meal. As a joke, I said maybe our friend had climbed on his machine, fastened the strap, and gone for a trip through time. One of the guests was new this week, so we had to explain about the Time Machine. Just as we were telling how the model had seemed about to make a somersault, there was a sound at the door.

In came our friend with his clothes all dirty and torn. He had cuts on his face and walked with a limp. On his feet he wore only a pair of torn and bloody socks. At first he didn't seem able to speak. He had to tug at my sleeve and point to a glass of water to show that he wanted some. Then he seemed to feel a little better and even smiled.

"What's wrong?" we all asked. "Where have you been?"

He said he was very hungry and would explain everything after he'd eaten.

"Have you been time travelling?" I cried. "Please tell us."

"Yes," he answered, and began to eat.

# A NEW MACHINE

## VOCABULARY CHECK

cable	contain	instrument	somersault	strap	tug
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### I. Sentences to Finish

Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct key word from the box above.

- Those red boxes \_\_\_\_\_ the old magazines that my father has been saving.
- It is important, for safety reasons, to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself in your seat when you go for a drive in the car.
- The sailor had to \_\_\_\_\_ very hard to tighten the rope that held the boat to the dock.
- The car that was being towed was connected to the truck by a heavy \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ showed a high reading of dangerous gas in the area.
- The circus clown did a \_\_\_\_\_ off the moving car.

### II. Making Sense of Sentences

Put a check next to YES if the sentence makes sense.

Put a check next to NO if the sentence does not make sense.

- |  |       |     |       |    |
|--|-------|-----|-------|----|
| 1. An <u>instrument</u> is a tool that gives careful measurements.             | _____ | YES | _____ | NO |
| 2. To <u>tug</u> at something is to pull on it.                                | _____ | YES | _____ | NO |
| 3. A <u>somersault</u> is something one uses on a fishing trip.                | _____ | YES | _____ | NO |
| 4. Paul had to <u>strap</u> on the metal hat to protect his head.              | _____ | YES | _____ | NO |
| 5. A box with a hole in it will <u>contain</u> lots of grain.                  | _____ | YES | _____ | NO |
| 6. A heavy <u>cable</u> might be used to keep an old tree straight and steady. | _____ | YES | _____ | NO |

Check your answers with the key on page 69.