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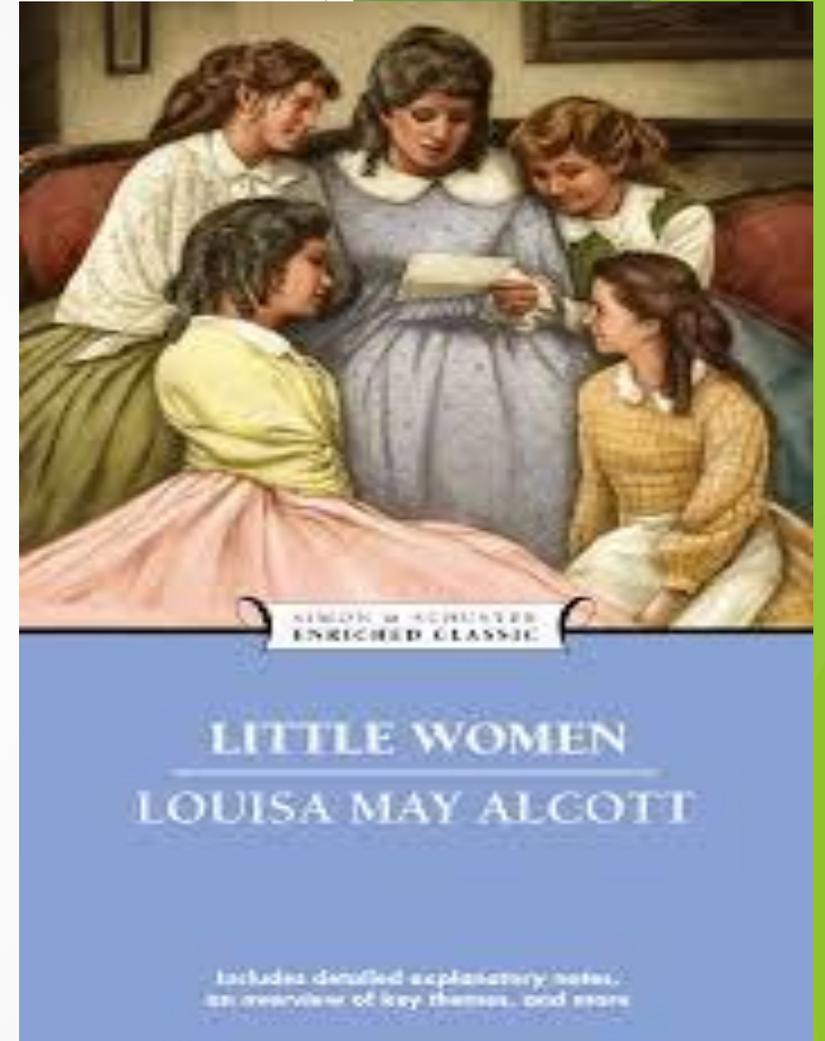
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# SUGGESTED READINGS

## FOR CLASSES VI TO VIII

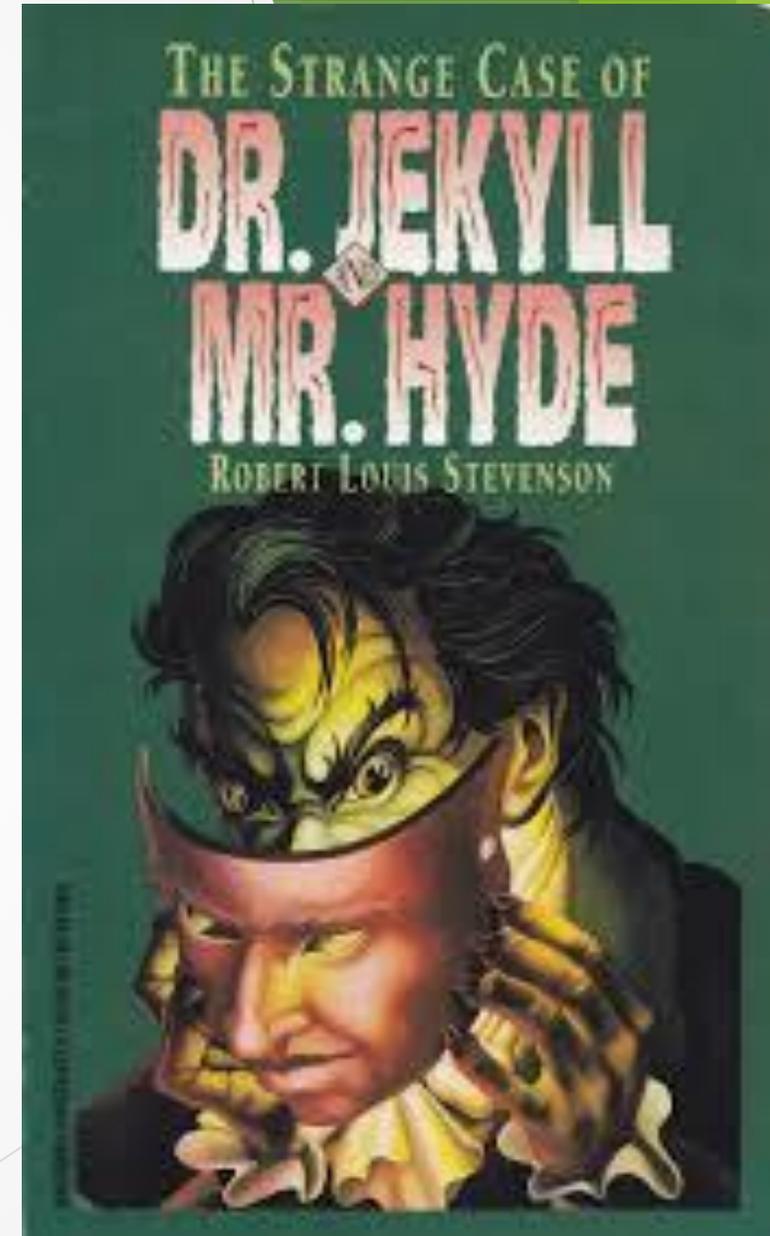
# LITTLE WOMEN - LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

- ❖ **Overview-** Louisa May Alcott's semi-autobiographical novel, *Little Women*, originally published in 1868, is a lengthy, beloved American classic that tells the story of the four March sisters growing up in Boston during and after the Civil War, as they wait for their father to return home. Generations of readers have loved its vivid, relatable characters. Religion plays an important role in the family, so there are many religious references.
- ❖ **Theme** - Four sisters- Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy March, are part of a poor but loving family. With their father off to war they have only their mother left to encourage them to be the best version of themselves at all times. As they go through love and loss they truly do learn to become 'little women'.
- ❖ **Writing style-** Alcott's writing was elegant yet poignant and haunting at moments, and perfect for the era it was set in, whilst the sister's personalities were intricately described throughout the whole book. It gives you a sense of what it was like to be a normal family in the 1800's and subtly showed the feelings of each character.



# THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE - R.L. STEVENSON

- ❖ Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, novella by Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson, published in 1886. The names of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, the two alter egos of the main character, have become shorthand for the exhibition of wildly contradictory behaviour, especially between private and public selves.
- ❖ Plot-*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is a gothic story of Gabriel John Utterson's investigation into a series of occurrences between the respected doctor, Henry Jekyll, and the nefarious Mr. Hyde. The novella explores themes of supernaturalism, the duality of self, and the importance and consequences of public opinion.
- ❖ Writing Style- The novel is written in the third person point of view. The author tells his story from Mr. Utterson's point of view, describing Mr. Utterson's concern for Dr. Jekyll and showing his search for Mr. Hyde in his attempt to figure out why Dr. Jekyll would want to leave all his worldly goods to some unknown person. The reader also follows along with Mr. Utterson as he finds out the truth of Dr. Jekyll's actions.
- ❖ The point of view of this novel is typical of fiction written in this time period. The authors of this time often took something of a backseat to their own story, showing the story not through the eyes of the people directly involved, but through the eyes of someone on the outside of the story.



# UNCLE TOM'S CABIN- HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

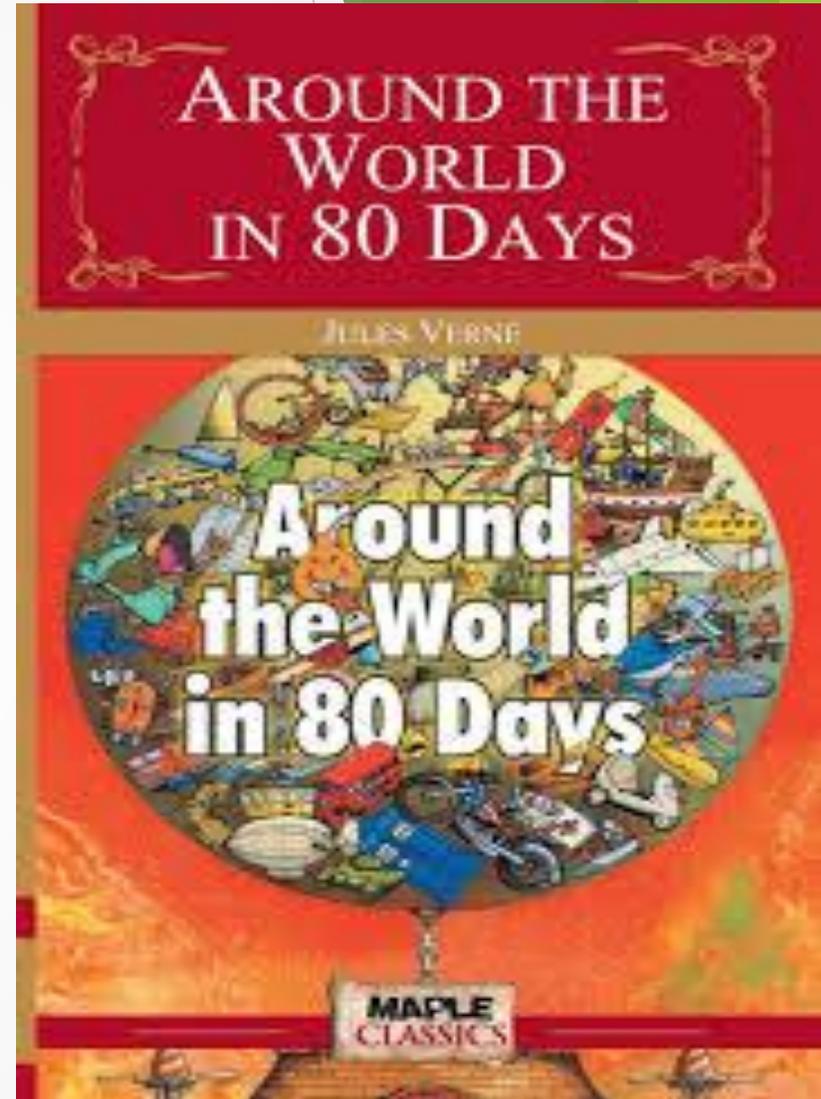
- ❖ **Overview-** *Uncle Tom's Cabin; or, Life Among the Lowly* is an anti-slavery novel by American author, Harriet Beecher Stowe. Published in 1852, the novel had a profound effect on attitudes toward African Americans and slavery in the U.S. and is said to have "helped lay the groundwork for the Civil War".
- ❖ **Plot-** The novel's plot starts with the Shelby family being pushed to sell two of their slaves because of economic troubles; Uncle Tom and Harry. Neither Mr. or Mrs. Shelby want to sell the slaves for different reasons. They are sold and the novel then follows their journey and the characters they meet.
- ❖ **Writing Style-** *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is written in the sentimental and melodramatic style common to 19th-century sentimental novels and domestic fiction (also called women's fiction). These genres were the most popular novels of Stowe's time and tended to feature female main characters and a writing style which evoked a reader's sympathy and emotion.





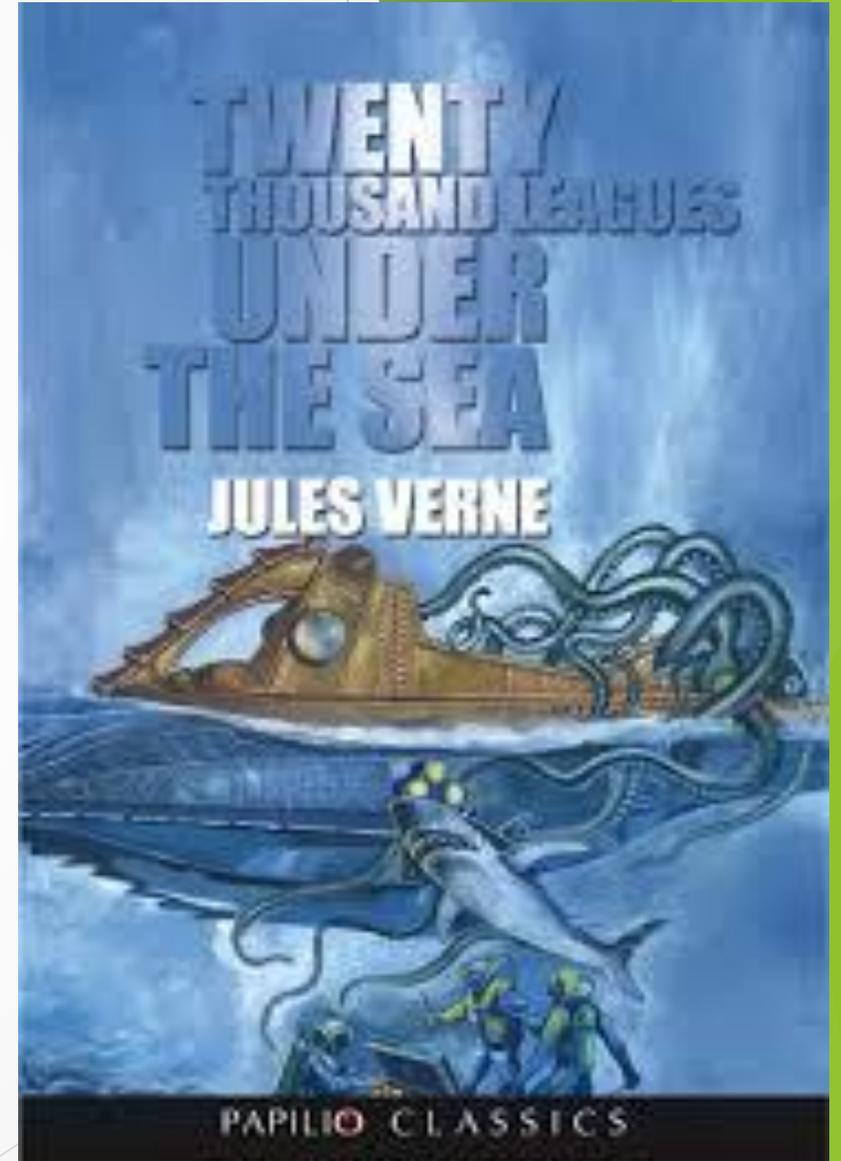
# AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS- *JULES VERNE*

- ❖ **Overview-** *Around the World in 80 Days* (French: *Le tour du monde en quatre-vingts jours*) is a classic adventure novel by the French writer Jules Verne, first published in 1873. In the story, Phileas Fogg of London and his newly employed French valet Passepartout attempt to circumnavigate the world in 80 days on a £20,000 wager set by his friends at the Reform Club.
- ❖ **Plot-** One night in the reform club, Phileas Fogg bets his companions that he can travel across the globe in just eighty days. Breaking the well-established routine of his daily life, he immediately sets off for Dover with his astonished valet Passepartout. Passing through exotic lands and dangerous locations, they seize whatever transportation is at hand—whether train or elephant—overcoming set-backs and always racing against the clock.
- ❖ **Writing style-** Writing in French , Jules Verne made sure he had a very good and a smooth literary , almost classical style. His novels and books featured and combined descriptions (sometimes long ones) , plots , and dialogues, all artistically woven together and generally capable of keeping the reader entertained and interested.



# TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA- *JULES VERNE*

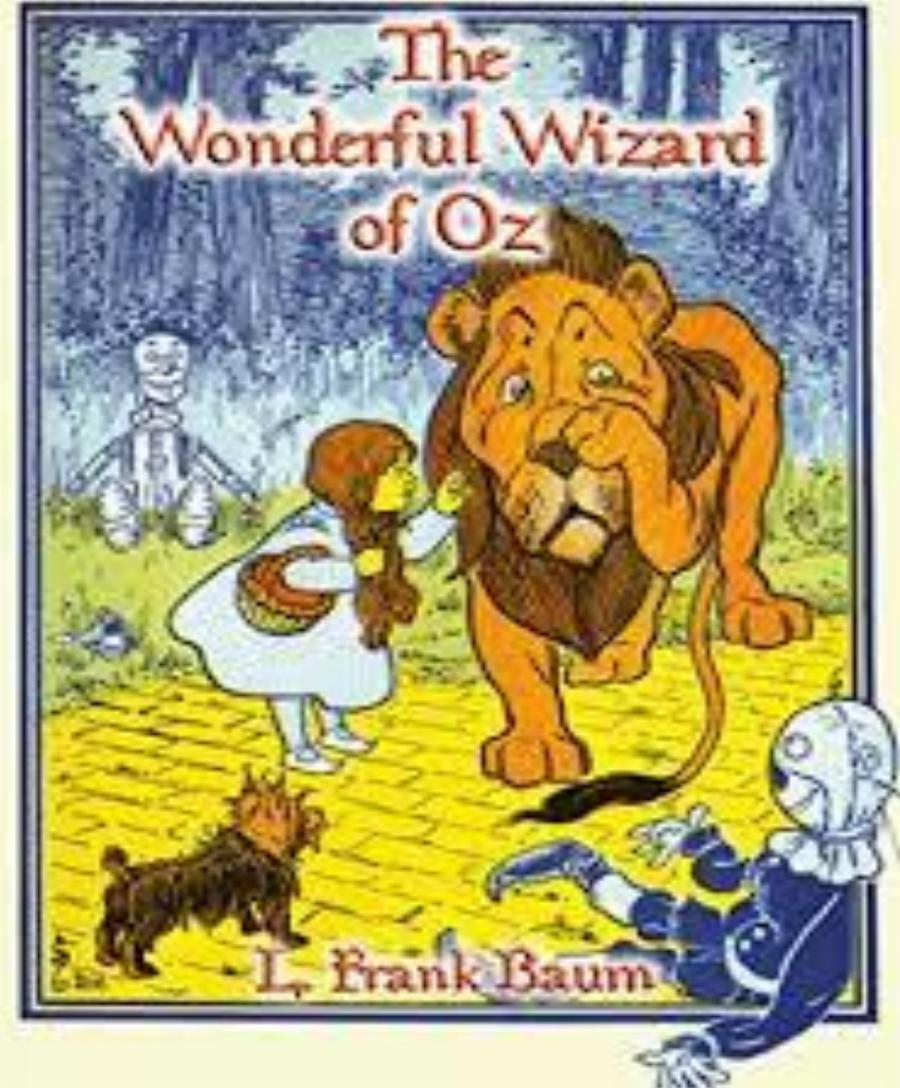
- ❖ **Overview-** In this thrilling adventure tale by the father of science fiction, three men embark on an epic journey under the sea with the mysterious Captain Nemo aboard his submarine, the Nautilus. This triumphant work of the imagination shows the limitless possibilities of science and the dark depths of the human mind.
- ❖ **Plot-** When an unidentified “monster” threatens international shipping, French oceanographer Pierre Aronnax and his unflappable assistant Conseil join an expedition organized by the US Navy to hunt down and destroy the menace. After months of fruitless searching, they finally grapple with their quarry, but Aronnax, Conseil, and the brash Canadian harpooner Ned Land are thrown overboard in the attack, only to find that the “monster” is actually a futuristic submarine, the Nautilus, commanded by a shadowy, mystical, preternaturally imposing man who calls himself Captain Nemo. Thus begins a journey of 20,000 leagues—nearly 50,000 miles—that will take Captain Nemo, his crew, and these three adventurers on a journey of discovery through undersea forests, coral graveyards, miles-deep trenches, and even the sunken ruins of Atlantis. Jules Verne’s novel of undersea exploration has been captivating readers ever since its first publication in 1870.



# THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ- *FRANK BAUM*

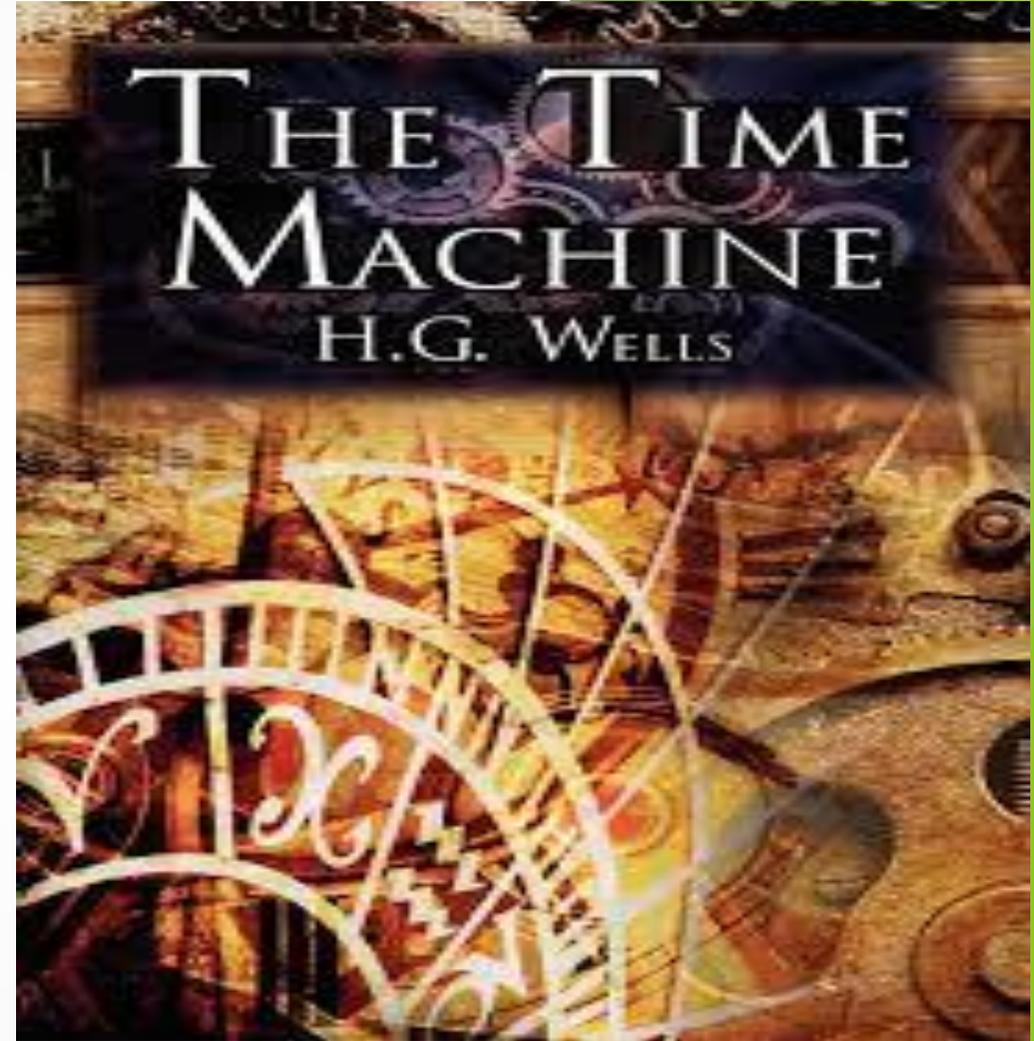
- ❖ **Overview**-The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, children's book written by L. Frank Baum and first published in 1900. A modern fairy tale with a distinctly American setting, a delightfully levelheaded and assertive heroine, and engaging fantasy characters, the story was enormously popular and became a classic of children's literature. However, by the late 20th century the 1939 film The Wizard of Oz had become more familiar than the book on which it was based.
- ❖ **Plot**-When Dorothy and her little dog Toto are caught in a tornado, they and their Kansas farmhouse are suddenly transported to Oz, where Munchkins live, monkeys fly and Wicked Witches rule. Desperate to return home, and with the Wicked Witch of the West on their trail, Dorothy and Toto - together with new friends the Tin Woodsman, Scarecrow and cowardly Lion - embark on a fantastic quest along the Yellow Brick Road in search of the Emerald City. There they hope to meet the legendary, all-powerful Wizard of Oz, who alone may hold the power to grant their every wish.

Just as captivating as it was a hundred years ago, this is a story that all ages will love.



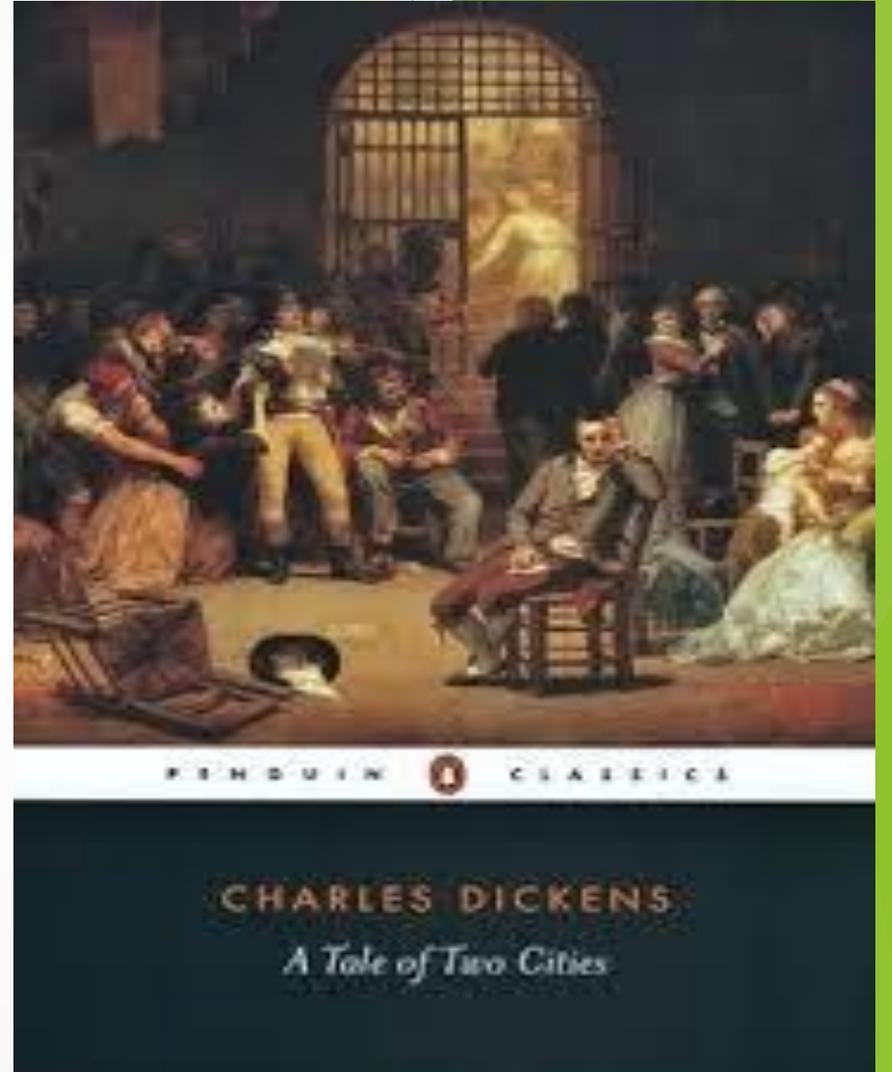
# THE TIME MACHINE- H G WELLS

- ❖ **Overview-** A compelling science fiction, the Time Machine is a first-hand account of a Time Traveler's journey into the future. a pull of the lever and the machine sends him to the year 802,701, when humanity has split into two bizarre races—the ethereal Eloi and the subterranean Morlocks. Here, his machine is stolen and with the help of Weena, an Eloi he saved from drowning, the traveler is able to retrieve it.
- ❖ **Plot-** Scientist and inventor Alexander Hartdegen (Guy Pearce) is determined to prove that time travel is possible. His determination is turned to desperation by a personal tragedy that now drives him to want to change the past. Testing his theories with a time machine of his own invention, Hartdegen is hurtled 800,000 years into the future, where he discovers that mankind has divided into the hunter ... and the hunted.



# A TALE OF TWO CITIES- CHARLES DICKENS

- ❖ **Overview-** *A Tale of Two Cities* is an 1859 historical novel by Charles Dickens, set in London and Paris before and during the French Revolution. Dickens' best-known work of historical fiction, *A Tale of Two Cities* is regularly cited as the best-selling novel of all time. The novel has been adapted for film, television, radio, and the stage, and has continued to have an influence on popular culture.
- ❖ **Plot-** The novel tells the story of the French Doctor Manette, his 18-year-long imprisonment in the Bastille in Paris and his release to live in London with his daughter Lucie, whom he had never met. The story is set against the conditions that led up to the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror.
- ❖ **Writing Style-** *A Tale of Two Cities* is one of Charles Dickens' most exciting and romantic novels. It shares intricate prose and vivid characterization with his other work. As a historical novel, however, it features a more conspicuous omniscient narrator than some of his other novels.



*“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”*

—Dr. Seuss

