

# [Hg wells – the war of the worlds](https://assignbuster.com/hg-wells-the-war-of-the-worlds/)

HG Wells uses literacy techniques in The War Of The Worlds to add tension and create a better more frightening atmosphere. He uses four main types of literacy techniques that are:\* Juxtaposition\* Pathetic fallacy\* Omniscient viewpoint\* And cliffhangersThe meaning of these are as followed:\* Juxtaposition – this is where two completely different facts are put next to each other to make a comparison that stands out clearly and completely changes the atmosphere.

\* Pathetic fallacy – this is where the weather matches the mood of some one.\* Omniscient viewpoint – the author and the reader knows what is going to happen but the character does not.\* Cliffhanger – this means main things 1. A melodramatic serial in which each episode ends in suspense.

2. A suspenseful situation occurring at the end of a chapter, scene, or episode. 3. A contest so closely matched that the outcome is uncertain until the end. Examples of these four techniques are found in the HG Wells The War Of The Worlds. The examples I picked out especially for this work are the ones I feel are most important and best show what these techniques.

These were picked out of the book. Juxtaposition:” And this was the little world in which I had been living in securely for years, this fiery chaos!”” About six in the evening, as I sat at tea with my wife in the summerhouse talking vigorously about the battle that was lowering upon us, I heard a muffled detonation from the common, and immediately after a gust of firing”.” The heavy firing that had broken out while we were driving down Maybury Hill ceased as abruptly as it began, leaving the evening very peaceful and still”. Pathetic fallacy: Omniscient viewpoint: Cliffhanger:” Would that I had! Her face, I remember, was very white as we parted”.

In the 1800`s civilization was the most important thing. If a man did not wear a hat he was accused of being poor and even if he was middle class a hat and a suit was the only way of recognizing status. Clothes were the way in which people could tell if you were rich or poor. In the book when the man loses his hat no one helps him and suspects him of just being a poor person begging. Civilization starts to break down in this book not that far off from when the Martians come to earth.

People start being selfish and getting themselves out of harms way and do not even try to bother helping the women and children. That was a mans duty to make sure, in any danger, to save his wife and children. The main character of this book outbids another buyer in a public house for buying the horse and cart. He gets away with it. When he goes back to the town guilt rises upon him as he finds the landlord who he bought the horse and cart off dead “ It was the landlord of the Spotted Dog, whose conveyance I had taken”. In the wreck of this little town and soon to be more social convention had broken down.

People of the church and vicars are losing faith and are starting to flee. Doctors who have swore the oath of loyalty to help all people in need have broken down and fled. The country is on full alert and the city of London is in a very chaotic state. The atmosphere created in this episode has a sense of drams and excitement.

“ London in Danger”, this gives a sense of urgency in the headline. H G Wells uses comparisons to show the awe and power of the Martian invaders in that he describes the invaders as “ vast spider-like machines, nearly a hundred feet high, capable of the speed of an express-train”. Wells also uses contrasting pairs to describe the power of the machine monsters when he writes “ and that they could move swiftly and smite with such power”. This is a contrasting pair because he says “ swiftly but smite”, swiftly means quick, agile and nimble and smite meaning striking and powerful, which is constructed to make the Martians look strong and powerful.

Wells also uses a contrasting pair to create a sense of optimism where he says “ This was printed in enormous type on paper so fresh that it was still wet”, which shows optimism in the way that an announcement had been made to assure the safety in the people of London. A fast pace is created in this episode by having the city chaotic at one time, but then an assurance is made that the people will be safe, but some may not believe that they are safe, which causes great tension in this episode, and for the next chapter of the book. This passage describes why the Martian invasion failed, and how the Martians were destroyed. The atmosphere created in this episode is one of rising optimism and reflection.