



**City Pride School
Pradhikaran, Nigdi-411044**

**Project work of English
Assessment of listening and speaking skills
Session 2025-26**

Science of time travel

Submitted To

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Submitted By

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Acknowledgement

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While doing this project I learnt a lot of new things and moreover I got a lot of inspiration for my future endeavors also.

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Certificate

This is to certify that Ayush Bhalerao of class 12th has completed this project work in English on 'The science of time travel' for the session 2025-26 under my supervision.

Roll number05.....

Date:

Internal examiner

Signature

Principal

Signature

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INTRODUCTION

This project is based on Jack Finney's short story *The Third Level* and a podcast/video by Nobel laureate physicist **Kip Thorne** titled "*The Science of Interstellar*."

The story explores the mysterious "third level" at New York's Grand Central Station, where the protagonist Charley seemingly travels back to 1894. On the other hand, the podcast discusses the scientific possibilities of time travel through wormholes, relativity, and quantum physics.

The project attempts to connect both perspectives—literary imagination and scientific reasoning—to highlight how the concept of time travel fascinates both storytellers and scientists.

About the Chapter ‘The Third Level’

Jack Finney’s *The Third Level* is a blend of reality, fantasy, and psychology. The protagonist, Charley, discovers a third level at Grand Central Station that appears to lead into the past—specifically, the year 1894.

The story raises questions about whether this experience was a real event or a psychological illusion created by Charley’s desire to escape the stress, insecurity, and worries of the modern world. It shows how the human mind can create alternate realities when burdened by anxiety.

About the Podcast (Kip Thorne – *The Science of Interstellar*)

In the podcast, Kip Thorne, a renowned physicist and scientific advisor for the movie *Interstellar*, explains the science behind time travel.

He discusses concepts such as:

- **Wormholes** – hypothetical tunnels in space-time that could act as shortcuts to another era or universe.
- **Relativity** – how time can pass differently depending on gravity and speed.
- **Time Dilation** – the idea that near a black hole, time runs slower than on Earth.

Although these remain theoretical, they show that time travel, once thought of as fantasy, has a scientific foundation.

Relation with *The Third Level*

Both *The Third Level* and Kip Thorne's podcast deal with the mystery of time, though in different ways.

- **Portal Connection:** Charley's third level can be seen as a *literary wormhole*. Like Thorne's wormholes, it acts as a doorway to another time.
- **Ambiguity vs. Science:** The story leaves us unsure whether Charley really travelled in time. Similarly, scientists remain unsure whether time travel through wormholes is possible.
- **Psychological vs. Physical Escape:** For Charley, the third level is a mental escape from stress. For Thorne, time travel is a physical possibility predicted by equations.
- **Quantum Weirdness:** Just as quantum physics accepts uncertainty and multiple possibilities, Charley's experience hovers between reality and illusion, never fully explained.

Thus, Jack Finney's story and Kip Thorne's science both show the deep human fascination with bending time—whether through imagination or equations

Conclusion

To conclude, Jack Finney's *The Third Level* and Kip Thorne's podcast on quantum physics share a common theme: the dream of escaping into another time. Finney presents it as a mysterious experience blending fantasy and psychology, while Thorne grounds it in scientific theories like relativity and wormholes.

Together, they remind us that time is not just a straight line but a concept full of mysteries, possibilities, and hopes for the human mind.

Bibliography

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