

## 1. THE LAND IRONCLADS

- H.G. Wells

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Summary:

The story "The Land Ironclads" is science fiction story written by H.G. Wells providing the idea of use of science and technology in war and battlefield. At the beginning of the story, there were two characters: war correspondent and young lieutenant reflecting upon the war between two unnamed nations. On one side there were 'defenders' who were better soldiers and there were 'invaders' who were townspeople on another side. Defenders were physically gifted soldiers with skill of using guns, rifles so that they had had a great belief of defeating another side easily! But during the time of battles, there was a surprise attack from invaders side. The war correspondent along with other soldiers were very shocked when they knew the attack was by monster-like large ironclads developed by townspeople. They had build about 14 ironclads with different use of technology and roles to do during the war. So, due to use of 80-100 feet long, 10 feet high land ironclads in the battle, townspeople triumph over the defenders at last. The war correspondent also got "Manhood vs Machinery" as a headline for his magazine after observing whole battle and entire incident happened during war. Hence, this story suggests that despite lack of better skills, power, our innovative mind and use of best science and techniques always defeat over strength.

Theme of the Story:

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(i) Mind vs Body

The story 'The land Ironclads' basically showcases the idea about the better use of mental power in the battlefield than physical power. In the story, there were better soldiers who were physically fit and had fought the battle several times and on another side there were townspeople who were not well-known about the battle. As being physically powered, soldiers weren't succeed to win the battle but the innovative mind of townspeople which build the large ironclad, defeated over the strength of soldiers. From this, story not only suggest the idea of war between soldiers and townspeople but also tries to give us the idea of the battle between body and mind. The mind that townspeople had bought up to use science and technology in the battlefield triumphs over the physical power of soldiers.

As there was a great greed of soldiers that they would surely won the battle, they were failed to do so. Because of the strong mental thought of townspeople, were succeed to develop big machine and were able to put the physical strength of soldiers below their mind. Hence the story shows the conflict between mind or mental power and body or physical strength along with war between two unidentified nation.

## (ii) Modernity vs Primitive existence

The story 'The Land Ironclads' showcases the idea about the use of modern machines in the battlefield comparing with old methods and process existing in the war. Modernity simply refers to the quality or condition of being modern and primitive existence means the appearance of early or old things or stage. In the story on one hand we can find the use of primitive types of things as guns, rifles, horse, cycles, lanterns etc by soldiers and on other side there was the invention of large ironclad by townspeople which actually reflects the evolution of the things seen on the war before. The use of guns, rifles, horses and even the presence of human beings themselves in the war shows the primitive existence whereas use of new and modern technologies, machines, computerized warship in the battlefield reflects the idea of modernity. Soldiers, rather than developing modern and new tools and machines in the war, they used old and traditional techniques and primitive ways and tools for battle but townspeople who weren't even much alert about war used their innovative mind and developed modern tools and machines as they defeated over their opponent side. Hence, the story also deals with the idea of modernity and primitive existence.

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## (iii) A Science fiction story

Science fiction is the actual-imaginative impacts / development of scientific advancement upon the society and an individual. This actually deals with imaginative and futuristic concept such as advanced science and technology, time travel, fictional worlds and so on. So, the story named 'The Land Ironclads' written by H.G. Wells is also one of the

science fiction story where there is flow of realism and imagination along with futuristic idea. The story typically contains use of science and technology and its effect as well as the idea put over into the story shows both real and imaginative. The dimension and design aspects of ironclads were not realistic but the idea in the story was. Similarly as a character in the story along with human beings there were machines. The large ironclad played great role during the battle at one side and soldiers as a human beings also played their respective role in the story. Likewise writer portrays a world in which nationality, culture, identity of human existence has been stripped away leaving nothing but war. So, the setting of the story was refreshing as there was combination of historical scenario and modernity. Similarly as a action there was battle itself in the story which shows machinery versus mankind. The war between the unidentified nation took place during dark dawn which even reflects the idea of conflict. The story also has allegory which contains word as 'giant dish-cover' that have hidden meaning. Hence, all in all, with the combination of these all elements the story is considered as a science fiction story.

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#### (iv) Townspeople vs Village People

The story 'The Land Ironclads' is science fiction story written by H.G. Wells. This story, told from the point of view of war correspondent, begins in the middle of the war between two nations. Neither nation is named; instead they are referred as "the invaders" which means a civilizationized townspeople pressed into the role of a soldier and "the defender" who described as nationally more vigorous and soldierly. On the first hand, the men on the war correspondent's side

are confident they are all strong outdoor types. They know how to use a rifle and fight. They were bold and professional soldiers. And on the other side, their enemies are townspeople. Townspeople aren't brute enough. They were civilized man, clerks, factory hands, students. They can write, talk, can make and do all sorts of things but they're poor armchair at war. They have got no physical staying power and that's the whole thing. They've never slept in the open at night in their lives. They ride their horses as though they were bicycles and also they were fools at the game according to defenders. However despite their lack of skills with war, the invading force and their integrity proved more than a match for the less advanced but more skilled defender. In defender sides, there were soldiers as a human being with their guns, rifles themselves whereas on invaders side, there were large ironclad-machinery. H.G. Wells vividly showcases war is won by the townsman using their minds or creativity not by their muscles. and it also shows modern war as a place where science and technology defeat over strength and power.

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#### (v) Manhood vs Machinery.

The story "The Land Ironclads" is a science fiction story written by H.G. Wells. It is a story ahead of times. The story typically deals with the idea of development of science and technology of war in the battlefield. It was written 13 years ago before any real tanks were invented. It inspired the development of tanks. In the story there is disparity between humans and machines. There are two sides referred as the invaders, townspeople from devitalized community who are armchair at war and the defenders; tough, skilled soldiers. Despite their lack of skills with war, the invading force and their integrity proved more than a match for the

less advanced but more skilled defenders by use of machines and technologies. In defender sides there were soldiers as human beings with their guns, rifles and with ironclads, automated guns with inva. In invaders sides. similarly, townspeople with their creative mind can be able to develop that big ironclad which help them to win the battle without any risk. But on the other hand the believe that soldiers had got to surely win the war goes wrong and they lose. from this we can say machines use is the strength for invaders and this strength drives down the power of human as defenders. The story totally gives the idea of the conflict between human and machines. Human power seen to be nothing over the strategy and strength of machines. H. G. Wells have also vividly showcases the fact that machines have no strong comparison against human. in this story.

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(vi) Different from general stories.

Everyday we come across stories, we have been reading stories since our childhood. The range of stories in this world is unreached. There are countless number of genres. But in this paragraph we will focus on how science fiction is different from others. Science fiction abbreviated as sci-fi is a genre that typically deals with imaginative and futuristic concepts and often explores the potential consequences of scientific innovations. Every genre deals with its own subject matter and is distinct from one another. What we generally see in the science fiction story is that it often begins in the middle. We don't see orthodox beginning of the story in sci-fi like we do with other genres. for example, the story 'The Land Ironclads' begins with two men surveying the calm

of the battlefield and reflecting upon the war between two unidentified armies. Rather than starting the story with how and why the battle has sparked, it directly jumps in the middle. Likewise, science fiction helps us to adjust to a changing world. Sci-fi stories accustoms us to the future. In the story, we have land ironclads which is totally a new concept that point of time. Even though the concept was fictional, it made people wary of the threat and use of such machines. Science fiction is also different from other genres because it holds the ability to do two things simultaneously: address important issues that is relevant to present day and address universal human issues in an indirect or metamorphic manner. In the story, we see how invaders rely upon machines and technology to win the war and same thing is relevant in today's time as well. All these reasons came together to set sci-fi apart from other general stories.

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#### (vii) Technology vs Traditional Methods

The story "The Land Ironclads" written by English writer H.G. Wells talks about the war fought between the two distinct nations whose names are not identified according to the story. As the two sides are referred to as the 'invaders' commonly mentioned as civilized townspeople who are rich in their modern technological advancement tools, machines and the 'defenders' known to be better soldiers are country peoples with traditional technologies, methods and processes use in the battlefield. So, the reversing or the turning point in the war begins when the townspeople bought huge and large land ironclads at the war during the time of battle. The ironclads which were developed by townspeople in the number of 14 shows the use of modern technology. On the other hand, the country people

still relies on their primitive tools and methods using guns and rifles on their horse back with their traditional manner. So, basically from the story we can see the conflict between the modern way of fighting and traditional methods of battle. But the whole dealing in the story compasses the idea of use of ironclad, which is the reflection of modernity in battle at that point of time. Modern techniques and ways of fighting wars against traditional scenario is shown in the story. Hence all in all the story revolved around the fact that science and technology are constantly developing our world and it is better to upgrade technology more and more leaving traditional methods behind for defeating match, wars over opponent teams.

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### (viii) Changing war patterns

The story "The Land Ironclads" written by English writer H.G. Wells where he talks besides the war. The story also deals with the changing of strategy and plans on the battle field. While the war was fought between the townspeople and the countrymen; The professional soldiers of the villages kept hold of themselves on traditional guns and machineries. On the other hand, the civilized people of the town updated themselves with modern weapons and ironclads. If the war was fought only with the traditional guns, rifles, the defenders who are better soldiers were sure to win the battle. But, the townspeople changed their war strategy and brought other modernized weapons that the defenders had no aware of. Similarly, defenders pretending to win the war easily fails as townspeople using their creative mind change the pattern and styles of the war and use computer-based warship showing their new concept, better plans in war field.

Hence, all in all, due to their updated plans, machines, pattern in the battle, they were able to win the bat war. and got victory over their opponent side. So, the story focuses on why we should upgrade ourself from the traditional ideas and use the science and technology for the betterment of ours.

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#### ix) creatively destructive nature of science:

The story "The Land Ironclads" is written by English writer H.G. Wells, which talks about how creatively science can be used for destructive purpose. It is the story where there are two groups villagers and towns people. Villagers are very powerful in terms of physical strength and were experienced whereas townspeople are teachers, students, clerks with the luxury life. who had no any experience of war and battle but scientifically very upward so by the use of science they made the ironclads which was about 80-100 feet high, the townspeople attacked the villagers at the dawn which villagers had never expected.

Every bullets shoted by town hit the villages without missing. The townspeople won the fight without loosing one people.

Hence from the story we can say how science is being used for the destructing purpose and also it is destroying the human kind making attack to opponent side at night without any signal for the battle. This story also describes the changing pattern of war as the modern way of fighting using machinery is shown. There is the idea of machinery vs mankind, so humankind are being destroying themselves creating large machines and technologies against man, so, this story entirely talks about the creativity as well as destructive nature of science in the war.

## 2. Who Can Replace a man?

- Brian W. Aldiss.

### Summary

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The story "Who can Replace a Man?" is written by Brian W. Aldiss that focuses upon the idea of futuristic world in which machines play their role for what they are designed to. In the story, the characters mentioned were all robots which were performing their respective task. According to the story, robots were categorized on the basis of their level of brains into superior and inferior. Similarly, the way the machines talk shows that they were capable of different kind of thinking depending on the class of brain. So, in the story, as the radio operator told that all the men in the world were dead and no orders were given to the machines, the field minder, penney along with quarriers, radio operators and other high classed brain robots started their journey in search of human. When these robots reached mountains they found a single man starved and weak. So, at the end, the man ordered those machines for food and they obeyed the orders without any hesitation and negligence. The acceptance shows that they considered human as their master. Hence, as a whole the story revolved around the fact that man always ruled over robots and robots were clueless without direction of man as well as nothing can be more superior than mankind in this entire world.

Themes of the story:

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### (i) Man-machine relation

"Who can Replace a man?" is a science fiction story in which writer Brian Aldiss describes a futuristic world in which machines are capable of thinking based on the tasks they have been designed to perform, and shows its readers the relationship between man and machines.

For starters, humans are the ones who are superior to are makers of machines, without human machines cannot exist. No machine is superior to human. Because they were invited to serve not to rule over the world. In the story during machine's expedition, gyro of the penner breaks down and it can't move. The other machines leave it there and move on. This shows how machines are dependent on humans for their existence. Even though the penner seemed happy about being free and believed together they could take care of themselves and creates mechanical society, ultimately it needed human to repair. The story shows how humans are dependent on machines as well. When a man commands machine to find food for him they instantly obey. This demonstrates human dependence on machine to get their work done. Even though they are in Badland where nothing grows he orders machines to get him food. The story also showcases how machine needs human as their guide. Machines are prone to make fast decisions. This is shown when the penner commands to execute the unlocker without giving it chance to speak up. Such rash decision making is what separates humans from machines and ultimately shows the need of guidance from humans. All in all, the story highlights man-machine relationship and how they both are dependent on each other.

(ii)

### Human self-invited destruction

The story "Who can Replace a man?" is a science fiction story which also provides a deep meaning on how humans are self-inviting their destruction. To cover this meaning Penner, a machine, said in the story "Once a world was overpopulated, and then the soil was exhausted in raising adequate food. This has caused diet deficiency". The statement said by Penner is actually true. That's because humans are increasing their population day by day causing the world full of people. The more the people, the more food they need for their survival. Humans are continuously degrading the land for their food. This has made the soil exhausted in raising adequate food. which has caused diet deficiency in them, once there is lack of food and diet, humans are dying because of starvation and diet deficiency. The degradation of land and other natural resources are caused by the humans themselves. Thus, we can say that humans are both creators and destroyers themselves and are able to invite destruction in the world as per the content of story.

(iii) Human Superiority over the machines

The story "Who can Replace a Man?" is a science fiction story which is written by Brian Aldiss that showcases the fact about man's superiority over machines. We believe that no one can overrule mankind since the machines were also made by humans, they must have to listen to their creators. For instance, in this story the machines find one human being. Even though he is ravaged by starvation he gives a command to the machines to get him food. So, they immediately replied "Yes Master". This interactive conversation

between human and machines in the story shows that "Man is the master." The man commands the machine to get him food even though they were in badlands where nothing can grow. Therefore, the machines may not be able to give him what he wants. This shows that the machines however thinks they were free, were still not free from human's power and still controlled by man. Basically in the story, when penner fails down in the bottom of mountains without being repaired and cared by machines, there is a big demand of humans in this case. Because machines were not capable of doing their works without direction of man. Hence all in all, the story highlights the main idea about the man superiority over machines by showing humans strength and power to do their task by help of machines.

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#### IV) Inhumanity in the mechanical world.

The story "Who Can Replace a Man?" is science fiction story written by Brian Aldiss comprising the idea about machines ruling over the world and showing their own nature and culture. Actually inhumanity means brutal and cruel behaviour and mechanical world meaning world with machines' existence. The idea of inhumanity in the world of machines is also reflected in the story. Well, according to the story, the incident when unlocker with class five brain follows penner, field minder having along with other machines having class three brain than penner ordered bulldozer to destroy that unlocker without even giving it chance to explain. This shows the inhuman act of machine over other machine. Similarly, in case no. order by human to do work for machines, they couldn't decide / order themselves in their mechanical world but started journey in search of human. The lack of decision-making power in this incident also shows

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inhuman act in machinery society. Likewise, the importance of humanity, is also shown when we learn the fate of penner at the end of story. During machine's journey, gyro of the penner broken down and it can't move so the other machines leave it despite the penner also having class three brain. The lack of compassion shown by machines to each other on multiple occasions showcases the inhuman character of machine. All those incident from the story deals with inhumanity and mechanical world focusing mainly upon the difference of machines character than humans. Unlike human, all the machines contains inhuman nature in it is mainly highlighted in the story.

## Comparison between man and machine

The story "Who can Replace a Man?" by English writer Brian W. Aldiss mainly focuses upon the idea about man-machine relationship along with comparing man and machine together. Well, in this story, the robots were divided or categorized upto class - Ten brain on the basis of superior and inferior. In the context of human also, in some society there is division of people on the basis of class. This shows somehow similarities between man and machine on their own world. Likewise, the specific name given to the robots according to the story as field minder, unlocker, penner etc. shows similarities to man as all human beings also have their specific name. There is not only similarities between man and machines but also few differences. The first one is that machines have totally inhuman nature on them unlike human beings. The next difference is in the decision-making power of man and machines. Machines have got rash, quick & destructive and non-logical decision over other machines.

whereas man have thoughtful, logical, decision in every case in every situation. Likewise machines are not helpful character, they have lack of intelligence and thinking but man are intelligent social beings in the society. Hence, like this, the story also deals with the comparison of machinery over superior humans.

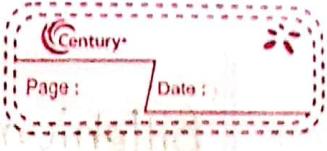
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### 1) A science fiction story

Science fiction actually is the imaginative concept/impact of scientific advancement upon society and an individual. This deals with technologically developed imaginary matters. So, the story "Who can replace a man?" written by Brian W. Aldiss is one of the science fiction story which actually talks about futuristic world in which machines are trying to take over humans. The whole story revolved around the fact about man and machine relationship. The invention of robot and their task shows the use of science and technology. The whole world took over by machines shows imaginative concept in the story. Likewise, all the characters mentioned were robots and at the end story writer talks about a man who was also one of major character. Similarly, the setting of the story is not in only one specific place, for they travel a lot. Also, the mechanical society/world shown in the story is quite similar to ours but that relates to future. The movement of machines from one location to another location and the conflict seen in the cities between robots and respective task done by respective robots in the story shows the action. Likewise, writer uses futuristic dialogues as well as casual names for robots. This somehow reflects the language writer had shown in story. The entire story contains allegory too because of the machines talking and acting like humans. Hence, the use of these all elements highlights the story is sci-fi story.

) Benefits and losses of Mechanical world.

"Who can Replace a Man?" is one of the science fiction story written by English writer Brian Aldiss. The story shows benefits and losses of mechanical world. As the machines are capable of thinking only based on the task they been design to perform but the work performed by them will be accurate. As the character of the story is machine and human where machine passes lots of benefits and limitation. As the story deals with different "class" of their brains. In the middle of story the penner says that machines are beginning to feel that they are better leaders than the human which shows such capability of machine which can make better society than human. In this world, machine can talk and think themselves. Machines having higher class brain analyze new condition and trying to solve problem. Rather than man machine can easily do or perform heavy and delicate work and that will do it more accurately. Work will be faster, efficient without any error. Machines are inability to feel empathy or compression for each other. They can't feel like human beings and only understand the task which is programmed. Bulldozers, Tractors etc. are seen as a destructive machine in the story, people believe as per command is given, they will give result. Machines can't be repaired itself, it needs the help of human. Without human intervention, it can't properly perform its task. Due to the utilization of such machines the world is being mechanical and most of the people are being like machines rather than being human beings. Possibility of machine that they have ability to grow and change the damaged worth is possible. As the world will be mechanical there will not be over population, natural degradation, disasters etc. which is more beneficial. In the end of the story, the machine encounter a human being who command to find food for them. As soon as



he does or command the machines ~~re~~ply. "Yes Master" immediately. This shows that machine does as per command of human and are not free but still controlled by humans. Hence, in the whole, the mechanical world posses benefit and has losses too which are highlighted in the story.

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## 'Billionium'

- J. G. Ballard.

### Summary:-

The story 'Billionium' is science fiction story written by J. G. Ballard that makes reference to the time in the future where population will be the biggest problem for the human race. The story is set in a future world in which the Earth's population has grown enormously - "twenty thousands millions" - so much so that in order to feed everyone, human are squeezed into megacities and rest of the land is used for farming. The story centres around two friends, John Ward and Henry Rositter, and their struggle to find enough room in which to live. They live in small cubicles, so it is marvellous surprise when they find a forgotten room which is relatively very big. They proceed to live in the room and soon, they decided to invite others to share their space - two girls, Judith & and Helen. Eventually, the room become so crowded that it is no better than the cubicle they had before. They also start to let out the room for the sake of money, becoming the greedy landlords. They become so despised at the beginning. All in all, it talks about a situation far in the future when the people / population of the world has grown to the extent, there is no place for people to live normal lives.

Theme of the story:

(i) Man is never satisfied

The story "Billionium" written by J.G. Ballard basically deals with the idea of futuristic world and also nature of man of being unsatisfied in everything. In the story, there were Ward and Rossiter, close friends, who were living together in a small cubicle at the beginning. They were not satisfied living in that small space. But one day when they shifted from one cubicle to another, they found hidden and unused room with large space. They were totally overwhelmed by the new space. They were so happy and excited by large room but not much satisfied because they were not used to living in bigger space so they called up their girlfriends. So, according to story, living in a small cubicle with very small space was unsatisfactory of two men Ward and Rossiter as well as the room with large spaces they had found was not satisfied for them to live. As they had large room they wanted to make more money and sold the wardrobe they had got. This shows that, humans desires and wants goes on increasing, never fulfilled. They want one thing desperately, as they had had that thing, they want even more. As like in story, at first two friends wanted large room to live but as they found large room they made partition and made the space smaller as before to make more money out of that. Hence, all in all, according to the situation of story, we can say that man always want something more, he/she is not satisfied for what they have.

### (ii) Effects of Overpopulation

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"Billenium", one of the science fiction story, written by J.G. Ballard mainly comprises the idea of future world as the title itself suggests and deals with the idea about overpopulation and its effects. The term 'overpopulation' explains the reality of that society which lives without space i.e. there were more people than places. In the story also, there was huge crowd of people in the city which gives rise to many effects. Due to overpopulation, humans had to had squeezed in a small cubicle and had to live in small space. People instead of wanting and contributing with the reduction of population, they were doing anything to have some more space in cubicle. Similarly, two friend John and Henry had to sold their valuable wardrobe and furnitures so as to partition their large room for more people to live in. This shows destruction of beauty as the effect of overpopulation. Likewise, when Ward and Rositter called up their girlfriends and girlfriends called up their family to live on that large room; found by two friends, then they, in context of making money and as the situation of overpopulation, forgot to call up their own parents. This also reflects the selfishness nature of human and including lack of responsibility as a result of overpopulation. Likewise, overpopulation had effected on the privacy of people. Due to overpopulation, people had to live together in the same cubicle which couldn't let to keep privacy. Also, overpopulation leads to greediness of society as they always had put their comfort first instead of thinking about reduction of problems. Hence, this story highlights the idea of about effects of overpopulation along with other problems in the future world.

## (iii) A science fiction story.

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Science fiction story basically refers as the imaginative impacts of scientific advancement upon the society and an individual. This generally deals with imagination, realism, science and technology, time travel and futuristic world concept. So, the story 'Billenium' by J.G. Ballard, as the title itself suggests deals about futuristic world and some base of predictions of human life in the future. The story describes a situation of moment of the future where the population of the world has grown so much. This somehow shows the use and affects of science in the story. Similarly, the way story deals about the crowd of people living together each in a small cubicle doesn't actually shows realism in its sense. It's totally imaginative which gives indirectly the idea of inhuman life of people of future world. So, as a character, there were Ward and Rossiter - close friends, their girlfriends Helen and Judith, along with Helen's father-mother and Judith's aunt, altogether seven characters according to the story. Likewise, the whole setting of the story was in the future world with population of 20,000 million people. The writer had even provides vivid illustration of the way the society is different from ours due to dystopian setting in the story. Similarly, the changed behaviour of Ward, shifted from one cubicle to another, lack of responsibility towards parents, jammed city areas, foundation of large room to live and others reflects the various actions of the story. As the language in the story, writer had used third person narrative throughout along with pessimistic tone as characters in the story don't have hope for the future about decrement of overpopulation. Like this,

Story also contains allegoric words such as 'wardrobe' symbolizing the space they had found, 'destruction of beautiful furnitures' meaning as destruction of beauty and loss of freedom, the word 'cubicle' symbolizing as lack of power, freedom, space and 'number of people' representing what the future actually holds. The story had got these words which typically highlights hidden meaning within it. Hence, as a whole the story is soft science fiction story as it mainly talks about people.

#### v) Human confinement and paralysis [www.bcoians.com](http://www.bcoians.com)

Billenium is a short science fiction story written by J.G. Ballard that describes a situation when the population of the world has grown to the extent, there is no place for people to live normal lives. In the story we have the theme of confinement and human paralysis. The world's population has reached 20,000 million and there is very little space for people to live in. The cities are full of people who are living in confined conditions. It is also noticeable that the streets are heavily populated by people and Ballard highlights this on several occasions notably when Ward can't get to his cubicle for 48 hours. The theme of paralysis is self-evident in the story. Ward and Rossiter when they are on streets have to move slowly due to the volume of people. Similarly, Ward's movement not only in his cubicle but in the room that he and Rossiter discover are also limited. At no stage does the reader feel as though Ward has any freedom either in his movements or in how he lives his life. All in all, Ballard suggests that one of the prices to be paid for having such a large population is the loss of personal freedom which makes human paralyzed.

(v) Destruction of Beauty / nature

The story 'Billenium' is a science fiction story written by J.G. Ballard showcasing the about how beauty is lost because of the huge population. In the story, both the city and the 'secret room'; the items and buildings representing beauty, are being taken down and rebuilt because of the overpopulation and the need of space. Likewise, in this story writer says that, "the great banqueting room cut up into hundreds of cubicles". It means world is being replace by too many people and may lack of cubicles there are in the city, so the beauty of the city cannot be appreciated and no longer to be here, it's all replace by cubicles. Similarly there is another saying "Pleasess of wardrobe lay on his bed and across the floor". It means that the object of beauty is now dismantle because the room doesn't fit for the wardrobe anymore and they need the space for beds so more people can live in the room. Moreover, Ballard has highlighted the lost beauty when the boy destroy victorian wardrobe. It symbolized beauty in the story and they destroy it for the sake of extra space. All in all, this story indicates how humans are being disatisfied with everything and losing the importance of beauty around them.

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(vi) Money Hungry society.

The story 'Billenium' written by J.G. Ballard is a science fiction story which basically deals with the idea of futuristic world along with some concept of money-hungry society. As there were two close friends John and Henry in the story who were living together in a small cubicle within a small space. later on when in term of more money making landlord of the building where they were

living in small cubicle told them to leave that place. So, they shifted to another cubicle and surprisingly found a large room to live. At the beginning, they were totally unsatisfied with small space ~~but~~, after <sup>also</sup> they found a large room to stay even, they were not happy by that. So, from this situation they thought of earning more money, so, invited their girlfriends and girlfriends also invited their families. The large space became smaller as before due to more number of people. So, from all the above cases, John and Henry, who hated landlords before, became same thing later which shows money-hungry within them. In sake of earning money they made partition to the large room and even sold their valuable furnitures & wardrobe. This totally shows the situation of society where people can do everything for money. Hence, as a whole, the story highlights the idea about greediness nature of people for the sake of money and even talks briefly about hunger towards money ~~by~~ people in the society which is full of crowd of people.

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#### vii) Lack of privacy in modern world

As the story ~~deals~~ "Millennium" deals with over population and shared room by numbers of people, this even reflects the modern world and lack of privacy. The story written by J.G. Ballard shows the difficulty for managing settlement. City halls were being split horizontally into four decks each of those divided into many cubicles. As Rossiter warned to Ward about population of people in the city he was the one who gave idea of keeping their girlfriends with them. According to the story, due to population there was no separate room for people to live in. They had been squeezed together and had shared a single room with partition for many people to live in. This shows some kind of lack of privacy of people. Likewise, the two

friends Jack Ward and Rossiter in thought of some privacy and some other things, they called up their girlfriends to live in that large room. But they called up their families instead and the room became crowded again as before. This also shows no privacy in the people due to overpopulation. Hence all in all the story shows the idea of lack of privacy where people were living in a single room without any boundary.

### viii) Desire for power

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The story 'Billenium' is written by J.G. Ballard that even deals with the nature of selfishness or more desire for power along with the concept of futuristic world. According to the story there were John and Henry, a very close friends living together in a small cubicle. One day, when these two friends found hidden and unused room with a very large space. At the beginning when they had small space they weren't happy and later when they had got large room, also they weren't much satisfied. So, for making even more money, and for more desires and wants to become landlord and earn power, they called up their girlfriends and girlfriends called up their families. The room became more crowded as before. Along with the idea of power and strength earning in the story, there is the idea about selfish nature of human being. As John and Henry called up their girlfriends to live along with their families in the large room but as in that case they forgot to called their own parents in that large room. They didn't called their parents and for making money, they became greedy and selfish. Hence, as a whole, story concerns about the unfulfilled want and selfish nature of a human being.

# Burning Chrome

- William Gibson.

## Summary :-

'Burning Chrome' is a science fiction story, written by William Gibson. The story tells the story of two hackers who hacks systems for profit. The two main characters are Bobby Quinne who specializes in software and Automatic Jack whose field is hardware. A third character in the story is Rikki, a girl who with whom Bobby wants to hit a big. Automatic Jack acquires a piece of Russian hacking software that is very sophisticated and hard to have. The rest of the story unfolds with Bobby deciding to break into the system of a notorious and vicious criminal called Chrome, who handles money transfers for organized crime, and Automatic Jack reluctantly agreeing to help. The break-in is ultimately successful, but Rikki decides to leave the group and go to Hollywood, to the grief of Quinne and Jack who have grown to love her. Hence, the story focuses on the convergence events surrounding night that Jack and Bobby hacked the computer program named Chrome. This story contains important themes including influence of love and loss and consuming nature of technology as a whole. The story is collection of primarily near-future one that demonstrates style, ambiguity and dark vision characteristics of writer's work. Hence, story highlights mostly the concept of cyberpunk.

Theme of the story;

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(i)

Lost in Technology

The story "Burning Chrome", written by William Gibson, is the science fiction story that typically covers the idea about cyber-space including the use of computer systems and technology in the future world. The story even shows how people will breach into the technology for their profit use and how they will get lost in technologically created machines. There were Jack and Bobby who were computer experts and were working in case of hacking the criminal computer program named Chrome. They were totally lost into that process which reflects their huge concern with technology.

Similarly, the story portrays the 'matrix', a virtual representation of the digital world, as a captivating marvel which also highlights some way of technological use by characters in the story. Likewise, there was a virtual girl, who was self-created by use of advance technology named Rikki. So, the story features an unrequited love triangle between two freelance hackers Jack and Bobby with that virtual girl Rikki. Both men were totally attracted and both loved that girl which reflects the lost of men towards technology because the girl was not real as she was virtually created in the world by use of some technology. As like this, the struggle of two men Jack and Bobby for about 6 weeks to hack that Chrome's account also shows their huge tie in towards the technology. The way that two hackers grappled with new ways to survive by making money and thrive in a world controlled by things that were powerful even displays their lost toward technology. Hence as a whole story highlights the theme of technology and gadgets in which people are totally captivated and lost.

A science fiction story

The story 'Burning Chrome' with the basic idea about cyberpunk is the science fiction story, written by William Gibson. The story mainly comprises the idea of cyberspace along with technological use in the future world. As like this, story even illustrates the theme that includes dystopian element of future crime and hacking. So, as a major characters of the story there were Jack, and Bobby - professional hackers along with their loved one virtual girl named Rikki and main idol as criminal named chrome. According to the story.

Jack, Bobby and Rikki, being a main character, had illustrated clearly the real life problems that includes money, love, boredom and everything related to it. Similarly, the writer attempts to portrays an atypical postmodern setting in the story that shows how use of computer systems will behave in the future and how people who attempt to breach them will do so with more advanced tools of the time.

Likewise the movement of characters in the case of hacking Chromes account, travelling from one location to other and mainly the movement of character from the level of technique to the level of idea, shows the actions took place in the story. Like this in terms of language, writer had used the concept of 1st person narrative throughout from the point of view of Jack, one of the main character in the story. The story even contains some allegory for e.g. the word 'console cowboy' technically means as hacker. There are others too which had got hidden meaning within it. Hence as a whole, we can say the story is hard science fiction as it generally gives the idea about technology and its use in the future.

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(iii)

### Cyberpunk

'Burning Chrome' is a short science fiction story which tells the story of two hackers who hack the systems for profit. The story presents the idea of cyberpunk to the readers. Cyberpunk is a subgenre of science fiction that tends to focus on a "combination of low life and high tech" featuring advanced technologies and scientific achievements. The story features two main characters, Bobby and Jack. Bobby is an expert hacker specializing in software while Jack is the same but specializes in hardware. They both live a normal life but when they come across a hacking program they hack into systems that makes them rich beyond their wildest dream. Cyberpunk often centres on conflict among artificial intelligence, hackers and megacorporations and tend to set in a near-future earth and this story's plot is about hacking. Cyberpunk also features advanced technologies and scientific achievements. In the story, writer talks about many scientific and technological term. We see the use of hologram, a virtual girl and an unbreachable hacking program. Gibson also brings the term 'matrix' which is a shared virtual reality space where user project their consciousness into representation of networked data. Likewise the word 'cyberpunk' coined by Gibson is used for the first time in this story, in reference to the "mass consensed hallucination" of computer networks. Hence, as a whole story deals with lawless subculture of an oppressive society dominated by computer and technology.

## 1) Love and loss

'Burning Chrome' is a science fiction story written by the English writer William Gibson. This story talks about the influence of love and loss. In the story, there are three main characters Jack, Bobby and virtual girl Rikki. They hacked the Chrome's account to earn money. They break Chrome's down into tiny pieces. Keeping 10% of it for themselves and donating the rest to charity. The hackers had succeeded and just as suddenly as they succeed, jumped into their bank accounts. They were defeated on the home front and came to Jack's attention that Rikki was actually a prostitute for the infamous "House of Blue Lights". The house was shut down as the hackers finished their job and as it turned out, Rikki gained quite a substantial bit of money for endeavor. Both hackers were fully in love with that virtual girl. But to fulfill her desires, when Rikki flew to Hollywood and never came to the place where two men lives, they felt they lost their love. Hence the entire story wants to show the unrequited love triangle of Jack, Bobby with Rikki and at the end they lost their love which shows lost in love. As a whole, the story contains idea of love and loss.

## 2) New Human Problems

Until and unless technology goes on advancing, ultimately the human problem will get rise based on such technological advancement. As the story entitled 'Burning Chrome' written by William Gibson contains major focus upon technology. The Automatic Jack and Bobby Quinn were the main characters of the story where Jack was hardware expert whereas Bobby was software specialist. They both used the Russian software to break and steal money from a high level and well connected criminal known as Chrome. which races out negative

impacts with the advancement of technology. The term 'cyberpunk' also highlighted as the problem related to advancement of technology and directly affecting factor for humans life. Today, in this modern era, new war has been created which are easily responsible to have problems in human life basically due to use of technological wars. And has also arised some pace of violations, conflicts against the people. The chrome in the story possessed many power, connections, money and was regarded to be a great targeted criminal in the story also she was not a big part. Thus, as entirely, showcases the idea of new problems due to advancement of science and technology.

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#### (vi) New war.

The story 'Burning Chrome' is a science fiction story written by William Gibson where the writer talks about the concept of new war; the cyber war. The story showcases how the computer hacker; Bobby and Jack hacked into the system of chrome and steal the money. The concept of new war is shown as the hacking process during execution of the hackers. The cyber war is the war fought between two parties where the weapons are the computers and the softwares. The cyber war involves the action by two group or nations to attack and attempt in damage other groups computers or information. It includes hacking as others stealing money and theft of data. In the story, the hackers used the Russian hacking software on their weapon to harm the chrome. The use of computers and the sci technology provides the new platform to fight the battle, which includes no loss of human life. Unlike traditional war, the fight is not fought physically.

but instead fought using the computers. The traditional way used to destroy or affect a huge loss on human life and wars fought on big fields or open space. But with the introduction to new war, datas or informations are destroyed using computer program and the battle field is the computer itself. The story vividly showcases the implementation of new war, when the hackers hack into the system of criminal and steal her money. In this way, the story shows the introduction and implementation of new war.

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Ideas from story:

(i) Rikki

Rikki, one of the primary character according with the story, was self-created virtual girl who was now addition towards the group in work of hacking chrome's account. But actually being a virtual girl, Rikki was a prostitute in the famous 'House of Blue lights' tieing up with chrome as she always want luxurious life. Rikki seemed to be real but typically she was a machine created virtually. In the story, both the computer experts John and Bobby were totally captivated towards Rikki and were in love with that virtual girl. Rikki was a girl who concerned to enjoy life and was not focused much in the serious side of life as she was a machine. Being a virtual girl, Rikki had deal with the same anxieties, desires and wants as human beings. In the story, Rikki always wanted to go to Hollywood and at the end she was able to fulfill her desire. This shows as she was a real human woman.

Likewise, Rilci had got her heart set on pair of Zeiss Ikon eyes as Jack described them as "Brand of the stars". So, as a whole, Rikki was considered as an illusion in which humans were attracted and toward and ~~was~~ a virtual girl with all the desires like human beings along will the existence of real appearance.

(ii)

Jack

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Jack is one of the main character from the story "The Burning chrome". Jack is an expert hacker specializing in hardware. Jack is the mean looking guy with the myo electric arm. He makes up for losing his arm in the war with his almost bionic arm and he does everything from fixing and building the hardware. In this story, Jack shows emotions throughout their roles such as "he realise being drunk while being a customer at 'The House of Blue lights'". Although, Jack showed some emotion throughout the his role in the story, there were also occasions when he showed carelessness of himself. For instance, he was in relaxed way when he kissed his host friend girl friend (named Rikki) as if that action was wrong thing to do.

His reaction to this event motivated him only to think about how she had sold her body at 'The house of Blue lights'. Instead of avoiding the kiss and at least telling his girlfriends, that his girlfriend was a prostitute, he decides to act as if those action never occurred. This shows that Jack understood that he had done wrong and his thoughts promote morality within himself. All in all, we can say that Jack is the narrator of this story and also a one of the main leading character.

i) Bobby

Bobby is one of the main protagonist in the story 'Burning chrome'. Bobby is an expert hacker specializing in software who loves computer. In the story, Bobby along with his friend try to hack into a system to make a great deal of money because they believe that striking it rich is the only way that they can be happy. Bobby's another goal to become rich is because he is infatuated to a girl named Rikker and he tries to impress her by becoming wealthy. Gibson has used Bobby in the story to depict the kind of lifestyle evident in the post-modern world. Bobby is someone who has a great talent and he is able to bend the rules because of that talent and yet he is lost. In the beginning, Bobby was the picture of confidence and skill but at the end he was reduced to someone who cannot function without the things that he can use either it is liquor or women. At the end of the story, the reader witnesses a complete transformation in Bobby's life. Bobby who was supposed to be always in control was revealed to be a person controlled by lust.

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iv) Hacker's psychology

→ we live in an age in which most crime involved a computer at some point can be termed as Hacker and their psychology is to hack such computer generated programs and make them unable to run and to earn profit. As the story entitled as "Burning chrome" written by William Gibson. The story set about the way that how hackers hack and does such works. Automatic Jack and Bobby Quinne were two professional hackers who hacked the computer program chrome, a network of criminals connections and transactions for profit. As they have thought about such hacking process which can easily burn chrome and as they have brought Russian hacking software they both work upon it. These two characters live in futuristic world where human anatomy and customizable technology

have become one of the both software and hardware have become crucial to the people of this time. But their ultimate goal was to burn chrome and to steal money from a high level and well connected criminals. Hackers usually tends to get the others privacy or to occurs errors on their system and with such negative attitude they perform such tasks which will be illegal one. As the story also talks about two main hackers psychology and about their circumstances of own they perform.

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#### (v) The Hacking Process

→ The story 'Burning Chrome' written by William Gibson shows the process of hacking into the system of notorious criminal chrome. The story starts with the two computer hackers: Bobby Quinne who is expert in software and Automatic Jack whose field is hardware. They used to hack other system for money. After finding Rikki, a girl whom Bobby fell in love with, they decided to hack something big and their target was set as chrome, a criminal. Automatic Jack once visited New York and got a unbreakable and sophisticated Russian hacking software from Finn. They both decided to give it a try and clammed the program drive into their computer. The matrix began to unfold and the program was clearing fiber optic lines with the cybernetic equivalent of rush fire siren. The matrix in the cybornatic equivalent of simulation seemed to rush straight for chrome's database. It took eight straight hours to crack the system of chrome; three hours with the waldo, the laser and four dozen taps, two hours on the phone to a contact in calerodo and three hours to translate eight year old technical Russian. The hacking program was Russian military ice breaker, a killer virus program. The program stored to burn the chrome's system and took almost six weeks to finish completely. The world's heaviest fence and chrome was burning down rapidly and the dark centre was falling down. The Russian program raised through the towers of data battling on the playroom colour. The matrix folded like any other brick and cut the squirt transmission and shoots a pulse if

condensed information. They both could hear Chrome's scream when the bulk of her account was stored with dozens of world charities and some amount in the hackers account. In this way, the two hackers were able to hack the Chrome system.

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### (ii) Chrome

Chrome, one of the primary character according to the story, 'Burning Chrome'. Chrome is a big time criminal who deals with money for crime syndicates and has a lot of money, power, and connections. Chrome looks like a pretty childface smooth as steel, with eyes that would have been at home on the bottom of some deep Atlantic trench, cold gray eyes that lived under terrible pressure. Although she is not a big part of the story, but she is extremely dangerous target.

Bobby has chosen to rob Chrome starts the story as someone who is untouchable, but after losing her money, she is able to be held to her crimes as she does not have the influence and power to protect her. So, all in all, Chrome has also a leading role in this story. Chrome was one of the program or system which was going to be hacked by computer expert. Though As Chrome was not important character in the story, it has got some great role within the story.