# Fact or Fiction

People have always tried to predict the future. Whether it was with crystal balls, reading of the palms, or even looking through tea leaves, people have always had a natural curiosity towards the future. In history, many people have always looked to the past to determine the outcomes of the future. In science fiction, H. G. Wells and Walter Miller Jr. analyzed the present to create warnings for the future. While many people have not been successful in their predictions, I believe that Miller and Wells were able to accurately give others their input on how the future would be. Through the use of symbolism, allusion, and historical elements, these stories ensnare the reader by creating a seamless science fiction plot while simultaneously creating an astonishingly excellent historical plot.

Science fiction during the time period that these two stories were written was interesting. While most might assume that science fiction has always been fantasy, science fiction in the early years, was created to represent the past, present, or possible. Science fiction can also be defined as a “historical happening” (Franklin), it transcends literature, movies, graphic art, comic books, radio shows, and video games with ease while repurposing the message it is trying to convey. This is what H.G. Wells and Walter Miller Jr. did with their stories. In When the Sleeper Wakes, H.G. Wells transports the reader into a futuristic setting where Graham awakes and finds himself to somehow own a majority of all the industries in the world. This is a reference to the growth of capitalism from as early as the industrial age as well a prediction to what might come in the future, and as far as Wells wrote he was correct. Wells predicted the rise of robber barons, or “Titans of Industry” as they prefer to be known as, to rise to power. Which truly envelopes the purpose of science fiction. Wells captured the past while predicting the future in order to deliver a message to us in the present.

While in contrast to Wells, Miller attempted to deliver a message to us during the time of the story being published (1952), as well as the current time period (2017). In “Let My People Go” Miller starts the story with a direct message to the reader in order to convey the correct message he had in mind. He states, “How can we possibly amount to much when our fathers were sold at auction a scant five thousand years ago?” While he is obviously referencing the story about to be told, his ideals remain true. How can we amount to much when our fathers were sold at auction not 100 years before the story was written? Even if Miller was not personally affected by the racism, it was still a controversial issue across the nation because, at the time, racism was a common practice in the United States, because of this, the American People felt extremely divided. In fact, there were laws in place to make sure of it. Miller delivers a heartwarming message in this story about how we need to love each other in every “human form.” This in my personal opinion is directed at the millions of Americans that felt a distain for one another. Miller believed that we are all human, and we are all one, so why should we attempt to change that.

In summation, these two stories both accomplish their goal of addressing current controversial topics as well as predicting the future of what was to come if these topics weren’t addressed. These stories were both highly successful in engulfing the reader and delivering a positive message as well as a warning to us all, that if we do not change our actions, we know what the future will look like.

1st Paragraph: Hook, introduction and thesis statement that introduces my next few paragraphs.

2nd Paragraph: How science fiction is used in history.

3rd Paragraph: Summary of one story and how it relates to the present and the past situation that the author was in.

4th Paragraph: Summary of other story and introduce 4th paragraph at the end of my statement

5th paragraph: Counterargument as well as introduction to summary.

6th paragraph: Summary of my paper as well as a restatement of my thesis.

Works Cited

“Science Fiction Studies.” David N. Samuelson- The Lost Canticles of Walter M. Miller, Jr., [www.depauw.edu/sfs/backissues/8/samuelson8art.htm](http://www.depauw.edu/sfs/backissues/8/samuelson8art.htm).

“H.G. Wells.” Biography.com, A&E Networks Television, 28 Apr. 2017, [www.biography.com/people/hg-wells-39224](http://www.biography.com/people/hg-wells-39224).

Franklin, H. Bruce. Science Fiction: The Early History, [andromeda.rutgers.edu/~hbf/sfhist.html.](http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~hbf/sfhist.html.)