

Final Assignment

You are to write a 1 or 2 page discussion of the significant differences between the book “The Time Machine” and the movie of the same name from 1960. You are permitted to use your book, if you want. You are also allowed to take notes during the movie.

A discussion of the differences is not just a list of differences. For each difference, you should explain the impact (on a viewer who has not read the book) of the editor’s decisions to deviate from the book, as well as a possible motivation for each change you discuss. The movie viewer will come away with a different viewpoint than a reader of the book would.

As a trite example, consider the question of language. We anticipate that in the movie, Eloi characters will speak English, even though it is clear in the book that they don’t. Another trite difference is that the book is narrated by the main character, whereas in the movie, we will see more than him just sitting in a chair talking. Of course, there will be some more significant plot differences to discuss. It is better to discuss fewer deviations more thoroughly than it is to shallowly address a larger number of differences.

Keep in mind that the movie producers started with Wells' novel, and made deliberate changes. The producers had a different goal than H.G. Wells had, which certainly affected their editing decisions. The visual medium might encourage differences from a written medium. Differences might exist for budgetary reasons, too.

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