

Space
KS3
Tuesday - English

The War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells

Taken from a science fiction novel, this extract describes how an alien spaceship has crashed to Earth and a crowd of people have gathered. At this moment, the UFO is opening and an alien is about to appear.

Chapter Four: The Cylinder Opens

I think everyone expected to see a man emerge - possibly something a little different to a human, but mainly just like a man. I know I did. But, looking, I saw something stirring within the shadow: greyish billowy movements, one above another, and then two bright disks--like eyes. Then something resembling a little grey snake, about the thickness of a walking stick, coiled up out of the writhing middle, and wriggled in the air towards me--and then another tentacle appeared.

A sudden chill came over me. There was a loud scream from a woman behind. I half turned, keeping my eyes fixed upon the cylinder shaped UFO, from which other tentacles were now appearing, and began pushing my way back from the edge of the crater. I saw astonishment being replaced with horror on the faces of the people around me. I heard gasps and shrieks as people backed away. I found myself standing there alone, and saw the people on the other side of the crater running away. I looked again at the cylinder, and uncontrollable terror gripped me. I stood, petrified and staring.

A big greyish rounded thing, the size, perhaps, of a bear, was rising slowly and painfully out of the cylinder. As it bulged up into the sunlight, it glistened like wet leather. Its two large, dark-coloured eyes stared at me. The head of the thing was rounded, and had, you might say, a face. There was a lipless mouth under its eyes which quivered and panted, and dripped saliva. The whole creature heaved and pulsated. One long tentacle gripped the edge of the cylinder while another tentacle swayed in the air.

Those who have never seen an alien can hardly imagine the strange horror of its appearance. It had a peculiar V-shaped mouth with a pointed upper lip, no chin and a wedge-like lower lip, its mouth quivered constantly, its slow breathing in a strange atmosphere made it seem inhuman, crippled and monstrous. There was something like fungus in its oily brown skin, something in its slow and heavy movements that was unspeakably nasty. Even at this first encounter, this first glimpse, I was filled with feelings of disgust and dread.

Suddenly the monster vanished. It had toppled over the top of the spacecraft and fallen into the crater, with a thud like the fall of a great mass of leather. I heard it give a peculiar thick cry, and then another of these creatures appeared darkly in the opening. I turned and, running madly, made for the first group of trees, perhaps a hundred yards away but I could not take my eyes off these things.

Q1: Read again the first paragraph of the source.

List four things we learn about the alien.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Q2. Label the image with quotations about the monster.



Q3. Write three PEE paragraphs (or similar) to answer the question.

How does the writer use language to describe the creature? You should use quotations from your bubble-map to help you.