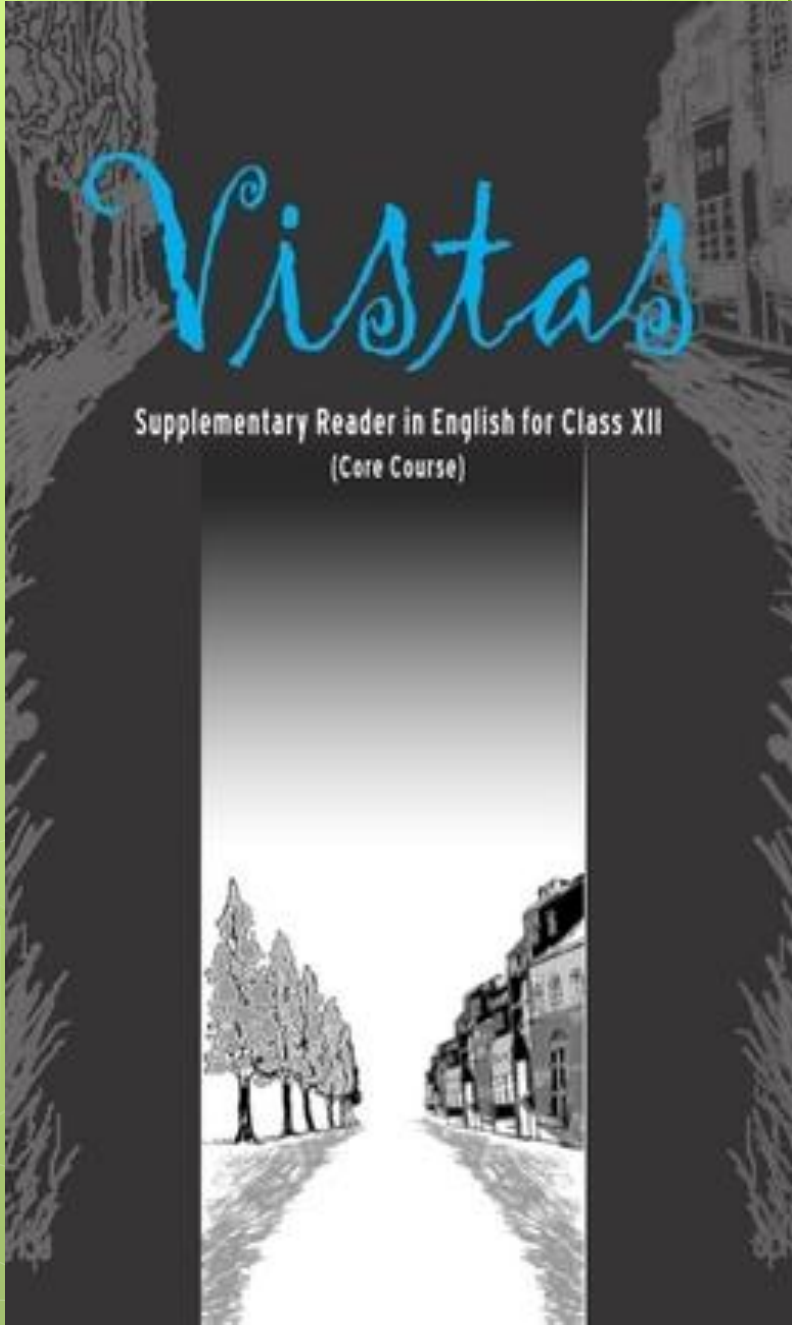




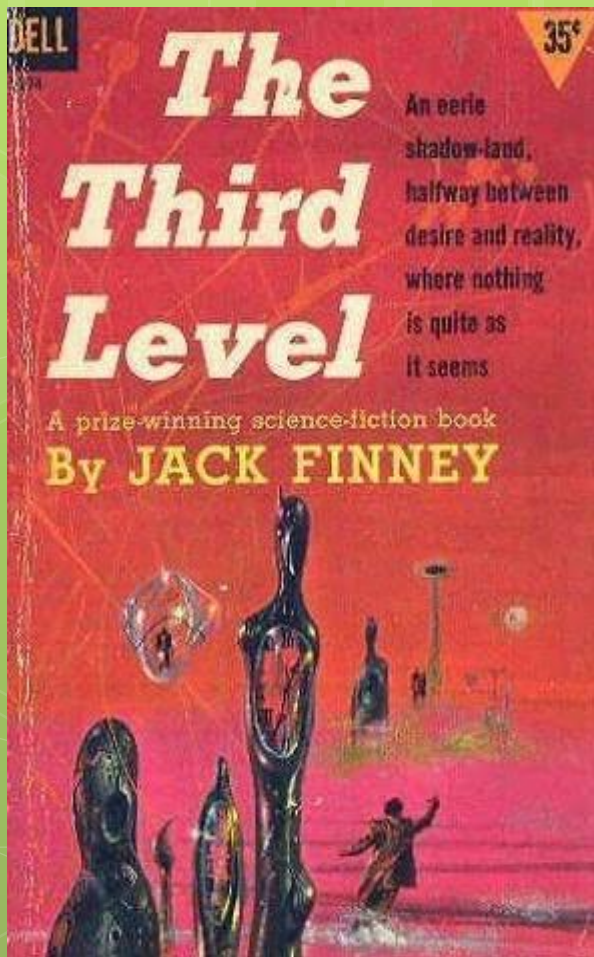
Vistas

Supplementary Reader in English for Class XII
(Core Course)

ENGLISH

CORE

CLASS - XII



The Third Level

-By Jack Finney (1911-1995)

AUTHOR

- Walter Braden "Jack" Finney was an American writer, mainly known for his contributions to the science-fiction genre. Some of his most popular novels are "The Body Snatchers" (1955) and "Time and Again" (1970), but throughout his career he wrote about fifty novels that circumscribe the noir, thriller and comedy genres.



SETTING OF THE STORY

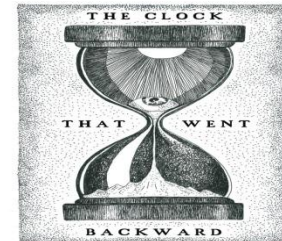


- *Grand Central Station, New York.*
- *The Grand Central Station's foundation began in 1908 in New York .*
- *It officially opened on Feb 2, 1913.*



THEME

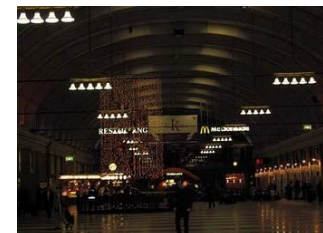
- *It probes into the science fiction genre of 'time travel' or 'virtual reality'.*
- *man's wish to avoid the harsh realities of busy modern world full of struggles insecurity, war, fear and escape to Galesburg, a serene quiet and peaceful utopian world of past.*



SUMMARY



- *The Third level is a story that weaves together a psychological journey of narrator into the past, present and moves towards future.*
- *Charley – 31 year old, an American hallucinates and narrates his unusual experience of having been to the Third level into the past in 1890.*
- *One day after work coming from the Subway, he reached the third level of the Grand Central station (which doesn't exist in reality). He reminisces the whole experience with his psychiatrist friend Sam. Charley believed that he had travelled through time before eighteen-nineties, which in reality is a time before the two World Wars.*



continued

- He discovers brass spittoons, flickering gas lights, every one dressed like 1890' with old fashioned beards ,fancy moustaches, engine with funnel shaped stack, The World newspaper , few ticket windows etc. in the Third level world.
- He goes immediately goes to get two tickets for Galesburg -Illionis- wonderful town with big houses, huge lawns, plenty of trees ,a utopian world.



continued

- *His wife was worried and his psychiatrist friend Sam thought that he was actually hallucinating and seeking refuge in the past a time before the two World Wars which was very peaceful.*
- *Later Charlie makeshifts to his stamp collection to avoid any such distractions, when suddenly one day he receives a letter from his friend Sam who was lost recently. Charlie again went looking for the third level but failed to find it.*
- *Sam wrote in that letter that he had always wanted to believe in the idea of third level and went searching for it but failed, and now that he was there himself, advices Charley and Louisa to continue their search for it.*



Charlie is in 20th
century.
His world is full of
fear, insecurity,
anxiety, war, worry
and stress.

Escapes
to
philately

Hallucinates and
takes temporary
refuge in
'The third level' of
1890 Grand
central station
New York .

Wants to go to
go to an
utopian place
Galesburg,
Illionis in 1894.



Thank you !