

# THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU

H. G. WELLS

Teacher's Guide

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LIVING  
LITERATURE  
SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND Production

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## SYNOPSIS

### INTRODUCTION

The speaker, Charles Edward Prendick, nephew and heir of Edward Prendick, describes the sinking of the *Lady Vain* on February 1, 1887, west of the Galapagos Islands along the Equator. Having boarded at Callao, Peru, and been listed among the victims, he was discovered eleven months later on January 5, 1888, in a punt of the schooner *Ipecacuanha*. After attempting to explain his absence, he lapsed into amnesia. Later, explorers named Noble's Isle as the place of his marooning. In 1891, sailors from the *H. M. S. Scorpion* went ashore, but failed to confirm Prendick's story. The only corroboration derives from the *Ipecacuanha*, which left Africa in January 1887 under the supervision of Captain John Davis to deliver a puma and other animals to the South Pacific. After departing Banya in December 1887, the ship vanished from history.

### CHAPTER 1: IN THE DINGHY OF THE LADY VAIN

Prendick remarks that the *Lady Vain* collides with a drifting hulk ten days out of Callao, Peru. Eighteen days later, the *H. M. gunboat Myrtle* picks up the ship's longboat. The dinghy and its three men—Prendick, Helmar, and a sailor—with a small supply of water and biscuits fail to link up with the longboat. The next day at noon, the boat pitches dangerously; after two days, the sea calms. By the fourth day, the men lack water; two days later, Prendick favors sinking the boat and letting the sharks end their misery. Helmar and the sailor grapple, fall overboard, and sink. On the eighth day, a schooner rescues Prendick.

### CHAPTER 2: THE MAN WHO WAS GOING NOWHERE

Thirty hours later, Prendick awakens to the ministrations of Montgomery, a young doctor, who describes the *Ipecacuanha* as a trader from Africa, Chile, and Callao. Prendick describes himself as a gentleman biologist; his rescuer graduated a decade before from University College. A day later, Montgomery offers some clothing and states that he will land on an unnamed island before the ship continues north to Hawaii.

### CHAPTER 3: THE STRANGE FACE

Prendick encounters a hairy, misshapen black man, whom the sailors refuse to allow forward. The filthy deck holds animal food, staghounds, a caged puma, rabbits, and a llama. When Captain Davis strikes the black man in the back, Montgomery tries to intercede. Drunk and growling, Davis demands respect. Prendick sides with Montgomery.

### CHAPTER 4: AT THE SCHOONER'S RAIL

That night, the *Ipecacuanha* sights land after sunset. Montgomery asks about London and regrets that, eleven years ago, he "lost his head."

### CHAPTER 5: THE MAN WHO HAD NOWHERE TO GO

At sunrise, the crew transports the caged puma to the island. The angry captain names Prendick "Mister Shut Up" and forces him into the dinghy of the *Lady Vain*. Prendick prays to die.

### CHAPTER 6: THE EVIL-LOOKING BOATMEN

The islanders pity Prendick and tow him ashore. The peculiar swathing of the crew and their coarse hair puzzle him. At shore, a black-faced creature awaits. To a white-haired man, Prendick confesses studying biology under Huxley at the Royal College of Science. The white-haired man identifies the island as a biological station and remarks that ships come by every year or so. Montgomery warns that the island is a hellish place. The white-haired man serves brandy and biscuits for breakfast and helps Montgomery release around forty rabbits to supply the island with meat.

### CHAPTER 7: THE LOCKED DOOR

At the quadrangle, the white-haired man admits to secrecy and locks Prendick in a small apartment that contains shelves of old books. As the black-faced attendant serves coffee and boiled vegetables, Prendick notices that his ears are pointed and furry. Prendick recalls reading a decade before of "the Moreau Horrors" in a pamphlet about the physiologist. He was about age fifty when scientists exiled him from England for mutilating a dog. Prendick begins connecting the oddly bestial black servant with vivisection.

### CHAPTER 8: THE CRYING OF THE PUMA

Montgomery invites Prendick to lunch and offers whiskey, which was the cause of Montgomery's alliance with Moreau. As Montgomery pretends that he is unaware that the servant has pointed ears, the cry of the puma rings out repeatedly. Prendick walks out of the door to escape the screams.

### CHAPTER 9: THE THING IN THE FOREST

At a pleasant stream, Prendick is relaxing when he spies a man on all fours lapping water. Prendick spots a beheaded rabbit and feels that eyes are watching him. At a glade, three humanoids argue and slobber as they carry out a ritual. Prendick realizes that a beast follows him. At sunset, Prendick returns toward the compound. As dark advances he runs to the sand and strikes a pursuer with a rock.

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### CHAPTER 10: THE CRYING OF THE MAN

Montgomery calls to Prendick, who collapses. After some food and water, Prendick asks the meaning of the strange beasts. Montgomery gives him a sedative and helps him into the hammock. The next morning, Prendick hears a human voice moaning and peers out at a framework holding a scarred, bandaged form. Moreau locks Prendick in his room, where he ponders the likelihood that Moreau tortures humans.

### CHAPTER 11: THE HUNTING OF THE MAN

Prendick deduces that the animal creatures on the island are the result of vivisection. Armed with a piece of soft wood tipped with a nail, he attacks Montgomery and flees in fear of being the next victim. To avoid hounds, Prendick advances up a creek. An hour later, he ponders drowning himself. The black-faced man appears, swings through the creepers, and leads Prendick to his home in a dark passage.

### CHAPTER 12: THE SAYERS OF THE LAW

A pink sloth watches as the black-faced man leads Prendick into a semicircular space. Prendick states that he has come to live with the humanoids. The black-faced man insists that Prendick learn the law, which forbids animal behaviors and describes Moreau as the giver of pain and healing. The gray Sayer of the Law encourages a group admission that no villain escapes. Moreau approaches with gun and hounds; Prendick flees into a swamp and falls into a ravine near a boiling stream. He realizes that the beast people will be no help to him.

### CHAPTER 13: A PARLEY

As Montgomery, his attendant M'ling, and Dr. Moreau approach with the staghounds, Prendick walks into the sea. He shouts back to the beast people that they are many and need not fear their tormentors. Moreau speaks in basic Latin his intent to humanize the animals. To establish trust, he and Montgomery drop their revolvers. Prendick retreats with them.

### CHAPTER 14: DR. MOREAU EXPLAINS

Moreau offers Prendick a view of the puma and describes his guest's horror as the same as Montgomery's when he first witnessed vivisection. Moreau admits that he has dedicated two decades to studying plasticity in living forms and praises himself as the first scientist to explore its possibilities. In a convoluted argument about pain, he stabs himself in the leg. He declares that the concern over pleasure and pain is "the mark of the beast."

Moreau dismisses questions of ethics. After mutilating a sheep, he killed it to end its misery. Then he made a gorilla into a man, but realized that all his improvements in its speech and morals would gradually lapse as the gorilla reverted into animal behaviors. One of Moreau's failures was a limbless thing that killed a Kakanan servant. Moreau admits that Montgomery has sympathy for the creatures.

### CHAPTER 15: CONCERNING THE BEAST FOLK

After Montgomery and Prendick eat breakfast, Montgomery explains why Moreau hypnotizes the beasts and implants prohibitions. Despite socialization, the sixty creatures lose their moral sense at night-

fall. They tend to be slope-headed, hunched in posture, and unable to laugh. Once a year, Montgomery deals with Moreau's African agent for more animals. The most human-looking is M'ling, the black-faced servant. Prendick becomes accustomed to the beast people.

### CHAPTER 16: HOW THE BEAST FOLK TASTED BLOOD

After breakfast, Montgomery and Prendick visit the fumarolles. The Satyr and Ape Man salute Montgomery, who grumbles at the sight of a clawed tree trunk and fears that the decimated rabbit foretells danger from the taste of blood. He confesses that he taught M'ling to skin a rabbit for dinner. Moreau blames the Leopard Man for killing the rabbit. That afternoon, the three men and M'ling walk to the huts; Moreau calls assembly and charges that one of the humanoids has killed a rabbit. The Leopard Man attacks Moreau, causing a rout. Prendick sees the Leopard Man in hiding and shoots him. Moreau denounces Prendick for killing it. The Bull Men drag it out to sea. Prendick sympathizes with the beasts and pities their fate.

### CHAPTER 17: A CATASTROPHE

Six weeks later, Prendick abhors Moreau's experiments, detests Montgomery's drunkenness, and longs to escape the island. About eight weeks after his arrival, Prendick is enjoying the early morning when the puma escapes and rushes past, breaking Prendick's arm. Montgomery binds the arm and locks the gates. He returns to report that the animals are rioting and that two Swine Men attacked. Montgomery shot both Swine men and an Ocelot Man.

### CHAPTER 18: THE FINDING OF MOREAU

Prendick halts Montgomery's drinking. After eating, the men and M'ling encounter animals who claim that there is no law because Moreau is dead. Prendick declares that Moreau has changed his shape and is watching from above. When Prendick leads the way, a brute grabs Montgomery as it falls dead from a shot to the face. The party discovers Moreau dead with his hand severed at the wrist. Seven creatures carry Moreau to the compound. That night, Prendick and Montgomery get rid of laboratory animals and prepare Moreau's corpse for cremation.

### CHAPTER 19: MONTGOMERY'S "BANK HOLIDAY"

Near midnight, Prendick and Montgomery discuss their position. Montgomery regrets sixteen years of childhood, five years of medical training in London, alcoholism, and ten years on the island. Because he is an outcast, he can't leave the island. He pulls his revolver and runs out to join M'ling for a session of drinking.

Prendick intends to light the pyre in the morning, load a boat, and depart, leaving Montgomery with the beasts. An hour later, chanting begins. At daylight, Prendick runs out of the compound to aid Montgomery, whom a beast clawed in the throat. M'ling is dead. While Prendick treats Montgomery, the compound bursts into flame from a lamp that Prendick dropped. Prendick discovers that Montgomery has destroyed the two boats and lies dead as three creatures advance.

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### CHAPTER 20: ALONE WITH THE BEAST FOLK

Prendick arms himself with two hatchets and Montgomery's revolver and orders the beasts to carry the corpses out to sea. He shoots at the Hyena-Swine, but misses. Alone and unprotected, Prendick loses the opportunity to replace Moreau as master of the Beast People. Prendick shelters in the huts, eats fruit, then sleeps behind a flimsy barricade.

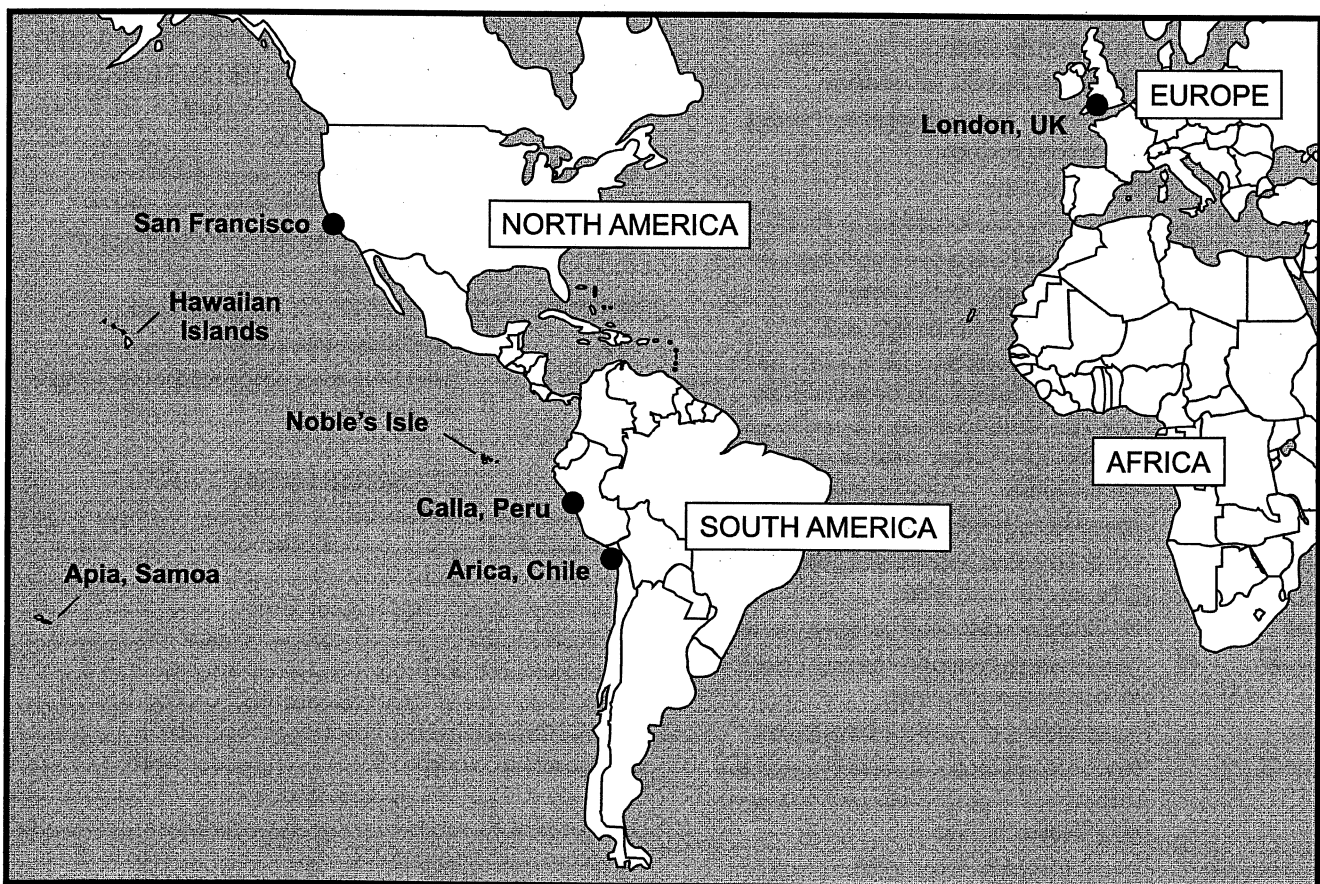
### CHAPTER 21: THE REVERSION OF THE BEAST FOLK

The Dog Man cringes alongside his master and reports that the other creatures have gone mad with joy. At the ravine, where twenty Beast People crouch by the fire, Prendick predicts that the House of Pain will return. Into the tenth month, he maintains an uneasy control and joins in the monsters' lifestyle. By May the animals regress in speech and posture.

Prendick builds a hovel in the burned remains of the quadrangle and begins tending a signal bonfire. In fall, he plans building a raft. The Hyena-Swine murders the St. Bernard Dog Man and falls to Prendick's bullet. Prendick is tempted to massacre all the animals. When a boat floats near with two dead men aboard, Prendick stocks it while leaving it tied at the reef.

### CHAPTER 22: THE MAN ALONE

Prendick sets out at evening and drifts for three days before encountering a brig traveling from Apia, Samoa, to San Francisco. He has become so unnatural that the captain and mate disbelieve his story. A psychologist who knew Moreau believes Prendick's story. Clutched by fear, Prendick lives apart from people, reads, studies chemistry, and gazes at the stars.



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### TIMELINE

<b>1827</b>	Moreau is born.
<b>1856</b>	Montgomery is born.
<b>1872</b>	Montgomery enters medical training.
<b>1876</b>	Montgomery becomes an alcoholic.
<b>1877</b>	Montgomery graduates from University College. Prendick reads about "the Moreau horrors" and Moreau's exile by the scientific community for vivisection.
<b>1887 January</b>	The <i>Ipecacuanha</i> , under the supervision of Captain John Davis, departs Africa in January 1887 to deliver a puma and other animals to Moreau.
<b>January 21</b>	The <i>Lady Vain</i> departs Calloa, Peru.
<b>February 1</b>	The <i>Lady Vain</i> sinks west of the Galapagos Islands, leaving the crew and passengers to flee by longboat and dinghy.
<b>February 2, Noon</b>	Prendick, Helmar, and a sailor fail to encounter the longboat.
<b>February 9</b>	The <i>H. M.</i> gunboat <i>Myrtle</i> picks up the longboat of the <i>Lady Vain</i> .
<b>February 11</b>	The sea calms.
<b>February 13</b>	Survivors in the dinghy run out of water.
<b>February 15</b>	Helmar and the sailor fall overboard.
<b>February 17</b>	The schooner <i>Ipecacuanha</i> rescues Prendick. Montgomery tends him.
<b>February 19</b>	Prendick awakens.
<b>February 20</b>	Montgomery provides clothing for Prendick.
<b>Later</b>	After Captain Davis strikes a black-faced servant, Montgomery and Prendick protest.
<b>Sunset</b>	Crew of the <i>Ipecacuanha</i> sight land.
<b>February 21, Sunrise</b>	The crew transports the puma to land; Captain Davis forces Prendick into the dinghy of the <i>Lady Vain</i> . Black-faced men transport Prendick to the biological station, where Montgomery releases rabbits.
<b>Later</b>	Moreau locks Prendick into a small apartment.
<b>Lunch</b>	Montgomery dines with Prendick, who shudders at the screams of the puma.
<b>Later</b>	Prendick spies a beheaded rabbit by a stream.
<b>Sunset</b>	Prendick returns toward the compound and strikes a creature with a rock.
<b>Later</b>	Montgomery treats Prendick with a sedative.
<b>February 22</b>	Prendick hears a human moan and spots a bandaged form in Moreau's laboratory. In terror of being tortured, he flees.
<b>An Hour Later</b>	Prendick considers drowning himself until a black-faced man leads him to his hovel.
<b>Later</b>	Prendick flees Moreau and his hounds and walks into the sea. Moreau explains his experiments that humanize animals and reveals the bandaged puma.

<b>After Breakfast</b>	Montgomery admits that teaching M'ling to skin a rabbit promoted the taste of blood.
<b>That Afternoon</b>	At an assembly, the Leopard Man attacks Moreau. Prendick shoots the beast.
<b>April 4</b>	Prendick grows restless at the experiments and Montgomery's drunkenness.
<b>ca. April 20</b>	The puma escapes and breaks Prendick's arm. Montgomery shoots two Swine Men and an Ocelot Man.
<b>After Breakfast</b>	Prendick counters the beasts' claim that there is no law because Moreau is dead.
<b>That Night</b>	Prendick and Montgomery kill the laboratory animals and prepare to cremate Moreau.
<b>About Midnight</b>	Filled with self-pity, Montgomery goes drinking with M'ling.
<b>April 21 1:00 A. M.</b>	Chanting begins.
<b>at daylight</b>	Prendick runs to Montgomery's aid and finds M'ling dead. The compound bursts into flame. Prendick takes charge and tries to kill the Hyena-Swine.
<b>Later</b>	Prendick shelters with the Beast People and sleeps.
<b>May</b>	The humanoids regress in speech and posture.
<b>Fall</b>	Prendick builds a raft. The Hyena-Swine, after murdering the St. Bernard Dog Man, falls to Prendick's bullet.
<b>1888 January 2</b>	Prendick retrieves a punt of the schooner <i>Ipecacuanha</i> with two dead men aboard.
<b>Evening</b>	He sets out in the boat after supplying it with water and fruit.
<b>January 5</b>	He is recovered by a brig from Apia.
<b>Later</b>	Prendick becomes a reclusive scholar.
<b>1891</b>	Sailors from the <i>H. M. S. Scorpion</i> visit Noble's Isle, but fail to confirm Prendick's story.

### AUTHOR SKETCH

Satirist and social reformer, Herbert George Wells was a major force in establishing the science fiction wing of classic literature, through which he warned the world to remain skeptical of technology's brash promises. Until his death in 1946, he remained an active part of British politics and social criticism. A native of Bromley, Kent, he was born in 1866 to a housewares vendor and a bookkeeper at Uppark Estate. After his father's business declined, Bert Wells educated himself through reading in the Uppark library and, at age fourteen, was apprenticed at Hyde's Drapery in Portsmouth, then to a chemist and a second draper. He taught science at Midhurst Grammar School until age eighteen, when he won a scholarship to the Normal School of Science in South Kensington. The opportunity placed him in the class of one of the great minds of the era, biologist Thomas Henry Huxley.

During Wells's college training at London University, he established the *Science Schools Journal*, for which he serialized stories. From one three-part short story, "The Cosmic Argonauts," he developed *The Time Machine*, his most famous novella. He refined the

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plot through submissions for *The New Review*. In 1891, he began teaching at a correspondence college and married his cousin, Isabel Mary Wells. He issued a promising article, "The Rediscovery of the Unique," in *Fortnightly Review* and published papers on education. The completion of *The Time Machine* in 1895 was the beginning of his fiction career. During this extraordinary shift, he gave up teaching, divorced his wife, and married a former student, Amy Catherine "Jane" Robbins.

At age thirty-four, Wells developed a circle of literary friends at Spade House, his coastal residence in Folkestone, Kent. Among his supporters were Joseph Conrad, Mary Ann Evans, Henry James, Rudyard Kipling, and George Bernard Shaw, five of the literary lions of the era. Wells enjoyed supervising his sons and sitting in his garden to write novels while looking out on Sandgate Bay. He shifted from science fiction to autobiographical novels and philosophy, spurred in part by his interest in the Fabian Society, a socialist organization based on the principles of Karl Marx.

As a member of the Research Committee for the League of Nations, in 1917, Wells agitated for world peace. He lived in Regent's Park, London, during World War I, a pessimistic era in his work. After alienating himself by supporting Lenin, in 1924, Wells settled in France for twelve years. He spent the last sixteen years of his life at a London residence on Marylebone Road. In *The Holy Terror* (1939), he warned of the advance of Nazism and fascism and defied the Blitz by refusing to leave his house to take shelter. He continued to publish until age seventy-eight, pushing the number of titles to his credit beyond six hundred.

### CRITIC'S CORNER

Wells earned respect for educating himself and for keeping abreast of a massive alteration in philosophy and economy as the British Empire exited the Victorian Era and entered the technological era. Influenced by the writings of Jules Verne, he advanced prophetic and utopian literature from light fantasy into social criticism. Before World War I, he coined the phrase "the war that will end war," the title of a work he published in 1914. His greatest concern was the elitism that sharply separated English peers from commoners and offered the wealthy and privileged educational preferment. His work expressed hope for the working class, whom he described with warmth and good humor.

Because of his pictorial accuracy, Wells's sci-fi novels have flourished on film. In 1934, *The Invisible Man* starred Claude Rains as the bandaged title figure; two years later, Raymond Massey, Ralph Richardson, and Cedric Hardwicke appeared in the dystopian classic *Things to Come*. Gene Barry starred in *The War of the Worlds* (1950), a sensational cult film at the beginning of the sci-fi fad. In 1960, Rod Taylor headed an all-star cast for *The Time Machine*, featuring Yvette Mimieux, Alan Young, and Sebastian Cabot. The last

filming of *The Island of Dr. Moreau* (1996) featured Marlon Brando and Val Kilmer and replaced a 1932 version, *Island of Lost Souls*,

starring Charles Laughton and Bela Lugosi, and a 1977 remake, in which Burt Lancaster and Michael York played the main parts.

### OTHER WORKS BY THE AUTHOR

*The Time Machine* (1895)  
*The Island Of Dr. Moreau* (1896)  
*The Invisible Man* (1897)  
*The War Of The Worlds* (1898)  
*The Sleeper Wakes* (1899)  
*Love And Mr. Lewisham* (1900)  
*The First Men In The Moon* (1901)  
*Anticipations* (1902)  
*Mankind In the Making* (1903)  
*The Food Of The Gods* (1904)  
*A Modern Utopia* (1905)  
*Kipps* (1905)  
*The War In The Air* (1908)  
*Tono-Bungay* (1909)  
*The History Of Mr. Polly* (1910)  
*Boon* (1910)  
*The New Machiavelli* (1911)  
*The Last War* (1914)  
*Mr. Briting Sees It Through* (1916)  
*Outline Of History* (1920)  
*The Open Conspiracy: Blue Prints For A World Revolution* (1928)  
*The Science Of Life* (1931)  
*The Work, Wealth, And Happiness* (1932)  
*The Shape Of Things To Come* (1933)  
*Experiment In Autobiography* (1934)  
*The Croquet Player* (1938)  
*Apropos Of Dolores* (1938)  
*The Holy Terror* (1939)  
*Mind At The End Of Its Tether* (1945)

### MEDIA VERSIONS OF WELL'S WORKS

#### Annotated

*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*, McFarland, 1996

#### Audiocassette (abridged)

*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*, Blackstone Audiobooks, 1994

#### Audiocassette (unabridged)

*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*, Books on Tape, 1997

#### CD-Rom

*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*, Quiet Vision, 1999

#### Digital e-Book (not downloadable)

*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*, Amazon, 2001

#### DVD

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*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*, starring Burt Lancaster, 1977

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### Large Print

*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*, Transaction Large Print, 1998

### Movie Poster

*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*, Amazon, 2003

### Script

*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*, Nelson Thomas, 1999

### Video

*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*, starring Burt Lancaster, 1977

*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*, starring Marlon Brando, 1996

*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*, Globalstage, 1999

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### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the impact of physiological and instinctual change on animals
2. To account for exploitation of nature
3. To interpret social and community reaction to rogue science
4. To contrast the study of science with bizarre applications of knowledge
5. To discuss the themes of confusion and outrage
6. To list examples of suspicion, cruelty, duplicity, and callousness
7. To analyze causes of regret, self-doubt, addictive behavior, and grief
8. To characterize attitudes of outsiders to a hideous mystery
9. To describe Gothic elements of setting, atmosphere, and tone
10. To analyze the emotional turmoil that follows rescue

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explain how Prendick angers Captain John Davis
2. To analyze the symbolism of an island
3. To account for the nephew's involvement in a framework narrative
4. To contrast Dr. Moreau, Montgomery, the Sayer of the Law, and Prendick as authority figures
5. To justify Prendick's suspicion that he will come to harm in Dr. Moreau's laboratory
6. To predict how Prendick will cope with his experiences on the island
7. To summarize Montgomery's job as enabler of a madman
8. To discuss the implications of a decapitated rabbit, lapping water on all fours, and clawed bark
9. To summarize the roles of M'ling, the Hyena-Swine, and the St. Bernard Dog Man
10. To account for Prendick's discovery of animal behaviors and appearances in humans
11. To characterize the importance of mid-nineteenth-century science, religion, and philosophy to the author's writings
12. To analyze details, particularly the dinghy, whip, rabbits, rock in a sling, astronomy, Huxley, chanting, and severed hand

### LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of H. G. Wells's narrative style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

**character name:** a method of displaying or revealing character traits or attitudes through name, imagery, symbolism, dialogue, or action. The naming of Captain John Davis's ship, the *Ipecacuanha*, brings to mind the use of ipecac as an expectorant or emetic for forcing the body to regurgitate poison. The ejection from London of Dr. Moreau, whose name means "black," was a similar cleansing of the scientific community of a renegade who violated professional principles by his unethical treatment of animals for a bizarre scheme of altering instinctive behavior and giving animals a human voice.

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**framework:** a setting that encases a story, which may be told in flashback. Beginning with commentary of Charles Edward Prendick about his uncle, Edward Prendick, the novel substantiates times and places before progressing with the memoir of the reclusive scientist. The sorrowful conclusion suggests a psychological decline suited to a man who has suffered what the nephew outlines in his introduction.

**imagery:** a word picture that allows the reader to visualize meaning. For the reader to absorb the atrocities that Dr. Moreau has committed against nature, the text must recreate in images the horror of vivisection. In Chapter 14, Moreau describes one so disgusting that he halts with "I made a thing—." He adds that this unidentified experimental model was limbless and horrible and that it "writhed along the ground in a serpentine fashion." He amends the image by picturing it "[traveling] in a rollicking way like a porpoise swimming." Even after so terrible a mistake, Moreau adds, "After that I stuck to the ideal of humanity—except for little things."

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

The milieu of H. G. Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau* focuses on a Gothic convention, the placement of characters in confining spaces. Edward Prendick sets out on the *Lady Vain* and must abandon a sinking ship by sharing a dinghy with Helmar and a sailor. After Prendick is left alone following their disappearance over the side, the setting shifts to rescue by the *Ipecacuanha* and Prendick's recovery in a small, untidy cabin. From there, he passes back to the dinghy of the *Lady Vain* after Captain John Davis tosses him off the boat for contradicting orders. The unpromising setting causes Prendick to long for death.

The most dangerous immurement comes on the island later identified as Noble's Isle, a volcanic dot in the South Pacific west of the Galapagos Islands and slightly south of the Equator. At first, the castaway is glad to be accepted by Montgomery and his strange crew. Quickly, Prendick learns that his reception is limited to a locked apartment, sleep in a hammock, and meals carried in by a servant. His first walk about the island seems expansive and restful until he surprises a creature on all fours in the act of lapping water from a stream. The sound of a stalker implies that Prendick is still confined, but not in the same way as four walls and a floor.

As the novel develops its theme of barbarous treatment of animals, more areas inhibit Prendick's freedom. He discovers that a boiling hot stream exudes from the volcano and that the close, foul-smelling huts of the Beast People in a tight crevice are dark and potentially dangerous. Back at the compound, he stays in his apartment and shares meals with Montgomery until he finds an opportunity to infringe on the laboratory, from which comes the piteous screams of the puma. One glimpse of Moreau's hellish work sends Prendick out of the area and back to his limited quarters.

After the fire destroys the quadrangle, Prendick has the whole island to share with the Beast People. His gradual loss of control, which parallels the recidivism of modified animals to their natural instincts, forces the survivor to shelter behind a flimsy barricade to

snatch sleep among the beasts' huts. He considers abandoning the island by raft, but eventually escapes with his life aboard the dinghy. Ironically, the terrors of Dr. Moreau's island change Prendick's personality. From a gadabout gentleman scientist, he turns into a recluse by shutting out society, which reminds him of the horrors of the surgically engineered Beast People.

### CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

For more information about H. G. Wells, the H. G. Wells Society, science fiction, Thomas Huxley, Kanaka, Noble's Isle, volcanic islands, vivisection, scientific ethics, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

#### Articles

- Broad, William J., "Exploring Undersea Birth Throes of a New Hawaiian island," *New York Times*, October 8, 1996, p. C1.  
Ruse, Michael, "Evolutionary Ethics: What Can We Learn from the Past?," *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, Vol. 34, No. 3, September 1999, pp. 435-451.

#### Audiocassette

- The First Men On The Moon*, H. G. Wells, Simon & Schuster  
*The Hound Of The Baskervilles*, Blackstone Audiobooks  
*Tales Of Terror And Mystery*, Blackstone Audiobooks  
*The Time Machine*, H. G. Wells, Tantor  
*War Of The Worlds*, H. G. Wells, Listening Library

#### CD-ROM

- Poe's Tales Of Terror*, Teacher's Discovery

#### e-Book

- The Invisible Man*, H. G. Wells

#### Internet

- "Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion,"  
<http://www.aaas.org/spp/dser/>  
"H. G. Wells,"  
[http://www.a-ten.com/a\\_z/wells.html](http://www.a-ten.com/a_z/wells.html)  
"H. G. Wells,"  
<http://www.catch22.com/SF/ARB/SFW/Wells,HG.php3>  
"The H. G. Wells Society,"  
<http://www.personal.rdg.ac.uk/~lhsjamse/wells/wells.htm>  
"National Anti-vivisection Society,"  
<http://www.navs.org/>  
"South Pacific Organizer,"  
[http://www.southpacific.org/text/new\\_caledonia.html](http://www.southpacific.org/text/new_caledonia.html)

#### Map

- Pacific Ocean*, National Geographic

#### Multimedia Kit

- How Animals Hide*, National Geographic

## THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU

### Novellas

*Animal Farm*, George Orwell  
*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Robert Louis Stevenson

### Plays

*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Samuel French  
*R. U. R.*, Karel Capek

### Poems

"*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*," Samuel Taylor Coleridge  
"The Second Coming," William Butler Yeats  
"The Skater of Ghost Lake," Stephen Vincent Benét

### Reference Books

*The Dictionary of Imaginary Places*,  
by Alberto Manguel and Gianni Guadalupi  
*The Legends and Myths of Hawaii*, Charles E. Tuttle Co.  
*The Penguin Encyclopedia of Horror and the Supernatural*, Penguin  
*Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, Oxford Press

### Short Stories

"*The Bottle Imp*" and "*Markheim*," Robert Louis Stevenson  
"The Canterville Ghost," Oscar Wilde  
"The Dybbuk," Isaac Bashevis Singer  
"The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg," Mark Twain  
"Sredni Vashtar," Saki

### Slides

*Characters in Crisis*, Center for Humanities  
*An Inquiry into the Nature of Man: His Inhumanity and  
His Humanity*, Center for the Humanities  
*No Man Is an Island*, Center for the Humanities

### Soundtrack

*The Island of Dr. Moreau*, Milan Records, 1996

### Videos/DVDs

*Black Robe*  
*Hawaii*  
*Horror Literature*, Thomas Klise  
*The Island of Dr. Moreau*  
*Kon-Tiki*  
*Something Wicked This Way Comes*  
*Wit*

### RELATED READING

Karel Capek, *R. U. R.*  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*  
Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*  
Margaret Edson, *Wit*  
John Gardner, *Grendel*  
William Golding, *The Lord of the Flies*  
Robin Graham, *Dove*  
Theodora Kroeber, *Ishi*

Herman Melville, *Typee* and *Moby Dick*  
George Orwell, *Animal Farm*  
William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*  
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*  
Armstrong Sperry, *Call It Courage*  
Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and "*Markheim*"  
Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*  
H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine*  
William Butler Yeats, "*The Second Coming*"

### THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in *The Island of Dr. Moreau* should include these aspects:

#### Themes

- adventure
- genius
- mystery
- cruelty
- immorality
- murder
- flight
- exploitation
- isolation

#### Motifs

- coping with social upheaval
- escaping from an ominous setting
- comprehending the demands of living and working for a mad scientist
- gaining control
- retreating from danger
- choosing solitude over human companionship

### MEANING STUDY

Below are significant words, phrases, or sentences from the novel. Explain each in context. Chapter and page numbers pinpoint each entry so that you can re-read the passage in which it appears.

1. Halfway up was a square piebald stone enclosure that I found subsequently was built partly of coral and partly of pumiceous lava. (Chapter 6, p. 26)  
(Lacking hardwoods, Dr. Moreau built his spotted island compound of local materials. Coral would have formed at the reef. Lightweight pumice would have erupted from the volcano in the form of light air-pocked glass.)
2. Our little establishment here contains a secret or so, is a kind of Bluebeard's Chamber, in fact. (Chapter 7, p. 31)  
(Bluebeard, the satanic husband who murders his brides, is a staple character in folklore. Charles Perrault initiated the story with a fable, "La Barbe Bleue," in *Contes de Ma Mère l'Oye* (Mother Goose Tales) (1697). Cloaked in secrecy, the wife-killer attempts to hide the cycle of slaughter in a locked room of



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his castle. Subsequent brides survive so long as they leave the door unlocked and the secret undisclosed.)

3. He had published some very astonishing facts in connection with the transfusion of blood, and, in addition, was known to be doing valuable work on morbid growths. (Chapter 7, p. 33)  
*(Crucial to the characterization of Dr. Moreau is the establishment of his skill at physiological research and his contributions to medicine, which include blood transfusion, which was still a half century away from practical use, and cancer research.)*
4. "From your account," said he, "I'm thinking it was a bogle."  
(Chapter 10, p. 50)  
*(Montgomery keeps up his pretense of not understanding Prendick's initial experiences on the island. To avoid corroborating the visitor's encounter with a humanized beast lapping water on all fours, Montgomery refers to it as a hobgoblin or apparition, which implies that Prendick imagined it.)*
5. These sickening scoundrels had merely intended to keep me back, to fool me with their display of confidence, and presently to fall upon me with a fate more horrible than death, with torture, and after torture the most hideous degradation it was possible to conceive—to send me off, a lost soul, a beast, to the rest of their Comus rout. (Chapter 11, p. 53)  
*(Lacking full understanding of Dr. Moreau's intentions, Prendick fears that he is destined for some grotesque surgical makeover. He compares the previous victims to the characters in Comus (1634), an allegorical court masque that English epic poet John Milton wrote at the request of musician Henry Lawes for presentation at Ludlow Castle. The performance featured music and dance highlighted by lavish costumes, sets, and spectacle.)*
6. I knew both Moreau and Montgomery carried revolvers; and, save for a feeble bar of deal, spiked with a small nail, the merest mockery of a mace, I was unarmed. (Chapter 11, p. 55)  
*(By breaking up a deal deck chair, Prendick uses the armpiece as a weapon. The wood, probably fir or pine, is lightweight, short, and topped with an exposed nail. It bears little resemblance to the medieval mace, a spiked metal ball on a handle or chain for striking an enemy or attackers.)*
7. "His is the lightning-flash," we sang. "His is the deep salt sea."  
(Chapter 12, p. 62)  
*(As though singing a Christian hymn, the animals describe the terrors that Moreau has instituted to subdue them into accepting their lot as freakish humanoids. In addition to sculpting their bodies with painful flaying of their hides, he threatens them with the flash of his revolver. Those who die from his tyranny are buried at sea. As though worshipping a god, the chanting Beast People refer to Moreau as the owner of "the stars in the sky.")*
8. Are we not men? (Chapter 12, p. 63)  
*(In a rhetorical question, the Beast People hesitate to declare themselves human. They summarize the true nature of animals,*

*those who stalk as those who "watch and slink and wait and spring, to kill and bite, bite deep and rich, sucking the blood." The lengthy list of animal behaviors that follows indicates that they have an easier time of recognizing feral instincts than describing human restraint.)*

9. They were men: what are they now? (Chapter 13, p. 69)  
*(Prendick misconstrues Moreau's purpose by assuming that he started with humans and turned them into humanoids. In fear that the surgeon will reshape him into a monster, Prendick threatens to drown himself and incites a rebellion by challenging the Beast People to recognize dread in Moreau and Montgomery.)*
10. Hi non sunt homines, sunt animalia qui nos habemus . . . vivisectis. (Chapter 13, p. 70)  
*(At a pivotal moment in Prendick's understanding of the island's purpose, Moreau explains in simple, inaccurate Latin: "These are not men, they are animals whom we have vivisected." The relative pronoun "qui" should be in the accusative case, neuter plural "quae.")*

### COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers with quotations from the novella.

#### Motivation

1. Why does Prendick fear Dr. Moreau?  
*(Before meeting Dr. Moreau, Prendick, at age fifteen, read a pamphlet about "Moreau's horrors." Thus, Prendick has a set of fearful clues by which to judge what he is viewing on the island. He first meets Montgomery, who regrets his career choice, yet veils the nature of his highly secretive work and refuses to explain the ugliness of M'ling, the black-faced, misshapen attendant on board the Ipecacuanha. After a grudging acceptance on the island, Prendick finds himself locked into confined quarters and fed in the same space. He is within earshot of the pathetic puma, which is obviously undergoing some terrible torment. After roaming the island and encountering a strange beast lapping water on all fours, Prendick pictures himself in the place of the puma and erroneously assumes that Moreau will turn him into a human-animal mix.)*

#### Setting

2. How does the setting change after the fire?  
*(Wells pictures the destruction of the island's quadrangle as an accident caused by Prendick's accidental overturning of a lamp. The fire destroys the only human habitation and all its supplies. It also burns away the terrors of the House of Pain and leaves an assortment of pathetic humanoids who rapidly regress toward the animal side of their nature. As the memories of Moreau's laws fade, the inhabitants of the island gradually return to a feral lifestyle. Prendick, who is the only human left, "[dreads] the silence and darkness" of his ten months marooned with "half-humanized brutes." Guarded by the St. Bernard called Dog Man,*

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Prendick avoids the vengeful Hyena-Swine and accepts entertainment by Monkey Man as a diversion from the difficulties of feeding and sheltering himself. He retreats by day to the southward beach to watch for passing ships and heaps materials for a bonfire to signal for help. The black remains of the compound and the burned boats on the beach offer only scraps of metal and nails from which to build a raft. While Prendick forages in the ashes, the animals creep up to watch.)

### Character Development

3. What does the narrator do to annoy Dr. Moreau?  
(Moreau is so task oriented that he refuses normal hospitality to the marooned visitor and turns immediately to the reshaping of the puma, which had to be imported from a dealer in Africa. By leaving his locked quarters and wandering the island, Prendick creates an emergency that requires immediate attention. After he retreats from the compound in fear of torture, Prendick forces Moreau and Montgomery to arm themselves with revolvers and stalk him through the wild. After locating the escapee, Moreau and Montgomery drop their weapons. Moreau takes the time to explain his physiological humanizing of animals and to assure Prendick that he is safe from the surgeon's scalpel. After Prendick drops the two revolvers and abandons the notion of drowning himself, Moreau returns to his laboratory in a huff that he has wasted so much time on an annoying interloper.)

### Historical Milieu

4. What is impressive about Prendick's background?  
(In Chapter 6, Prendick impresses Dr. Moreau with the news that he studied biology under Huxley at the Royal College of Science. At the height of controversy over the philosophical and religious implications of Charles Darwin's theories of evolution and natural selection, Prendick learned biology from Thomas Henry Huxley, a brilliant English physiologist, naturalist, teacher, and agnostic. A proponent of scientific objectivity, he educated students on the evolution of higher orders from simple animal life and the cultural sources of morality. He readied phalanxes of teachers to carry pure science into the classroom at the elite and working-class levels of study to rid science of the taint of religious meddlers and apologists.)

### Theme

5. What does the author reveal about ethics?  
(Wells creates a triad of human characters out of Dr. Moreau, Montgomery, and Prendick. Moreau abdicates his humanism by allowing intellectual curiosity to set the pace and style of his biological inquiry. He is appalled that his assistant Montgomery expresses sympathy for the sufferings of animals undergoing transformation in the House of Pain. Montgomery, who became an alcoholic during his college training, relies on drink to override his despair at the cruelty of flaying animal hides and altering their frames to make them walk upright and talk like humans. When the third member of the triad arrives, he sides with humanistic principles that require scientists to treat living creatures with respect and compassion.

However, after months on the island, even Prendick begins to lose his humanism and grow accustomed to seeing short-legged, horribly malformed humanoids.)

### Interpretation

6. Why does Prendick become a recluse?  
(Upon his return to England, Prendick carries the effects of profound trauma from surviving the sinking of the *Lady Vain*, discharge from the *Ipecacuanha*, marooning on Dr. Moreau's island, and rescue at sea by a brig from Apia, Samoa. Prendick's mental displacement within the animal kingdom produces sympathy for humanoids and suspicion of the animal traits in normal humans. Still independently wealthy and given to scientific inquiry, he lives in solitude within a small household. He retreats to his study to read learned texts and explore chemistry and astronomy. His choice of sciences indicates a wariness of the study of living things. Of his preference for stars, he explains, "There is . . . a sense of infinite peace and protection in the glittering hosts of heaven.")

### Conflict

7. How does Dr. Moreau anger England's scientific community?  
(Prendick recalls that Dr. Moreau, at age fifty, ruined his longstanding reputation for medical breakthroughs in 1877 because of the "Moreau Horrors." The pamphlet revealed that he dabbled in vivisection, the maiming of living animals by reconstructing their organs and the removal and replacement of their features to produce new physiological possibilities. Because Moreau assumes a god-like mantle, he violates the stringent ethics of the medical and scientific hierarchy. Out of respect for creation, more ethical scientists rescue a dog that he flayed and tormented and force Moreau into exile. Their actions create a furor, but do not halt Moreau's excruciating laboratory experiments on living animals in the privacy of a South Pacific laboratory.)

### Symbols

8. Why does the author choose the French word for "black" as the doctor's name?  
(The name "Moreau" suggests the dark side of the human intellect, a common topic in the late nineteenth century during the birth of psychology as a science. Just as Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis probed the id in the human psyche and moral author Robert Louis Stevenson speculated on the criminal aspects of human nature in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886), Wells perused the negative side of science. He questions the undisciplined intellectual curiosity that leads Moreau to resettle in the South Pacific, purchase animals through offshore agents, and continue his application of vivisection to the study of altered animal physiology. After the quadrangle burns, Prendick pokes through black remains, a symbol of the topographical stain that Moreau leaves on the island. It is ironic that, when the island is finally mapped and named, it is called Noble's Isle, a far cry from the black-hearted experiments of Dr. Moreau.)

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### Author Purpose

9. Why did H. G. Wells choose science fiction as his metier?  
(Because H. G. Wells breached the parameters of pure science, he turned from science teaching in public grammar schools to speculative writing as a means of freeing the imagination to explore the what ifs of the future. During his period of science fiction writing, he challenged readers to think outside their safe environment to the possibilities that technology promised for later generations. By branching out beyond the confines of time and space, he wrote *The Time Machine* and *The Shape of Things to Come*, which speculate on the kind of world that awaits in the distant future. By looking beyond Earth, he wrote *The War of the Worlds*, a consideration of alien life and hostilities toward humanity. With *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, he introduced his thoughts on a perennial professional concern, that scientists will become so fascinated with their powers that they will violate the natural order.)

### Structure

10. Why does Wells link Prendick repeatedly with the *Lady Vain*?  
(The author reminds the reader of Dr. Moreau's vanity by picturing Prendick as a survivor of the sinking of the *Lady Vain*, which collides with a derelict hulk, a symbol of outmoded thinking on science and philosophy. From the dispersal of crew and passengers into boats, Prendick departs the site with two other survivors in a dinghy bearing the ship's logo. As though proving Charles Darwin's law of survival of the fittest, Prendick observes Helmar and a sailor grappling and falling overboard. The squabble leaves Prendick to survive alone without food or water. After Captain John Davis takes Prendick aboard the *Ipecacuanha*, the crew fastens the dinghy of the *Lady Vain* to the ship's stern. The ejection of Prendick at Moreau's island returns him to the dinghy, from which Montgomery rescues him. The repeated links to the *Lady Vain* and to its small dinghy foreshadow Prendick's ultimate solitude as he avoids biology to study chemistry and astronomy, two wings of science that avoid living beings.)

### HOW LANGUAGE WORKS

Wells characterizes Edward Prendick through speeches that reveal his attitudes and behaviors. For example:

1. Prendick's first commentary emerges as he revives from severe thirst after eight days at sea. Like a true scientist, he begins with simple, but essential questions of his rescuer: "What ship is this?" "Am I eligible for solid food?"
2. The questions continue as Prendick analyzes Montgomery's destination in the South Seas and the strange black-faced man that serves him. Prendick asks, "Is this an ocean menagerie?" "What are these beasts for? Merchandise, curios? Does the captain think he is going to sell them somewhere in the South Seas?" The rationality of his questions indicate that Prendick is unprepared for the nature of Moreau's fantasies about redesigning animals to resemble humans.

3. The questions continue at meals with Montgomery, when Prendick asks "Why has your man pointed ears?" and "Where did you pick the creature up?" These questions ease Prendick into the realm of science fiction and fantasy.
4. After encountering one of the Beast People at the stream, Prendick asks, "Who are you?" and continues investigating by demanding of Montgomery, "Was it a beast, or was it a man?" The questions place Prendick on the cusp of understanding Moreau's fiendish experimentation.
5. At the climax, Prendick faces Montgomery and Moreau with more questions about the Beast People, "They were men: what are they now?" The question shows his failure to follow Moreau's line of thought about altering animals into people. Choosing sides, Prendick opts to protect the beasts by informing them that they have numbers and Moreau's fear on their side.
6. Prendick's rise from guest to challenger begins with his conversation with Moreau and his charge that the puma is "still alive, but so cut and mutilated as I pray I may never see living flesh again." The statement places Prendick on the side of humanity and compassion for the suffering beings.
7. After Moreau's death, Prendick continues his questions with the core conflict: "What does it all mean?"

### ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

#### Journalism

1. Compose a news article about director Orson Welles's adaptation of *The War of the Worlds* for Mercury Theatre on the Air, CBS Radio, on October 30, 1938. Give details of public panic.

#### Psychology and Health

1. Explain with a time line and character webs the mental and physical pressures that impinge on Prendick after the sinking of the *Lady Vain*. Why does he pretend to have amnesia? Why does he withdraw into solitude and abandon biology?
2. Lead a debate concerning the best methods of lifting spirits among the pathetic Beast People. Generate a list of solutions to their loneliness, apprehension, and violence, for example, the introduction of normal animals to the island and the cultivation of normal instinct at feeding stations and lair.
3. Compose a lecture on emotional trauma as found in Montgomery and Prendick after their encounter with Dr. Moreau. List causes, symptoms, and treatment for people who live with anger, frustration, fear, disappointment, violence, alcoholism, and disillusion.

#### Religion and Ethics

1. Compose a rebuttal of Dr. Moreau's rationalization of vivisection, his claim that he reveres God, and his intent to humanize animals. Cite scriptural and scientific texts that reject such experimentation.

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2. Explain the allusion to Genesis in the chase through the cane field. Why would H. G. Wells make a literary reference to the character Cain? How does the allusion corroborate the choice of "Moreau," the French word for "black," as the name for a vivisectionist?

### Business and Economics

1. Describe current markets for bio-engineered creatures, for example, biota that devour micro-slime, cancers, and water pollutants.
2. In a theme, explain why the worst of traders and sea captains might be happy to supply Dr. Moreau with wild animals. Include information about world organizations that monitor such trade.

### Geography

1. Use topographical maps to contrast life around the shore and reef with creatures that survive near the fumarolles on Dr. Moreau's island.
2. Draw a map of the island indicating the compound, Dr. Moreau's laboratory, Prendick's room, the landing zone, semicircular gathering place, boiling spring, stream, huts of the Beast People, headland, and waters where sharks threaten Prendick's life.

### Social Studies

1. Compose an extended definition of social isolation. Explain why the term describes Dr. Moreau, Montgomery, Prendick, the puma, M'ling, the St. Bernard Dog Man, and the rest of the humanoid creatures. Comment on aspects of failed ethics and morality that alienate these characters from the rest of the world, especially the scientists and scholars of London.
2. Contrast Captain John Davis with Dr. Moreau as proud overlords. Why do they behave like tyrants in their microcosmic worlds? Why is Montgomery a poor replacement for Dr. Moreau as master of the Beast People?
3. Based on your understanding of the novella, lead a panel discussion of the effects of fear, torture, displacement, rioting, social disorder, brutality, vivisection, murder, and other forms of violence on animals. Explain why the gun, whip, and fire become emblems of human domination over the Beast People.

### Language and Literature

1. List phrases that require translation or explanation, especially seafaring terms. Include cockspur, zouave, L'homme qui Rit, Victor Hugo, temerity, Inquisition, metamorphosis, larynx, sophistry, houri, Mahomet, abomination, ethics, Kanaka, travesty, fastness, askew, multifarious, solicitude, fumarolles, disproportion, vestige, prognathous, tactile, votary, vulpine, ursine, yokel, habituate, aperture, decorum, Ollendorffian, nether, carnivore, denizen, satyr, polygon, ardor, wantonness, idyllic, taint,

underated, virago, homunculus, maudlin, garrulous, bank-holiday, welter, spasmodically, morass, serf, ambushade, interminably, miasmatic, retrospect, sojourn, equilibrium, Slöjd, lug-sail, yaw, apia, gid, vain, Callao, ipecacuanha, bowsprit, copra, Banya, gunwale, thwart, taking, fore, art, gangway, bulwark, interlocutor, internal, incontinently, scuttle, hatchway, companionway, mizzen, yawp, forecastle, remonstrance, shrouds, Africa, flotsam, hove to, binnacle, altercation, lee, dinghy, piggin, painter, piebald, unshipped, saturning, abstainer, complaisance, hallitus, vivisection, askance, masticated, epiphyte, foliaceus, lichen, deliquesce, simian, chasm, and litany.

2. Using a French-English dictionary, compose an extended explanation of the name Moreau. Why does the name suit this character, his immoral laboratory experiments, and his ill fate? Make a similar explanation of *Ipecacuanha* for Captain John Davis's schooner.
3. Research comparative passages in George Orwell's *Animal Farm* that reprise Wells's images of animals posing as people. Note in particular the posting of laws and the propaganda that turns assemblies into indoctrination sessions.
4. Pantomime symbolic or significant episodes, for instance, the location of Dr. Moreau's remains, a confrontation between Montgomery and Captain John Davis, building a raft and dragging it toward the surf, receiving new duck clothes, eating a coconut with the Beast People, and going ashore from the *Ipecacuanha*.
5. List sense impressions from the novel that give immediacy and force to characterization. Name graphic details such as fleeing over a precipice, hearing a burst of flame from the quadrangle, smelling the huts of the Beast People, listening to the chanting of laws, watching M'ling prepare a rabbit for cooking, seeing sails in the distance and locating dead men, experiencing a fall from a hammock, tasting mutton after days of starvation, and hiding in the underbrush.
6. With citations, chart the parameters of Gothic literature to *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. Consider mystery, confinement, stalking, escapism, flights from danger, grotesque figures, hyperbole, supernatural powers, vague forms of menace, threats and violence, and dark or unusual settings.
7. Using dreamscapes and nightmarish scenes from the novel as models, write an extended definition of surrealism.

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### Law

1. Read aloud laws governing harm to animals, laboratory use of test animals, buying animals from Africa for transport to the South Pacific, and bio-engineering. Determine which of Dr. Moreau's crimes require additional legal study, particularly retreating to a small island to carry out inhumane laboratory experiments.
2. Make a chart of advice to the narrator concerning the rights of survivors of a sinking ship, the power of a ship's captain, and the responsibilities of sea-going vessels to rescue endangered or marooned survivors.

### Drama

1. Contrast the dramatic scenarios of Wells's novella to Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, "The Bottle Imp," and "Markheim," Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, Karel Capek's *R. U. R.*, William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and William Golding's *The Lord of the Flies*. Which works would adapt best to film? stage? action comic book? animation?
2. Create a storyboard account of the plot after Dr. Moreau's quadrangle burns. Indicate the narrator's actions when he is angry, sad, depressed, weary, lying, and fearful of living without shelter among the Beast People. List his faults as a leader of the Beast People and as a replacement for Dr. Moreau.

### Speech

1. Organize a discussion of types of persecution, including vivisection, threats of bodily harm, and illegal imprisonment. Propose a suitable sentence for Dr. Moreau that would end his inhumane experimentation and make society safe from his cruelties and twisted thinking about physiological re-engineering of animals.
2. Compose a presentation to London scientists concerning the violent end of Dr. Moreau's career in vivisection and humanizing animals. Use the narrator's experiences as examples of duplicity, brutality, and manipulation.
3. Record aloud descriptive passages from *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. Consider these episodes: building a barricade, removing M'ling's body, discussing the remaining water on the dinghy, listening to the puma's screams, calling an assembly of the Beast People, gazing in solitude at stars, defending an uncle from defamation, acquiring a guard dog, having a broken arm set and put in a sling, holding Dr. Moreau and Montgomery at gunpoint, lighting a signal bonfire, and locating two dead men in the boat.

### Cinema

1. View films depicting mad scientist themes, such as *Frankenstein*, *Andromeda Strain*, *Beethoven*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Godzilla*, *The Terminal Man*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *A Beautiful Mind*, *Coma*, and *Wit*. Compare the movies' settings, themes, and dialogue to those of *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. Comment on the interplay of people with family, animals, patients, and victims of unethical treatment. Determine whether Prendick has ample reason to suspect that Dr. Moreau may use him in a laboratory experiment.
2. View the sci-fi film *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. Propose a change to the plot by substituting a female visitor in place of Prendick or a female physiologist for Dr. Moreau. How would the London scientific community of the late Victorian era have responded to a female vivisectionist? female biology professor?

### ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List examples of foolishness, cruelty, duplicity, immorality, addictive behavior, or pride in various characters, for example, Captain John Smith in confronting Montgomery about his servant, Dr. Moreau in rushing back to the puma in the laboratory, Dog Man in standing by Prendick, Prendick in assuring the Beast People that Moreau isn't dead, and M'ling in drinking with Montgomery.
2. Compile a list of actions that demonstrate instinct, particularly lapping water, licking blood from the skinned rabbit, clawing bark, staring at Prendick from the safety of underbrush, killing small prey, eating the young, stalking Prendick, swinging from creepers, and sniffing two dead men.
3. Compose a scene in which the narrator returns to Dr. Moreau's island to lead a team of scientists over the remains of the quadrangle and huts. Describe the remains of the Beast People that the searchers locate.
4. Make a character list and explain the character flaws of each, including Captain John Davis's drunkenness, Montgomery's remorse, Dr. Moreau's lack of investigative ethics, Prendick's determination to commit suicide, Dog Man's willingness to risk harm, the Kanakas' suspicion, the Hyena-Swine's vengeance, and M'ling's innocence of human cruelty.
5. Account for implications of Christian worship in Prendick's statement that Dr. Moreau is not dead and that he watches from above.

## THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU

### VOCABULARY TEST

Complete each of the following sentences with an appropriate pair of words from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank at left.

- |                             |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. bulwark, shrouds         | f. askew, epiphyte          | m. dinghy, unvictualled |
| b. saturnine, complaisance  | h. simian, launch           | n. pallid, binnacle     |
| c. resolution, headland     | i. confirmation, particular | o. augury, temerity     |
| d. profoundly, abominations | j. mace, souging            | p. access, capacity     |
| e. thereunder, elfin        | k. attenuated, interspaces  | q. flotsam, bounty      |
| f. carriage, furtive        | l. digits, tactile          | r. countenance, belied  |

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. They wore turbans too, and \_\_\_\_\_ peered out their \_\_\_\_\_ faces at me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I saw that it was the \_\_\_\_\_ creature who had met the \_\_\_\_\_ upon the beach.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. He twisted his heavy mouth into a faint smile—he was one of those \_\_\_\_\_ people who smile with the corners of the mouth down—and bowed to my \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The blue sky above grew momentarily deeper, and the little stars one by one pierced the \_\_\_\_\_ light; the \_\_\_\_\_ of the trees, the gaps in the farther vegetation that had been hazy blue in the daylight, grew black and mysterious.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. He stumbled up against the \_\_\_\_\_ by the main \_\_\_\_\_, where he remained panting and glaring over his shoulder at the dogs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the *Lady Vain* had been towing behind; it was half full of water, had no oars, and quite \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. A journalist obtained \_\_\_\_\_ to his laboratory in the \_\_\_\_\_ of laboratory assistant, with the deliberate intention of making exposures.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Though it was faint and low, it moved me more \_\_\_\_\_ than all that I had hitherto heard of the \_\_\_\_\_ behind the wall.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Though some surprised me by their unexpected humanity, almost all were deficient in the number of \_\_\_\_\_, clumsy about the fingernails, and lacking any \_\_\_\_\_ sensibility.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The \_\_\_\_\_ of its four limbs was feline, and the \_\_\_\_\_ droop of its shoulder was distinctly that of a hunted animal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. This narrative is without \_\_\_\_\_ in its most essential \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. I was merely a bit of human \_\_\_\_\_, cut off from my resources, and with my fare unpaid, a mere casual dependent on the \_\_\_\_\_—or speculative enterprise—of the ship.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. He was after all probably a peaceful character, that the dull ferocity of his \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. It was some time before I could summon \_\_\_\_\_ to go down through the trees and bushes upon the flank of the \_\_\_\_\_ to the beach.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. As I talked I peered at his odd \_\_\_\_\_ face in the dim light of the \_\_\_\_\_ lantern behind me.

## THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

Match each of the following descriptions from the novel with a character. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- A. Charles Edward Prendick
- B. Edward Prendick
- C. Dr. Moreau
- D. Montgomery

- E. M'ling
- F. John Davis
- G. Huxley

- H. Sayer of the Law
- I. African agent
- J. captain of the brig out of Apia

- |                        |                                     |  |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. has red hair    | ___ 6. is exiled from London        | ___ 11. rejects story of Moreau's isle |
| ___ 2. breaks an arm   | ___ 7. carouses with M'ling         | ___ 12. runs the House of Pain         |
| ___ 3. sells a puma    | ___ 8. ousts "Mister Shut Up"       | ___ 13. leads chanting                 |
| ___ 4. is an alcoholic | ___ 9. taught at University College | ___ 14. prefers astronomy              |
| ___ 5. is an heir      | ___ 10. suffers lapse of memory     | ___ 15. dies protecting his master     |

#### Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- \_\_\_ 1. The two dead men occupy a small boat that may have come from the *Ipecacuanha*.
- \_\_\_ 2. Dr. Moreau tries to stop Prendick from drowning himself or risking shark attack.
- \_\_\_ 3. Montgomery credits the surgical transformation of M'ling to an unguarded moment eleven years earlier when Montgomery first turned to drink.
- \_\_\_ 4. Crew of the *Ipecacuanha* believe that the black-faced servant is a devil.
- \_\_\_ 5. A bonfire attracts the attention of the *H. M. S. Scorpion*.
- \_\_\_ 6. Prendick stocks his raft with food and water retrieved from the burned quadrangle.
- \_\_\_ 7. At the reef, Prendick dumps the decayed bodies in the sea among sharks.
- \_\_\_ 8. People in London associate Prendick with an anti-vivisectionist pamphlet entitled "Moreau's Horrors."
- \_\_\_ 9. The decapitated rabbit and lapping water on all fours are signs of regression to animal instincts.
- \_\_\_ 10. The huts grow rank and foul from the accumulation of decaying food.

#### Part III: Completion (20 points)

Fill in each blank below with a word or phrase that completes the sentence. Place your answer in the space provided at left.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ and the sailor fall overboard from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Montgomery admits that teaching \_\_\_\_\_ to cook \_\_\_\_\_ promoted the taste of blood.
- 3. The beasts claim that there is no \_\_\_\_\_ because Moreau is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ takes charge of the Beast People and tries to kill the \_\_\_\_\_, which murders Dog Man.
- 5. Sailors from the \_\_\_\_\_ visit \_\_\_\_\_, but fail to confirm Prendick's story.

## THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

1. Explain why Dr. Moreau takes an interest in Prendick.
2. Contrast Prendick's relationships with John Davis, Montgomery, and Dr. Moreau.
3. Discuss how Dog Man makes himself useful.
4. Explain Dr. Moreau's rationale for altering animal physiology and equipping his subjects with human speech.
5. Contrast Prendick's arrival and departure from Dr. Moreau's island.



## THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following actions with places from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

A. University College	F. <i>Ipecachuana</i>	K. dinghy
B. <i>Scorpion</i>	G. raft	L. reef
C. quadrangle	H. <i>Lady Vain</i>	M. Africa
D. huts	I. small household	N. Apia
E. stream	J. semi-circle	O. Callao

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Prendick sets out into the South Pacific.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Montgomery forgets to lock the door.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The Beast People recite laws.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. An agent acquires a puma.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The mate doubts Prendick's story.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Helmar scuffles with the sailor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. A recluse studies astronomy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Sailors abuse the black-faced man.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The escapee erects a flimsy barricade.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The *Scorpion* sets out for San Francisco.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Prendick encounters Huxley.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Prendick supplies the boat for departure.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. A scholar prefers chemistry over biology.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. The visitor overturns a lamp.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. A castaway is named "Mister Shut Up."

#### Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase to complete the following statements. Place your response in the blank provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Prendick declares that Moreau \_\_\_\_\_ them from above.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ appears to have died with one other man in the small boat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The *Ipecacuanha* sails west from \_\_\_\_\_, Peru.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. In solitude, Prendick conducts chemical experiments and observes the \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. M'ling's brown fur and pointed \_\_\_\_\_ startle Prendick.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_ claims to revere God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Dr. Moreau and Montgomery inhabited the island along with six \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Montgomery stocks \_\_\_\_\_ for meat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The \_\_\_\_\_ falls apart before Prendick can use it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_ admits that the visitors to Noble's Isle can't substantiate Edward Prendick's story.

## THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU

### Part III: Quotation Identification (20 points)

Identify the speaker of each quotation below. Comment on the significance of each statement.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. I'd watch my goings carefully if I were you.

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\_\_\_\_\_ 2. I will conquer yet.

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\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Children of the Law, he is not dead.

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\_\_\_\_\_ 4. What the Master wishes to kill the Master kills.

---

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\_\_\_\_\_ 5. They . . . won't have me forward.

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### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

1. Discuss the significance of Dr. Moreau's cowherd's horn and severed hand.
2. Describe Montgomery's behavior before and during the recovery of Prendick from his escape.
3. Account for the importance of humanoid assemblies.
4. Discuss the significance of each law.
5. Contrast the first and last times the narrator appears in the novel.

**THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU**

**TEACHER'S NOTES**

**THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU**

**ANSWER KEY**

**VOCABULARY**

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. e | 6. m  | 11. i |
| 2. h | 7. p  | 12. q |
| 3. b | 8. d  | 13. r |
| 4. k | 9. l  | 14. c |
| 5. a | 10. f | 15. n |

**COMPREHENSION TEST A**

**Part I: Character Identification (30 points)**

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. C  | 11. J |
| 2. B | 7. D  | 12. C |
| 3. I | 8. F  | 13. H |
| 4. D | 9. G  | 14. B |
| 5. A | 10. B | 15. E |

**Part II: True/False (20 points)**

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. F  |
| 2. T | 7. F  |
| 3. F | 8. F  |
| 4. T | 9. T  |
| 5. F | 10. T |

**Part III: Completion (20 points)**

1. Helmar, dinghy
2. M'ling, rabbit
3. law, dead
4. Prendick, Hyena-Swine
5. Scorpion, Noble's Isle

**Part IV: Essay (30 points)**

Answers will vary.

**COMPREHENSION TEST B**

**Part I: Matching (30 points)**

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. O | 6. K  | 11. A |
| 2. C | 7. I  | 12. E |
| 3. J | 8. F  | 13. I |
| 4. M | 9. D  | 14. C |
| 5. B | 10. N | 15. F |

**Part II: Short Answer (20 points)**

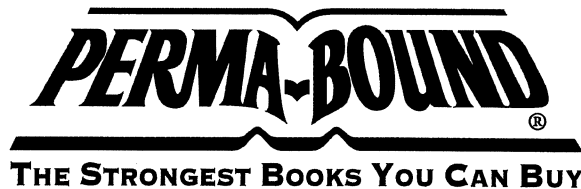
- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. watches            | 6. Dr. Moreau               |
| 2. Captain John Davis | 7. Kanakas                  |
| 3. Callao             | 8. rabbits                  |
| 4. stars              | 9. raft                     |
| 5. ears               | 10. Charles Edward Prendick |

**Part III: Quotation Identification (20 points)**

1. Montgomery
2. Dr. Moreau
3. Prendick
4. Dog Man
5. M'ling

**Part IV: Essay (30 points)**

Answers will vary.



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