

## 'The War of the Worlds' by HG Wells

### 'The Heat Ray' Chapter 5 – (will be provided ) (Setting and atmosphere)

#### Objectives:

- To identify various techniques used by the writer to describe the atmosphere
- To ): **review and develop the meaning, clarity, organisation and impact of complex sentences in their own writing.**

This chapter finds the narrator, (and by extension, the reader) face-to-face with the Martians. In this chapter the writer creates a sense of suspense, building towards fear. The following exercise will help you to explore *how* this is achieved?

1. Read the chapter once.
2. Re-read, focusing on how the writer creates atmosphere. This second type of reading is close or slow reading, when you will focus carefully and think about the use of certain figurative devices.
3. Using the chart below, fill in the right hand column. The first one is done for you.

Metaphor that describes the narrator's confused state of mind.	<i>'I was a battleground of fear and curiosity'</i>
Combined metaphor and simile that describes the strange, inhuman physical appearance of the creatures.	
Repetition for effect – how the Deputation are repeatedly described.	
Personification of the Heat Ray making it seem even more terrifying.	
Lexical field – close grouping of words that stress the men's horrible death.	
Sentence length – long, descriptive sentences that build tension. Shorter sentences that convey shock.	

From this chapter, what type of atmosphere has the writer succeeded in creating?

#### **Extension**

Write your own atmospheric piece of writing using the figurative devices mentioned above. You can also include some of your own.