

1. The Third Level

by Jack Finney

1. Who was Charley? What was his confusion?

Ans. Charley was a 31 years old man married to Louisa. Several times he had lost himself in the Grand Central Station. He always found himself bumping into new doorways and new corridors. Every time he had a new experience.

2. What did Charley begin to believe about Grand Central Station?

Ans. Charley began to believe that the Grand Central Station was like a huge tree ever pushing new tunnels and new corridors like roots under the grounds. Once, he got into a mile long tunnel and came out in the lobby of a hotel. Another time, he came up into the building of an office.

3. What was the third level?

Ans. The third level at the Grand Central Station was nothing but Charley's assertion. There were certainly only two levels at the Grand Central Station. He talked about it to his friends. One of

them was a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist said that it was nothing but day dreaming.

4. What did the psychiatrist explain about the third level of the station?

Ans. The psychiatrist explained that it was only an escape from his present life. The modern world was full of fear, tension and worries. The third level provided him an exit from them.

5. Why were the other friends agreed with the psychiatrist?

Ans. Charley's other friends were agreed with the psychiatrist because he had told them that the modern world was full of fear, tension and worries. He also said that the third level provided him and exit from them. The friends also said that his stamp collecting hobby was a temporary escape.

6. What did Charley not agree with the other friends' statement about stamp collecting as a temporary escape?

Ans. Charley did not agree with the other friends' statement because his grandfather started his stamp-collection. In his grandfather's days life was

peaceful. He did not need an escape. Besides, President Roosevelt also collected stamps.

7. How did Charley reach the Third Level of the Grand Central Station?

Ans. One day Charley got late at his office. He wanted to reach home soon. So, he went to the Grand Central to catch a train. He walked down to the first level and then walked down another flight of stairs to reach the second level. There, he got lost.

Charley walked down a corridor. He thought it was wrong. But he walked on downward. He walked down a short flight of stairs. He thought he had reached the second level again. But actually he had reached the third level.

8. What did Charley see at the Third Level of the Station? [long answer type question]

Ans. Charley saw that the third level was entirely different and of old fashion. There were fewer ticket windows. The information booth was made of wood. The lights were open- flame gaslights. There were brass spittoons on the floor. Men had beard and sideburns. Women wore old-fashioned dresses and high buttoned shoes.

The railway engine was small with a funnel-shaped stack. Everything looked a century old. He walked to the news boy. There he glanced at 'The World'. The lead story was about the President Cleaveland Later Charley found out from the library files that it was printed on June 11, 1894.

9. Where did Charley want to go? Why?

Ans. Charley wanted to go to Galesburg. It is because he had been there in his childhood days. It was a wonderful town with tremendous trees and frame house. In 1894, it was a heaven of peace and tranquility. People lived a carefree life.

10. Why was Charley threatened to get arrested?

Ans. Charley asked for two tickets to Galesburg. He paid the fare in modern notes which were different from those in 1894. The clerk thought that notes were fake and Charley was trying to cheat him. So, he was threatened by him to get arrested. Charley immediately turned round and fled as fast as he could.

11. Why did Charley buy old style notes from a coin dealer?

Ans. Next day, Charley bought old style notes from a coin dealer to buy tickets but he got only two hundred old dollars for three hundred new dollars. But he could never again find the corridor that led to the third level of the Grand Central Station.

12. Why was Charley's wife worried one day? What did he do then?

Ans. Charley's wife was worried one day because she heard that he had bought old-style notes. He then turned to his stamp collection. He found an envelope among his grand father's collection.

13. What information did Charley find from the envelope?

Ans. One day, Charley discovered an envelope among his grandfather's collection. The post mark on it showed that it had been there since July 18, 1894. He opened the envelope but the paper inside was not blank. It was a letter from Sam, the psychiatrist friend.

Charley used to tell him about Galesburg. He had already gone there. He urged Charley to continue to look for the third level and join him in the Galesburg of 1894. It was a wonderful place. Later, Charley learnt that Sam had bought Eight

hundred dollars' worth old currency. Charley hoped Sam would have set up a hay and feed business in Galesburg.

Home work to solve:--

Comprehensive questions

1. Who was Sam? What did he tell Charley?
2. Why could Charley not reach the Third Level again?
3. How did Charley defend himself from being accused as an escapist?
4. Why did Charley say, it was easy to get lost at the grand central station?
5. Why did Charley want to visit Galesburg of 1894?
6. Why did Charley suspect that Sam had gone to Galesburg?
7. Why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money?
8. Name some of the old-fashioned things at the third level of the station?
9. Why did Charley flee from the third level of the station?
10. What does the third level refer to?

Prepared by—Prem Kumar Baghel [PGT English]

