

BVP LKR

CLASS-12, SUBJECT-ENGLISH

DATE-16/5/20021

THE THIRD LEVEL

-----JACK FINNEY

Central Theme:-

The Third Level by Jack Finney is a psychological story about the harsh realities of war. War has irreversible and irreparable consequences by leaving people in a state of insecurity. It is also about modern day problems and how common man tends to escape reality by various means. In this story, a man named Charley hallucinates and reaches the third level of the Grand Central Station which only has two levels.

The story revolves around a 31 year old man named Charley, who experienced something weird. One day after work, coming from the Subway, he reached the third level of the Grand Central Station (which does not actually exist). He reminisces the entire experience with his psychiatrist friend Sam. Charley thought he experienced time travel and had reached somewhere in the eighteen-nineties, a time before the world saw two of its most deadliest wars. As soon as he realised what time he was in, he immediately decided to buy two

tickets of Galesburg, Illinois, one for himself and other for his wife. Unfortunately, the currency used in that century was different. Thus, the next day he withdrew all his savings and got them converted even if it meant bearing losses. He went looking for the third level but failed to find it. It worried his wife and the psychiatrist Sam who told him that he is hallucinating in order to take refuge from reality and miseries of the modern world which is full of worry. Charley, thus, resorts to his stamp collection in order to distract himself when suddenly one day he finds a letter from his friend Sam who had gone missing recently. Sam wrote that he always wanted to believe in the idea of third level and now that he is there himself, he encourages Charley and Lousia to never stop looking for it.