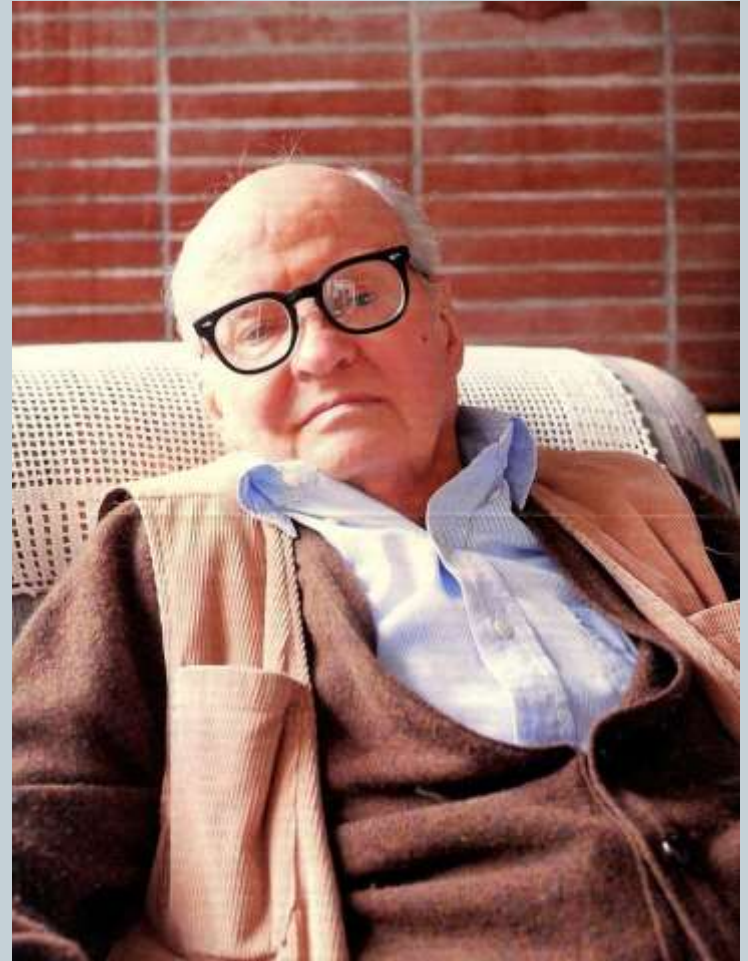


# Jack Finney



- October 2, 1911- November 16, 1995
- American writer.
- Known for his science fiction and thrillers
- Major works The body snatcher and time and again.
- Notion dominates in his works – time slip



# THEME OF THE LESSON



- Complexity of human mind.
- Escapism
- Time travel.
- Sense of insecurity.
- Run away from reality



**America of 1950s**

**Cold war**

**Fear**

**Insecurity**

**Anxiety**

# MAIN CHARACTERS



- CHARLEY



- SAM WEINER



- LOUISA

# CHARLEY



- Protagonist and narrator
- Super sensitive and highly imaginative who indulges in flights of fancy.
- Loving husband.
- True representative of the modern .
- Victim of insecurity and indecisions and wants to escape from the hubdub of the modern world.

# More about Charley



- Fond of stamp collection, which Sam calls “a temporary refuge from reality”.
- Fascinated by good old simple days of his grandfather when ‘things were pretty nice and peaceful.



# Charley and the Third Level



- Intrigued by the mystery whether the third level exists in the Grand Central Railway Station.
- Having been there once, he fails to locate it a second time.
- Even when he and his wife think that they have proof of existence, they fail to find it despite their best efforts.
- Describes himself as an ordinary man in tan gabardine suite.

# SAM WEINER



- The psychiatrist.
- Perfect in his profession.
- Friend of Charley.
- His diagnosis is precise and terse.
- He does not believe in mixing up his profession with his friendship.



# More about Sam



- Clearly tells Charley that he is looking for ways to escape since he is not happy.
- Wants to escape from the hub dub of modern world.
- Dubs the narrator's hobby of stamp collection to be a "temporary refuge from reality".

# Sam and the Third Level



- Later, he too, is affected by the pulls and pressures of the modern life and in his sub-conscious mind seeks an escape route, although he knows the truth very well as he is a psychiatrist.
- In the end of the story, he too 'discovers' the third level of the Grand Central Railway Station and escapes to Galesburg of 1894.

# LOUISA



- Charley's wife.
- Refuses to accept any criticism, even if happens to be a positive and rational one.
- The psychiatrist's observation that her husband was 'unhappy' angers her and she challenges it.
- She takes this comment as a personal attack on her responsibility and care as a wife towards her husband and she feels 'kind of mad'.
- Loving and caring wife.

# More About Louisa



- On being told about the ‘modern world is full of insecurity, fear’ etc. she feels satisfied with the psychiatrist’s explanation, little realising the fact that he is saying the same thing in different words.
- When Charley talks to her about his predicament regarding the third level, she gets pretty worried and advises him not to look for the third level anymore.

# Louisa and the Third Level



- However, she is a credulous lady not given to reason but things on her own.
- When Charley tells her about Sam's disappearance, she joins him in looking for the third level 'every weekend'



## **OTHER PERSONALITIES REFERRED TO:**

1. President Roosevelt

1. President Cleveland

3. President Garfield

# PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT



- Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
- **Born** : 30 January 1882
- **Died**: 12 April 1945,
- an American politician
- often referred to by his initials FDR.
- served as the 32nd president of the United States from 1933 until his death in 1945.



# PRESIDENT GROVER CLEVELAND



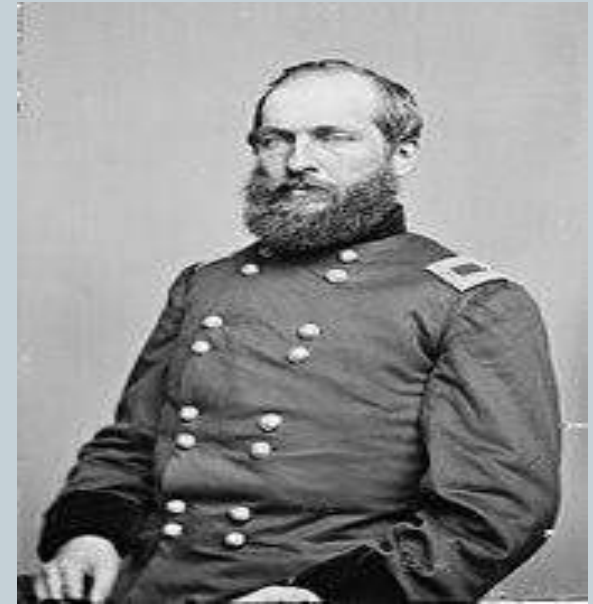
- Stephen Grover Cleveland
- **Born:** 18 March 1837.
- **Died:** 24 June 1908.
- An American politician and lawyer.
- The 22nd and 24th president of the United States.
- The only president in American history to serve two non-consecutive terms in office.



# PRESIDENT JAMES GARFIELD



- James Abram Garfield
- **Born:** 19 November 1831.
- **Assassinated:** 19 September 1881.
- was the 20th president of the
- United States.
- He is the only sitting member of the United States House of Representatives to be elected to the presidency.



# Reactions to Charley's finding the Third Level

Charley's friend Sam, the psychiatrist described the third level as a waking dream wish fulfilment. He said it was an attempt to escape from the modern world which is full of fear and worry.

Charley's friends agreed to this and said that his hobby of stamp collection was a temporary refuge from reality





# Major Changes in Third Level



Leg of Mutton Sleeves

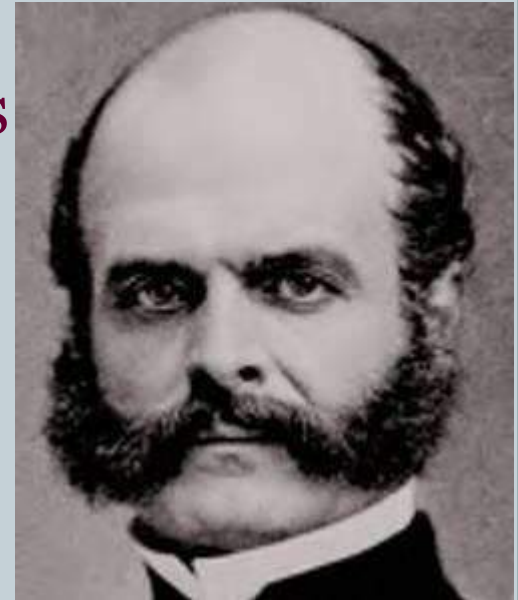


Handlebar moustaches

# Major Changes in Third Level



Fancy Sideburns



Open flame gaslights

# Major Changes in Third Level



Brass Spittoons



Currier and Ives Locomotive

# Suspicious Confirmed



- A Copy of ‘The World’ dated June 11 1894
- Suspicious confirmed that he had travelled to the past
- ‘The World’ had stopped publishing long ago.



# Escape from the Third Level



- Charley tries to buy two tickets for Galesburg.
- Tries to pay with the currency in his pocket.
- Clerk accuses him of paying with fake currency
- Charley remembers that his currency was not valid in the past.
- He escapes back to the second level fearing trouble



# Disappointment for Charley



- Charley exchanges all his savings for old style dollar bills. He had to pay a premium.
- But he never found the third level again

# First Day Cover

*It is an envelope (with a stamp on it) that stamp collectors mail to themselves on the first day of its sale to mark the date. They are usually empty and not meant to be opened.*



# Sam's Letter to Charley



- The letter was addressed to Charley.
- In the letter Sam had informed Charley that he was living on the third level.
- He had also told Charley and his wife to keep looking for the third level.
- Sam and Louisa started looking for the Third Level.

# Conclusions



- Existence of the Third level is not clear.
- May be a product of Charley's imagination
- Story can also be interpreted as a Science Fiction dealing with time travel
- Third Level is a symbol of escape from the present world full of war, worry and anxiety to a much more peaceful past.
- War only causes deaths on both sides. War must be avoided.