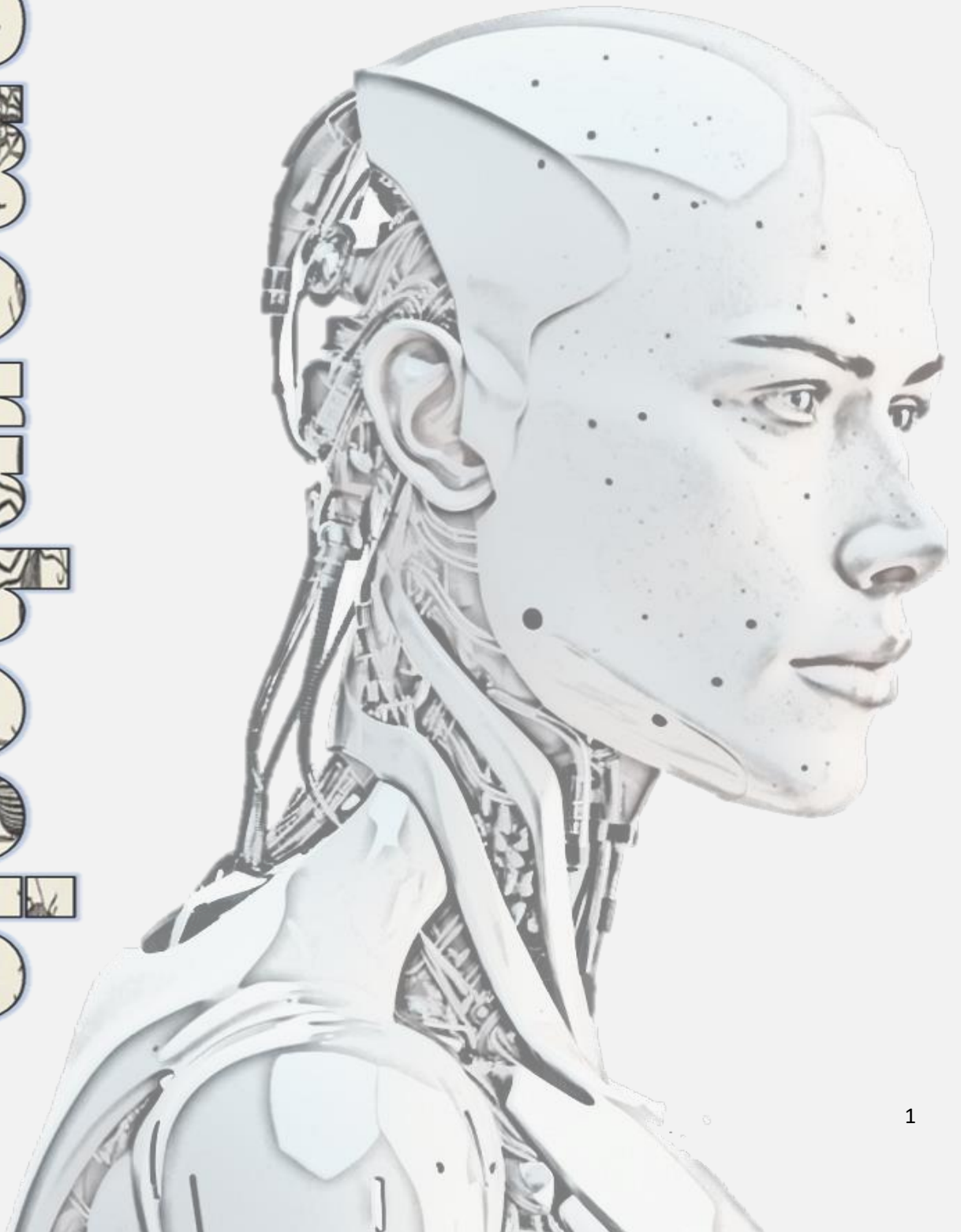


Visions of the Future

A Year 7 Collection

Metamorphosis



Lincoln 2100

Ben Poprawski

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the instruments and dials. I had arrived in the year 2100.

As my new climate became clear, I saw Lincoln, yet there wasn't anyone there. Green hugged every inch of land, ivy bringing old and "new" landmarks down. My heart thumped in my chest, as I looked up, a mothership blocked all sunlight from the ground, yet I suddenly figured why, I couldn't stop coughing, I could've been coughing out my brains, I wouldn't be able to tell the difference. What once was clean air, with specks of carbon dioxide, now was dirty, I could barely breath, I ran back to the machine, I tripped, everything went black...

As the world came back into focus, I gasped for breath, that wasn't there. Still, I was breathing, which is good enough for me. I looked at my foot, which next to lay a blinding white object, with an on button? I cautiously moved to the gadget; and clicked the button, my entire world was filled with melancholy colours, and as they merged into what looked like a video game, the contraption became a VR headset... That turned into an interactive projector?!

As I got lost into the world of video games, my breathing faltered, everything became blurry, yet I didn't notice, I coughed more and more, sweat dripping down my arms like the heaviest rain I've ever experienced. The VR was hypnotizing, mind controlling, I didn't notice that I was falling to my knees, begging for mercy... I just kept on playing. As I finished the level, I was basically crawling, and I noticed what was happening, I looked down at myself, being swallowed up by ivy, my heartbeat quickened. I now know why humanity left... I now know why they left all of it behind.

When I finally snapped into reality, I tore one arm from the ivy, enough to turn the VR off, I couldn't let myself get manipulated by it again, but as I looked for a way to get out of this encapsulating ivy, I saw one problem. Every building in sight had a screen on it. Like the VR, these buildings where mesmerizing, my heartbeat slowed, whatever chance I had to get out of the ivy was lost now. I was falling forever, and ever, and ever, into the ivy, that I couldn't escape from. As I closed my eyes, into an eternal sleep, I wished I was on that ship, sailing away from this captivating planet...

Earth From a Different Planet

Alice Mawer

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the instruments and dials. I had arrived in the year 2900.

Instantly after I stepped out of the doors of the time machine, I was constricted by a sweltering heat. My palms became clammy and the air almost felt unbreathable: desolate desert land stretched for miles and miles, only inhabited by clusters of dilapidated, abandoned huts that were accompanied with unearthly animals. Looking up, I saw gloomy clouds that squirmed across the sky, threatening to open and throw rain onto the ruined landscape.

Scanning the area, I suddenly noticed the amount of robotics dotted around, each with their own human accomplice, following them with shackles around their necks and handcuffs around their hands. The humans that were free did not have it much easier: due to the lack of need for humans to do manual jobs, there had been a rapid increase in poverty, resulting in many people resorting to crime to get by. I saw people stealing from others and selling illegal substances just to receive money for food. Silence enveloped me, the only thing I could hear was my heavy breathing.

The slightly wealthier people owned little capsules that they used to travel in, avoiding the sweltering heat of the sun. What I had noticed after being here in this dystopian earth for a number of horrible hours was that the sun was not seeming to set in the sky, just remaining at its highest point of the day for the 24 hours that should have been a cycle of light and dark.

How could, in just under a Millennium, the planet change from a thriving landscape into this?

The Oasis

Harry Meldrum

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the instruments and dials. I had arrived in the year 2163.

I examined the dusty plains that seemed to go on for eternity, there was nothing for as far as the eye could see apart from a small oasis with water and a single tree. There also seemed to be a microscopic spec in the distance. It appeared to be rumbling closer at an immense pace. I wondered what it could be till I came into a sudden realisation, it was a huge city roaming on cars, trucks or anything with wheels and an engine.

Suddenly I was hit with the scorching heat and instantly fell to the ground, the protective bubble on the time machine had worn out, so I began to crawl to the small pond at the oasis completely forgetting about the city on wheels. I fell asleep in the nice, cooling water not realising the terrible of a mistake that would be.

I woke up in what seemed to be a run-down, ruin of a city until I realised it was the city on wheels I saw earlier. I looked around and saw the tree from the oasis it seemed to be powering the city. Everyone seemed to be really poor and constantly working to keep the city moving. The technology looked as if it was made of lots of old tech but seemed super advanced, I knew this thanks to my many years of work on the time machine. There were no cars or phones but some of the richer looking people had hologram phones and what seemed to be the military and police force had jetpacks and other strange flying machines.

I continued to explore and soon found my way to the edge of the edge of the city, from there I could see nothing but a vast wasteland and another city only this one was smaller and had lots of trees and plants which were once again acting as fuel by being slowly burnt down. We turned to face the other city and seemed to go much faster to get to it, whilst heading over the other city began to turn away and drive off only we were much faster and soon caught up crashing head on into the back of the other city and all the military jumped on and began to plunder the place of everything including the trees and plants. After all of the police returned everyone began to cheer but soon a riot began and I turned to run away when I saw the time machine and quickly got back on and returned back to 2024.

Capital No More

Evie Pearson

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the instruments and the dials. I had arrived in the year 2163.

As I take my first steps off the machine, I recognise the place. The more I look, the worse it gets: Skyscrapers burning, letting off an intoxicating scent, the ground is covered in a black ash-like substance.

I hiked through parts of buildings, that had been either knocked down, or burnt. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a human. But they don't look like any ordinary human, as they have a bad posture, most likely due to looking down at phones, and they don't look happy – almost like the life had been drained out of them. As I go over to speak to them, they quickly moved away. I got confused, are they scared of me?

I walked around more, trying to find out what happened to London, the place that was once full of life. On one of the few remaining buildings, there was a screen that I was barely able to read. It said something about an explosion, but I couldn't make out what the rest of it said.

As I climb over all of the rubble, I see something that looks like a bike shed. I made my way over to it, i see something that resembles a scooter . Although, this scooter has no wheels. I pick it up and see a switch, and as I flick the switch, it whirrs into life, hovering just above the ground. I climb on board and start my journey, discovering the remains of the world.

The Dawn of Death

Freya Capes

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the instruments and dials. I had arrived in the year 3000.

Across the vast landscape, there were remains of nothing but ruin. Enveloped in a large black abyss, the natural beauty of the sky was marred by the jagged, man-made skyscrapers. Scattered around the vast blue, geometrical arrays of amber flecks brought a little light to the lifeless nature of the dilapidated city. I pondered what may have happened to this broken society.

As I ambled through the hauntingly quiet city, I sensed CCTV cameras rotating to face me. And then silence. Silence only disturbed by the frequency of the hums and whistles caused by the blades and motors of the overhead drones. Transfixed by the confusion before my eyes, I sauntered unblinkingly down the soulless street. A crunch below my foot forced me out of my reverie and, for the first time, I became aware of the shards of glass scattered unevenly along the roads. A whiff of disfunction and desperation hung in the air. Advertisements offering essential vaccinations to combat age deterioration and any possible life-threatening illnesses were to be seen on every wall. It struck me that death through natural causes may well now be a tale of a forgotten generation.

An uproar from the neighbouring building caused a sudden commotion and I was alerted to a door opening. A systematic line of fast-food servers emerged carrying varying packages of food. On closer inspection, it becomes evident that the servers lacked familiar human mannerisms and were indeed artificial. Each 'server' took their turn to meet a drone arriving on cue to collect each package of food. With no sign of a human being in sight, it was apparent that this was a business operating solely through artificial intelligence. As I glanced along the street, it dawned on me that this was standard procedure for every business.

As I turned to explore the next eerily quiet street, I was staggered by the practically soundless free-flowing traffic. For the first time, I observed the plentiful EU charging stations dotted readily along the streets. Upon further investigation, I was startled by the absence of a driver in each vehicle. From my vantage point, I witnessed a group of strangers slip into a vehicle which had come to a brief halt to allow access. On the opposite side of the road, a different group of apparent strangers alighted another vehicle. It immediately hit me that what I was witnessing was autonomous vehicles running on advanced algorithms; something

only whimsically imagined in previous centuries. As I become fixated upon following the path of nearby drone, my eye line was elevated and instantly drawn to the overhanging rapid and hushed bullet-style rail network operating above the city.

Lost in Time

Rosie Callaghan

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the instruments and dials. I had arrived in the year 5024. The sweltering heat attacked my body. The air was nearly unbreathable. Blinding lights flashed in front of my eyes making me feel uneasy. I scanned around for someone to help me but there was no sign of a human, until I heard a noise. It was an unusual noise and one I had never heard before.

I wandered around the isolated city to try and find where the noise was coming from. Then I saw them, a group of unearthly creatures. I crept towards them to get a closer look. It was only then that I knew that they were robots. I panicked. I knew that I didn't fit in. I felt a sense of trepidation. No one was like me. I decided to run away. I didn't know where, but I needed to find someone to help me get out of here.

Trembling, I found shelter from this insane world. I did not know where I had ended up but I knew that it was better than what was out there. I cowered against the wall, holding my knees tightly to my chest. I sat quietly and frozen. The silence was deafening. All of a sudden I heard a noise. BEEEEPPP! I panicked; my heart raced. There it was, a camera. What sort of World am I in? I sprinted to another room to escape but again, a CCTV camera was waiting in there for me. How can anyone live here? It was almost like there was no real-life. Just AI. This place was dangerous. I needed to get out of here. But how? My every move was being watched and there was nobody like me to help.

I ran outside to get some fresh air, not remembering the searing heat. ZOOM! A gush of scorching air burned my face. I gazed up, I was staggered. A flying car. The inventions in this place were bewildering. But I did not fit in.

As I darted back to the portal, I was horrified to see that the opening of it had closed. What will I do now? Am I stuck in 5024 forever?

Dystopia

Holly McCrone

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, i glanced at the instruments and dials. I had arrived in the year 2050.

Across the vast, lifeless landscape stood what should have been future London. But instead, stood ruins. The amber rays of sun try to seep through the skeletal remains of where the towering skyscrapers used to stand.

As I stepped out of the time-machine, an unusual noise came to my ear. Almost like the sound of a machine, or robots, watching me. I turn around CCTV cameras watching my every move. I turn around, thick choking fog surrounds me. I edge closer into the fog. Walking further into the fog, I see old cars piled on top of each other, houses with no roofs, some had huge gaping holes in them.

Walking further in, I see people. I approached them. But they look unusual, they look at me. There's something different about them. Silence fills the air. The fog reveals more ruins of towering buildings and skyscrapers, smashed glass, piles of crashed cars, and suddenly, the scent of smoke lingers in the air.

The night falls, silence once again. Then.... just as i was getting ready to go to bed, an ear- splitting shriek of people, from outside the caravan from where I was staying. I look, children being snatched by robots. Struggling, they are taken away, one by one. Until one stopped in its tracks, it turns around, looking straight at me, right in the eye. I don't dare move.

The Wings of Change

Joyce Lam

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the instruments and dials. I had arrived in the year 2102.

I observed quickly at my surroundings and spotted the tremendous buildings covered in burgeoning climbing plants moving on a track like train slots. This created more spaces for greeneries to grow while these plants were usually covered by oxygen bubbles to avoid running out of oxygen. Suddenly, the feeling of nausea and dizziness spreaded throughout my body, realising this was the hypoxic manifestation, I immediately grabbed an oxygen tank to stay conscious. Due to global warming, the oxygen on earth wasn't enough and the increasing temperature melted the glaciers, the strong sunlight rays hit the skin and getting burnt became very common and this seemed to happen more often.

I gazed at the crowd that was approximately 3m from me. People were wearing U-shape hats, pumpkin-like top and some women were wearing brightly-coloured trousers and the end of the trousers were cut in stripes and braided, I was surprised to see men wearing tops that were cut in half in the middle and reconnected with pieces of wires so the cloth could work as a charger, men also wore fancy dresses which looked like an upside-down crown. Considering the limits of oxygen, humans had developed technological parts like specially designed lungs to replace normal lungs so they would have enough oxygen. Feeling too hot in my normal clothing, I went into the air-conditioned "supermarket slot" and found out most of the products were sunscreen lotion and eatable sun pills, these utilitarian products prevented us from being melted and had the effect of cooling the skin down. The cream would be applied on the skin directly and form extra protection while the pills would affect how our body works and make our skin organ super strong, so we wouldn't feel pain.

I walked into the crowd not far from me and they passionately included me into their conversations. I was told that in 2102, digital pets were seen everywhere and virtual reality was extremely popular. During the pandemic in 2097, people could only stay home so some designers invented different virtual reality games satisfying people's needs. They would greet and meet friends in virtual reality games and enjoy fun together. It would be like another dreamed world so that they could escape from reality. Daily physical exercises were encouraged in virtual Olympic games to stay healthy. I was also told how humans would learn new knowledge by inserting a certain USB into their brains and they would develop lots of new skills and know more interesting facts. The community was very peaceful, and the waves of laughter filled the whole city as if it were a fairy tale.

The affectionate lady wore a U-shape hat with a snow-pattern sticker on the inner side and that sticker provided a cooling effect like a mini walking air conditioner, and also, she wore a dress made of real flowers and was decorated with the newest LED light bulbs by using mind control. She invited me into her flying car which a circular bubble enclosed it for protection from any physical danger. The speed of that flying car, which travelled up to 2000 miles per hour, was flabbergasting. Everyone had a similar flying car which was controlled by mind. Apart from this, they wore wings that looked like butterflies as well when they travelled a short distance. There

were fins at the bottom of the wings like those in a rocket for setting flight. The pleasant lady demonstrated lighting up the fins and got sent off to the sky, she controlled the directions and speed by flapping the wings. To come down to the ground, she simply put her hat under the fins and stopped it down by cooling the moving engine. I feel very amazed how powerful the wings were. Surprisingly, the lady gave me her wings as a souvenir of my travel. When I wore them on my back, I felt the magic of these extraordinary wings. I enjoyed a fantastic flying journey with her guide.

After saying thanks and goodbye to that friendly lady, I got ready to fly to the present with the time machine. Among all the future inventions, my favourite ones are the powerful USB for self-learning and the magical wings for easy transportation. I am eager to share my fantastic experience and new insight with people around me with a hope to bring positive change to our community in modern times.

Under the Surface

Amelia Howard

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the instruments and dials. It was the year 3000. I gripped the door handle as my whole body shook. I felt something like jet lag, but at the same time it was something completely different. I pulled the door open to feel a cold gust of wind as it sent a chill down my spine. I carefully stepped out of the machine and felt snow fall onto my cheeks as it melted and ran down my neck. I looked around and all I saw was the surface of the deep blue ocean. Its beauty glimmered in the sun light and the waves flowed gently towards the horizon. I turned around and looked up to see a towering, looming mountain. I turned to the left again to see a maze of roads travel through the sky. I saw robots and drones flying in and out of the water. Their metallic look shone into my eyes so brightly I had to look away. My heart rate accelerated as I didn't believe what I was seeing.

Cautiously, I took a few more steps towards the ocean and looked into the water as if it were a mirror. To my surprise, I saw thousands of robotic humans, creatures and machines such as octopi, fish, drones and so many more. I stumbled back to think about where I was when suddenly, I was drowning in the endless abyss of darkness.

The freezing temperature made me feel as if I was being stabbed with millions of needles. It was so dark I couldn't see my feet. I screamed for help but of course nobody could hear me as I tossed left and right, searching for the surface. I felt as if my body was failing to the point I almost lost all hope but then I felt a cold grip on my shoulder as it dragged me through the ocean. I wasn't sure if it was dragging me up or down but when I felt the cold air hit my face and the water dripping down my cheeks I gasped desperately for air. I looked around to see a mountain looming over me in the midday heat. I scrambled to the land, clutching the earth as dirt got under my fingernails. The next thing I knew, everything turned black.

I woke up late, must have been close to midnight. I heard all sorts of noises, clanging, whirring and voices. I jumped up, startled and confused. What was this strange place? How did I get here? I heard a robotic voice say,

"What is that? I have heard of those creatures but I thought they were extinct?"

"I heard they now live in another planet, Mars, I think." Someone replied in a deeper voice. I had so many thoughts going through my mind that I didn't realise what was happening to me. I felt a sharp object poke me in the arm. A syringe. I felt the liquid enter my body and all the effects it had. I couldn't help but fall unconscious.

"WHY DID YOU BRING HER HERE? SHE IS A DANGER TO ALL OF US IF THE HU- oh good morning. What's your name?" Asked the robot.

"Uh-Cla..Claudia," I stuttered, "Where am I?"

The robot explained to me that I was in an underwater orb filled with oxygen so that land animals, like humans, could live on our ever changing planet. She said that humans aren't allowed here and if I was seen by the Queen she will kill me. I was horrified. I felt my pulse going through the roof and my lungs reaching their capacity. I felt like I was breathing so heavily it felt like I couldn't breathe at all. My eyesight started to get blurry and I felt someone push me down. A bright light was shone left and right into my eye, I passed out.

I woke up on the bottom of what I was told was Mount Everest. I was left with a jacket, water and food. I could clearly see that I wasn't wanted here so I started the climb. One step at a time I became more fatigue than the last step. My whole body quickly became numb as it got colder and colder the higher I

climbed. After half an hour, I could hardly keep my eyes open so I found a ledge to get some rest. When I woke up, I looked down. I mostly saw just snow but in the distance was something else. An army. A huge robot was being followed by drones with weapons like guns and spears. I also saw the woman who had helped me, but she was caged. I felt quilt flood through my veins but I had to run. I gathered every last bit of energy o had to get to the Time Machine. Luckily it was only a fifth the way up the mountain otherwise I would never make it. I left everything except my jacket because too much weight could weigh me down. I felt scared as the cold wind made my nose and cheeks turn bright red. I smelt oil, presumably from the drones and robots. My thighs ached and my chest was in pain from how heavily I was breathing and how little oxygen there was.

I continued up the seemingly never ending climb when I saw a metal cylinder lay in the distance. Relief consumed me as I hurried to the Time Machine. Once I got there, I grabbed the door handle, pulling it shut as I pressed all the buttons necessary for me to go home. It was difficult for me to see as my breath was foggy and I couldn't make out the buttons but eventually I heard the whirring and clashing of the machine. I looked outside to see the Queen desperately trying to reach me, stop me, but when she realised it was too late she looked fuming. Although, her army looked relieved when she wasn't looking. I was so glad to turn around and see that I had arrived in the year 2024.

Monday - Friday

Angus Gibb

"Listen Lucas, "said the scientist.

"I'm doing this no matter what, the fate of the world is in my hands so I wont let you stop me" yelled Lucas as he stepped into the vacuum sealed chamber.

"Are you sure you want to do this," said the scientist.

"YES, for the last time I'm going!" exclaimed Lucas.

"Fine, fine I was just making sure" said the scientist.

"now shut this door and start this process" said Lucas

"start the process" said the scientist to his computer.

"initialising process" said the computer

"5...4...3...2...1...lift off" said the scientist

The all of a sudden Lucas got catapulted into space. As he sat there in the darkness of space he started to notice the globe spinning faster and faster and faster and there was a solar storm that dried up all the water on earth then Lucas got shot right back down to earth.

As Lucas stood up from the almost fatal fall back to earth he realised hat the lab was no longer there and all that was left was a bunch of sand and rubble. Lucas looked around for any human life but he couldn't see anything as a there was a sandstorm approaching. Lucas needed help...

Luckily there was a village nearby but this wasn't any ordinary village, Lucas noticed smoke trails coming from behind the village, It was moving!! Lucas hurried towards its path hoping that it would stop for him, but right as it was going to reach him a violent earthquake ensued and a large bulky rocky worm jumped right out of the floor and crushed the village in one foul swoop of its large mouth.

This meant that Lucas would have to find another village if he wanted some water and food Aswell as human contact. But Lucas couldn't wait for another moving village because the sandstorm was right behind him but luckily for him there was a bike speeder in the recks of the building so without hesitation Lucas hopped on and twisted the handle, he was off.

Lucas decided that this was enough, he was stranded in the desert all alone so he clicked on his watch which brought up the time travel menu and lucas clicked go home. Then all of a sudden Lucas got shot up into the sky and the world started spinning backwards and then all the water got restored and all the vegetation and then lucas got shot back down to earth about a week later.

"are you ok" the scientist explained as he rushed to get Lucas inside

"yeah, yeah I'm fine but what time is it" said Lucas

"11:45, why" said the scientist

" what day" said Lucas

"Friday, you have been gone all week" exclaimed the scientist

"I'm just a bit tired" said Lucas sleepily

“that's fine, lets get you to bed” said the scientist.

The Diary

Ella Hart

9th December

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the instruments and dials. I had arrived in the year 3070. I stepped out of the machine. Then, the heat hit me. It was that sort of heat that makes you feel like you are unable to breathe. But the people of this futuristic city were well adapted.

However, it seemed that I was invisible. People were walking past me, bumping into me and then looking around, obviously I could see them, but they couldn't see me.

I look around, all the buildings are almost touching the sky. Tall, white and grey skyscrapers surround the roads and paths. The sun shines down on the city below it. Cars are going past me, but there is no one driving them; they must be going to the places where the people have programmed them to. Or are they robots? Honestly, the world got high tech in 670 years.

I am not sure what to do?!

10th December

Last night, I was very surprised! It seemed that this city didn't go to sleep. In fact, it was even busier at night than it was in the day. I am kind of getting a bit worried; what am I meant to do for the next few days? My team scheduled the plan; I am due to arrive back in 2030 in 3 days' time. We thought that I would be able to be seen, but we were incorrect. What if I can't sleep, eat or drink for 4 full days?

Well, I am going to have to leave that until later. I was sent here to find out about the future, so that's what I have got to do.

One thing I have noticed about this city is that all the buildings are a lot larger than back home; at first, I thought they were shops and offices, but they are houses!

I had to get into one of the houses, just to see what it's like. I tried speaking to 5 different people, but none of them could hear me. The first three just walked straight past me. The fourth looked at me, almost like he could see me, before picking up his phone and walking off. The fifth person acted as if she was ignoring me; putting her shopping away in the boot of her car, getting in the front seat, and was then driven away by her fancy, high-tech car. By the 6th person, I had almost given up hope. But then, she answered me, she could hear me and see me!

I was unsure about how this was possible, but she told me her parents had travelled to the future a few days before she was born. This meant she was part of both worlds, the present and the future. This meant that the time machine had already been created.

I wonder whether her parents ever went back to the present?

Whether she had ever gone back to the present?

She said that I could stay with her until I have to go back home. She showed me to her house, which is AMAZING by the way! It has robots that do every and any chore you could think of. Cook, clean, tidy, do the shopping, anything. She has given me a spare bedroom, which looks out over the city. It has a huge queen-size bed with a robot that can help you choose what to wear!

I am so excited about tomorrow! We are going to do some shopping before going out for lunch. I think that the next 3 days are going to be fun.

20th June 3073

Life is amazing but has got a bit in the way; I haven't written in my diary for a while! My house is huge; it has so many gadgets and high-tech equipment. I have got a new job and many new friends. Though, recently something has been playing on my mind. Like I have forgotten something really important. I just can't think of what it is.

The Village

Emmanuella Ayaji-Bello

The twinkling sensation slowly faded away along with the excessively loud whirring of the time machine slowing to a halt. It took a few seconds for the ringing to stop and my eyesight to adjust—the dark green spot blocking my view melted with the familiar bronze pipes and control panels of the time machine. The hatch opened and I gingerly stepped out, trying to regain my composure.

At that time, I could only spare a glance around, but a glance certainly was not enough to take in the surrealness of surroundings; islands (some colossal and some miniature) floated around in the vast and endless sky, completed with ethereal waterfalls of which graced the ground with tranquil, sparkling lakes. I was currently standing in a vast forest, filled with peculiar looking plants because they were all hues of blue; spear shaped, indigo leaves brushed my ankles and light blue petals danced along with the wind; water from the waterfalls glistened in the silver moonlight while sending out rhythmic thrums throughout the forest. The serenity was almost unreal paired with the star-decorated sky (which had a large ball floating with rings. It looked like a painting, and I felt like I had become one with it. I was calm. I was so calm it felt unusual since I was a person who had just time travelled. I was so calm that I felt as if I was floating. And then... I came to my senses and remembered I was in a completely unknown place, in a forest and it was night. It was dangerous and I needed to find shelter. Knowing this, I wandered through the forest, cautious of any sound I made and any sound I did not make.

After what felt like an hour, I reached a little village, but its inhabitants were not human. I could tell by looking at one of the “people’s” irises because they were shaped like a rhombus but that was all I could see before passing out.

I awoke in a human sized tube with pipes of different chemicals flowing through them and a gag on my mouth. The room was very futuristic compared to the village of little huts I remembered. The room was large, and it was lined with windows showing you a view of space. The other wall had cases filled with guns that had containers of bright red goo and sharp knives. Tables were filled with test tubes and blue screens, displaying different percentages and information about who knows what. Tubes like the one I was in were scattered around the room with a table of their own. There was no escape, but I was not just going to wait for my death... I would find a way to escape somehow no matter what and so I used my head to think— “the only way I could escape is getting out of the tube and to get out of the tube, I would need to either break it or open it. It was then that I began to examine the tube that I was captured in— the material looked flexible enough to break in a few punches, so I punched it until it finally broke. To be honest it was too easy to break out of the tubes, but I did not think too much about it and went on my merry way.

I finally wandered my way to the handle of the door but as soon as I touched the door handle, bright flashes of light surrounded me making me squint my eyes to see what appeared to be a human but not quite. Trying to yell “stop,” I held out my hand only to realize that nothing came out of my mouth. I was doomed for sure.

Conflict

Isla Lacey

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the rusty instruments and dials. I had arrived in the year 2050...

I stepped out of the time machine, excitement surging through me like lightning. I hesitantly opened my eyes, scared to see what amazing invention or colossal building towered in front of me, and I saw... sand. Everywhere I look there's just a horizon of nothingness. My thoughts of futuristic cities and jet packs vanish. Will I really have to live in a desert when I grow up?

I turn to the time machine, ready to leave this boring place, but it's not there. Great. I wander around and kick the sand in frustration. Why did the rest of my family come back with amazing adventures and breathtaking tales, and I'm stuck here?

I reach into my backpack for a water bottle and take little sips, trying to ration it. But before I know I've drunk the whole thing. If I'm going to be stuck here for weeks, then I won't last long. My thoughts are quickly interrupted by a faint figure of someone running towards me. "RUN!" they shouted to me urgently. Run, why would I need t-

Suddenly, I spot a 20 foot beast rapidly galloping towards me. I turn and run for my life, telling my self not to look back at the horrid thing behind me. I trip over a rock and land face first into the sand. I close my eyes, and I know this is the end. I hear a loud bang and I snap my eyes open and see the monster struggling on the floor, trapped in a net. I stared at it, puzzled how it ended up inside the net so quickly.

"That was close!" A girl appears beside the beast and takes a knife out of her pocket. She pierces its scaly skin, and it immediately falls silent. I must have looked shocked because reassuringly she said, "Better to put it out of its misery."

Her face was smeared with mud and her dirty clothes were torn. Cuts covered her body, blood escaping from them. Her matted hair looked and smelt like it hadn't been washed for years and her toes poked out her thin sandals. "Yeah, I guess."

"Aria." She held out her hand and enthusiastically smiled at me. "Anabelle." I took her hand and examined the dead monster next to me. Its red eyes glinted in the sun and its back was lined with horns. It looked smaller up close than it did before.

"What is this thing?" I asked Aria whilst feeling its tail. "A phycinec, they're very common around here. These traps are actually made for them, my dad used to develop them." Immediately all the colour floods out her face. "I'm not positive, but we think that the boss sends them down here if we aren't working hard enough."

"The boss?" Aria looks down at her feet. "Its a...um...long story. I've got a question. How come I haven't seen you before?"

"Oh, it's because I time travelled here." I said hesitantly. Aria looked like she had stopped breathing. "Did you just say time travelled!? Oh no. I-It can't be."

"What? Are you ok?" Aria stared into my eyes. "There was a legend that the boss time travelled to this place when they were younger. After they returned home, they slowly gained power and grew corrupt. They killed the lives of innocent people just to become more powerful. Anabelle, you're the boss. You killed my father - which means I have to kill you..."

The Year 3000

Jessica Lee

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the instruments and dials. I had arrived in the year 2999. When the doors slid open. I realized that I had done it, I had actually done it! I was the first person to travel to the future. Although I was excited about being the first person to experience the future, I was also scared, what if the people here found out I wasn't from their time? What would happen? Would they accept me?

As I stepped out of the metal box that had been holding me captive for what felt like the past hour, I started falling. Down.....down.....down.

"woah" a human like creature was below me, I had landed on top of them! "Oh gosh, I am so sorry!" I exclaimed I felt so guilty imagine how scary this was for them. "No worries" he said calmly as he dusted himself off "we don't feel pain we evolved past that in 2979" he paused "But, you should know that I mean unless." he stopped talking and looked up at me. "Ahh imposter" he screamed pointing his purple, bony finger at me "Shhh" I tried desperately to make him stop screaming before he drew more attention to me. He sat back down, his dark brown braided hair blowing in the wind, his purple tinted dotted skin almost glowing in the sun, "Who.... What are you" I asked curiously. Wow you really don't know anything do you? I'm an Indigo, it's like our generation's version of a human "he was co-operating! He actually answered my question! As I looked down, I realised there was no grass, only sand!?!?! What happened to the grass and soil? The Indigo must have noticed me looking down "Oh that? Yeah... the grassland, forests and jungles all belong to the wildlife, we gave it back to them in 2890 as an apology you know for global warming and poaching" he said. The weird thing was, he was telling me all of this stuff about his culture and people, but I still didn't know his name, so, I asked. "By the way, what's your name" I asked innocently, not knowing it would be a "weird" question to him. "Name" he said in a confused tone "name" he exclaimed "Ha, that's the best joke I've ever heard, what are you a comedian?" he chuckled. My expression changed, what does he mean, surely it was normal to have a name? "wait, you weren't being serious were you he asked, I nodded slightly "Oh" he gasped.? The silence was loud.

The Split Planet

Layla Edlington

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the dials and instruments. I had arrived in the year 3000.

The doors slid open, a cool sea breeze ran through my hair and the machine started to tilt side to side. I glanced over my shoulder to see an endless wall stretch across the earth. I advanced out of the machine to feel light headed. Suddenly, the next thing I knew I was on the dewy covered grass looking up at the dazzling blue sky and saw what looked to be the underside of flying cars.

Steadily, I got back to my feet and started to explore this odd new land. It was beautiful. There was thriving, green trees, bright, blooming flowers and towering buildings covered in vegetation. I could hear the melodic sound of bird song filling the crisp clean air. It smelt like freshly cut grass and the perfume of flowers. I followed a path that led me to a large park with a picturesque fountain at the centre. The fresh flowing water was very refreshing after a long day of time travel although it could not reverse the effects it has, as I was exhausted, so I decided to take a seat at the bench.

A kind person sat next to me and asked if I was ok, I said I had never been here before. They explained to me about how the world was divided into two halves one side being the green side with all the people who cared for the dying planet. The other being the grey (earth) side with the people who didn't do anything to protect the planet and they added, but we don't talk about that side. They said that they had to go and asked me if that had helped, I replied by saying "yes, thank you very much".

I was very much intrigued by this grey side so I took it upon myself to get there. My first idea was to trash this park so I got to work (evil laugh) throwing out the bin bags and dumping the litter on the floor. Suddenly I heard this voice come out from nowhere and it said "FIRST WARNING". I jumped out of my skin I did not expect that. However, I kept on going, onto the next rubbish bag "SECOND WARNING OR ELSE YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN". At this point I genuinely didn't know what was going to happen but I carried on. "THAT IS IT, DO YOU NOT KNOW THE RULES". I heard that boom out of a speaker.

I suddenly felt a strange gust of wind. I got pushed around a bit and instantly I was in a porthole! There were stripes of fluorescent blue, pink and purple swooshing past me and a gaping black hole getting closer and closer. "BOOM". I was in full darkness. The space slowly emerged out in front of me it took a couple of minutes for my eyes to adjust but now I was in the grey side. I could see why it was called this. Everything was in monochrome like I had just stepped into one of those old photographs. I was still feeling a little nauseous, however, I carried on because I wanted to explore this place. "Cough, cough". I inhaled some smoke from this heavily polluted side of the planet. As I walked through the depressing streets of black and white, I could see smog, dark skies and abandoned buildings. I can understand why the people on the green side don't talk about this place anymore. This side must have just died if the people weren't looking after it. I was getting *déjà vu* because I walked through the same park as before but this time it was not pleasant. The fountain was running with green algae and brown sludge sloshing out of it, flooding the pavement. The trees had no leaves on them and the bins that I tipped out were emptied all over the muddy flooded ground. Everywhere smelt of burning and sewage, it made me queasy.

As I was looking for somewhere to sit, I spotted the time machine on top of the wall! However, there was a man next to it looking very suspicious and I realised they were trying to steal it. I panicked. I was thinking "what can I do?". I climbed on to the high wall using an aerial that had fallen of a house to pull me up. I used the aerial to knock the man off the wall and whilst he were laying confused on the ground, I hopped on to the time machine. As I was starting to fly off in the time machine, the man threw a bottle that

was on fire at me but missed and it exploded beneath me. The wall exploded and collapsed. The two sides of the wall were connected and the grey side started to rejuvenate back to how it was before.

The whirring of the time machine stopped. I checked the dials. I was back in the year 2024.

Lucy Burnett

If you are unfortunate enough to read this, I strongly recommend that you stop. The contents of this paper recount the diverse complications of history and I personally express my concerns for your sanity. You have been warned...

As the throaty groan of the time machine I had manufactured ceased, I exhaled deeply attempting to reassure myself. I contemplated the universe I would lay eyes on behind the wrought iron portal to the future. However, my suicide mission awaited. I grasped the handle which triggered my heart to accelerate and my breath to reverberate in my chest. A fresh wave of terror paralysing my body as my eyes comprehended the unknown.

I awoke with confusion and calamity, water shrouded the enormity of what was once the landscape, as an abrupt stab of cold penetrated my body informing me of the presence of an ocean in the hostile environment. The water was not aquamarine blue as I would have anticipated but stormy grey diluted with a tinge of navy. If I was not much mistaken the existence of grey was explained by many angular particles of microplastics. Out of my peripheral vision I could see the remnants of my sanctuary, my time machine, cascading, descending down – a victim of the turbulent waves. My sopping clothes dragged me down and the pungent sodium stench stung my nostrils. Unexpecting of defeat I mustered all my strength and plunged my fingers into the sea committing to a treacherous swim to find land.

26 Hours later

Disorientated, dizzy and hyperventilating I squinted upwards. A colossal inferno orb occupied the majority of the sky. Comprehension suddenly dawned on me – it was the sun and it seemed to have manoeuvred disturbingly close towards our planet. The landscape appeared to be mountainous, uneven and in some cases precarious. I concluded, as I looked at the barren desolate landscape that it was uninhabited by flora and fauna. Then something erupted out of the ground, a scorching, vermillion liquid – molten lava. Gawping I retreated, exceptionally wary of my surroundings. Further along in pursuit of uncovering more information I spotted other humans. Attempting to shelter against the elements they had colonised in a prominent overhang. Dishevelled and tired they looked like a despairing heap. I decided against my better judgement to not attract attention and carry on solitary. Later I glimpsed more lifeforms scavenging on savoured, parched weeds and dead grass.

This slow repetitive and ultimately uneventful journey occupied a good part of what I guessed at was late afternoon. Small pockets of truth unveiled themselves, but they consisted of nothing exciting. The only enticing event commenced after sundown. Infuriated at being in this post-apocalyptic earth I kicked the scorched ground, a billowing cloud of dust emitting from where my foot had been, coinciding with a jagged rock going airborne. Then it stopped – the rock froze in mid-air my brain couldn't compute it. But the mystery was soon solved the rock had seemed to have speared what I would know as a giant tv screen that reflected its surroundings so it ultimately looked invisible to the naked eye. As I examined it in greater detail it happened to be enormous shrouding miles of the landscape. Overcome with curiosity I crawled under the technology ridden background. An alternate universe greeted my eyes: mother nature and humanity contemplated each other. Idyllic and picturesque was all I could describe the landscape. Humanity looked at varying levels of peacefulness and happiness. Florescent butterfly's littered the azure sky feasting on vibrant varieties of flowers. It was not extortionately hot and humid as it had been on the outer perimeter but warm with a waltzing breeze this was paradise on earth.

One year later

This place has such a sense of community and such a sense of history. Once I had arrived and settled in I was lectured about who had founded the place and their intentions. It seemed that the starving civilians had been banned from this place because of the huge civil war. They had disagreed with what the government (cyborg) said about this new regime to do with clones (robots that behave exactly like humans except they are immortal). These were easy to hack and were a very useful killing weapon. So as a result of this mistrust grew as everyone suspected everyone of being a clone. To stop the wars the cyborg used bribery and built the paradise for anyone who swore to abide by their laws, it still remains nowadays. It all seemed too confusing so I didn't decide to worry myself about it. I also found out about the magnitude of magma. I have been informed that humans have dug so deep into the earth to find the elements needed for technology as they are a finite resource. That the volcanic atmosphere is due to the facts that the earth's core is protruding from its crust. This is also why water covers most of the earth and that it is very mountainous.

Over the past year me and the cyborg have constructed a momentous plan involving bringing the humans from 2025 to 9999 so they can enjoy this paradise. It is all ready to go. I am willing to take full credit for this ingenious idea as it is so much better here. Builders are expanding the perimeter so that it can hold a higher population and the zooms rails are being expanded.

6 months later- the past

Everywhere I see old companions are popping up over the metropolis. I run towards them my heart glowing with compassion and love. It has soon become congested but an awesome instalment. Everyone has settled in coherently, life is exquisite- there is nothing I can fault.

But then.... It seems that it wouldn't be life if something didn't go wrong. People are disappearing everyday not just one but thousands. Many survivors claim to have seen evaporation. I didn't understand it until I saw the scientist. The truth is a scary and uncontrollable thing and it slapped me in the face today. The man looked pale and bony, he had huge bags under his eyes which suggested as though he hadn't slept. His wispy hair rippled in the breeze and when he spoke his voice was hoarse. "I come with grave news". He spoke. "I have uncovered the truth about these disappearances. The realms of the future, the past and the present have become unbalanced. You have brought the entire population from the past to the future. Without a population in the past to create the future, there can not be a future. Therefore, the future can not exist and nor can anyone in it". These words took a long time to sink in and only after a minute did I understand the full enormity of them. Humans greed, my greed for luxury and perfection have sealed our demise.

The Future

Tessa Pike

As the whirring of the time machine stopped, I glanced at the instruments and dials. I had arrived in the year 2248.

My heart thumped as I contemplated a twisted vision of the future behind these doors. One that I can't even imagine. Maybe one where aliens have invaded, and no one is left to challenge their control. Perhaps the earth is dark and eerie, and lurking in the shadows are grewsome, unknown terrors. What if robots reign and advanced AI systems have turned against humanity, forcing us into slavery? Even the thought of it brings a shiver down my spine. I take a deep breath and try to stop myself procrastinating; it's time to open the door and discover what lies outside. My instincts are telling me to turn the dials and get as far away from this time period as possible. But then I picture the headline 'Girl knows the future!' and I can practically taste the glory as I extend my sweaty palm towards the keypad. This is it. There is no going back now. I press the 'Open' button and the door swishes open. The assault on my senses takes my breath away...

My ears are consumed by melodies of all different pitches, a symphony orchestrated by myriad birds, frogs and insects; it really is music to my ears. I inhale the fresh aroma of nature, cleaner than anything I have ever smelled before. It leaves a wonderfully sweet scent lingering in my nostrils. The sun caresses my skin blanketing me in its warmth. And then I look around. In every direction I see an oasis of wildlife, where countless animals roam carelessly through a jungle of thriving plants. This isn't the world I know. It looks like it, at least superficially, but there is no rubbish polluting the ground, there is no smoke chocking my lungs, animals that were on the brink of extinction are now here in abundance, and the trees that were once felled seem to have risen again. I can't believe it. Maybe there is hope for the future after all! This world is so perfect! Perhaps a bit too perfect...

"Hello!" I shout. "Hello! Is anyone there?" I look around me again. I can see for miles in every direction, but there is not even the slightest hint of humans. No houses, no roads, no crops. Where is everyone? Suddenly, the thought hits me: maybe this is the end of humanity? That would certainly explain why everything looks so wild and free, and the animals don't even flinch when they see me. My heart starts to thump louder in my chest. This can't be happening. Are these the consequences of our actions, of centuries of pollution and deforestation? The destruction of humankind? I can hardly breathe now. But wait. If humans are extinct, then how is the grass so nicely cut? It's almost as if it's been mowed. And how are the flowers so artfully arranged? I've never seen anything like that in nature before. I collapse to the floor, overwhelmed and confused by what I see in front of me. And then I notice it: half hidden in the grass below me is a shiny silver plaque that reads "Welcome to Earth 2.0, powered by Apple AI".