

PARISHRAM



2026

The Third Level

ENGLISH

LECTURE-1

(Part - 01)

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Topics

to be covered

- 1 Warm-up Game
- 2 The Third Level (Part 01)
- 3 NCERT Questions and Quiz



Game Time



Solve the riddles!

1. I'm not alive, but I
can grow,
I don't have lungs, but
I need air to blow.
I'm not a plant, but I
thrive with light,
What am I?

FIRE

2. I'm on a path that's
not on the ground,
High above, I can be
found.
With wings, I soar
through the blue,
A view of the world
from a different view.
What am I?

AIRPLANE / CLOUD

3. I have keys but
open no locks,
I have space but no
room to walk.
You can enter, but you
cannot go outside,
What am I?

KEYBOARD

Winning the award was a feather in his cap.

- (A) False pride
- (B) Vanity
- (C) Additional income
- ✓ (D) A new achievement

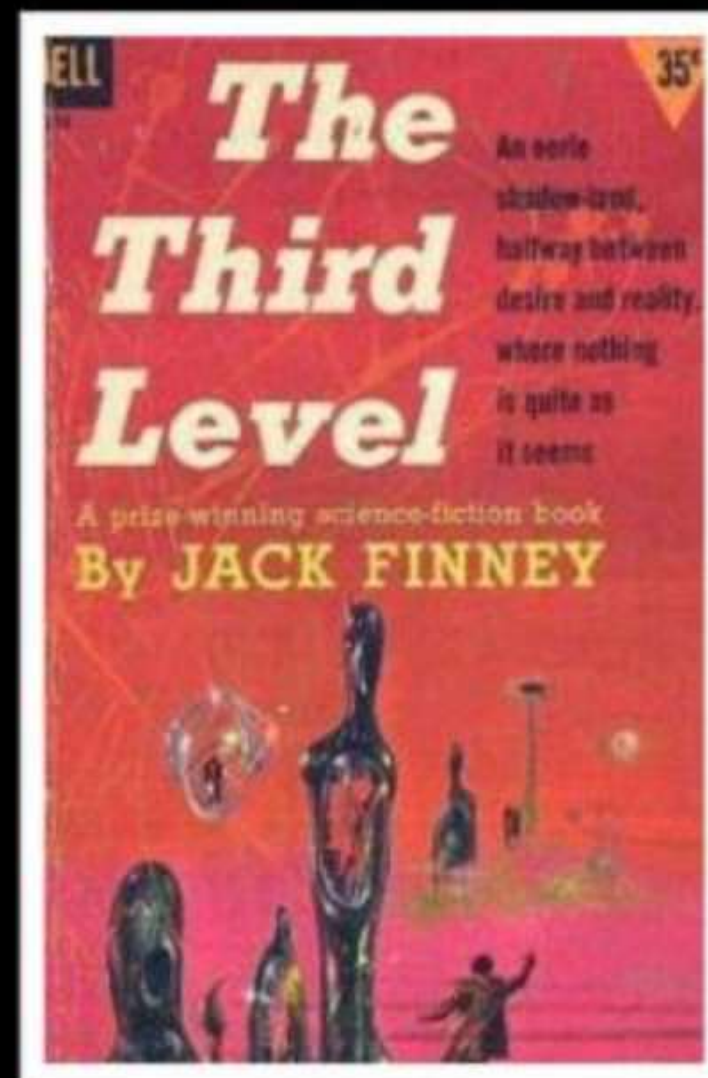


Topic : Theme – The Third Level → 1950



By – “Jack Finney”

- The underlying theme behind the story ‘The Third Level’ is the torture of stress, sense of insecurity and fear that people of modern times have to undergo.
- As a result, people become escapists and run away from reality.
- Another underlying theme is the complexity of human whose urges cannot be fully explained.

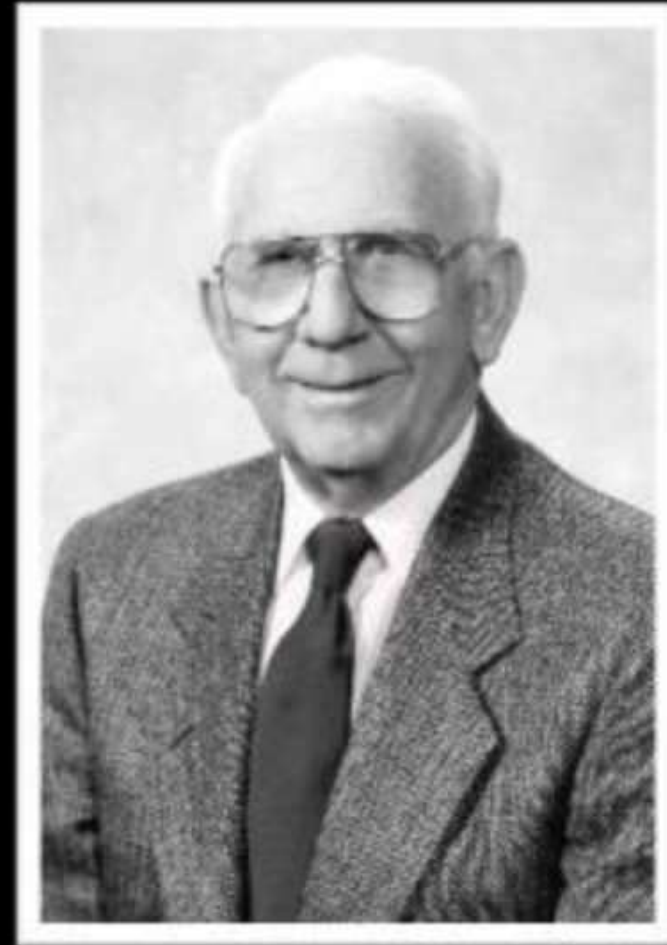


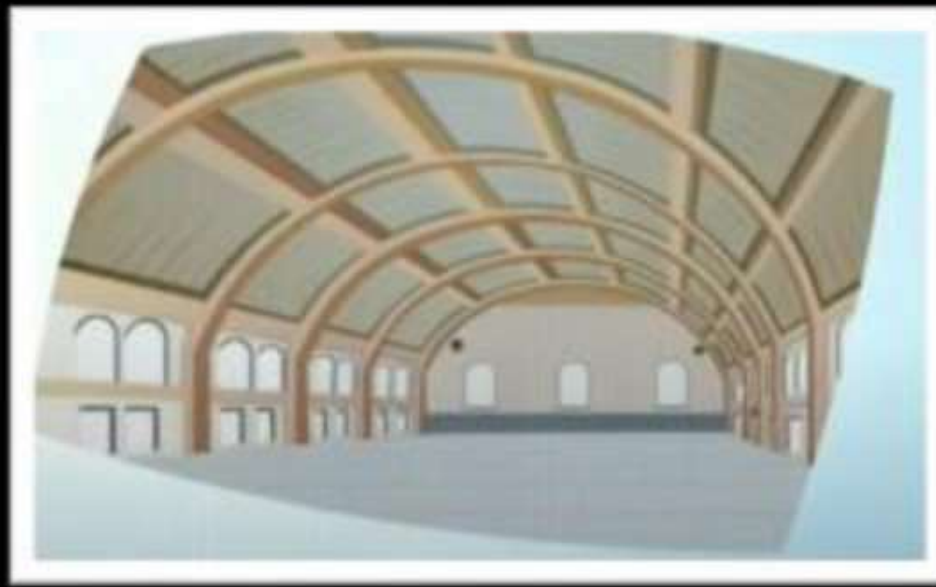


Topic : About the Author – “*Jack Finney*”



- Walter Braden “Jack Finney” (1911–1995) was an American writer, mainly known for his contributions to the science-fiction genre.
- The author of the time travel novel, ‘Time and Again’ and the science fiction thriller ‘The Body Snatcher’, first showed interest in this genre in his short story collection ‘The Third Level’.





6 _____
- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 Charlie

The presidents of the New York Central and the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroads will swear on a stack of timetables that there are only two. But I say there are three, because I've been on the third level of the Grand Central Station. Yes, I've taken the obvious step: I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station, and he said it was a waking dream wish fulfillment. He said I was unhappy.



That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it, and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station.

Joan about





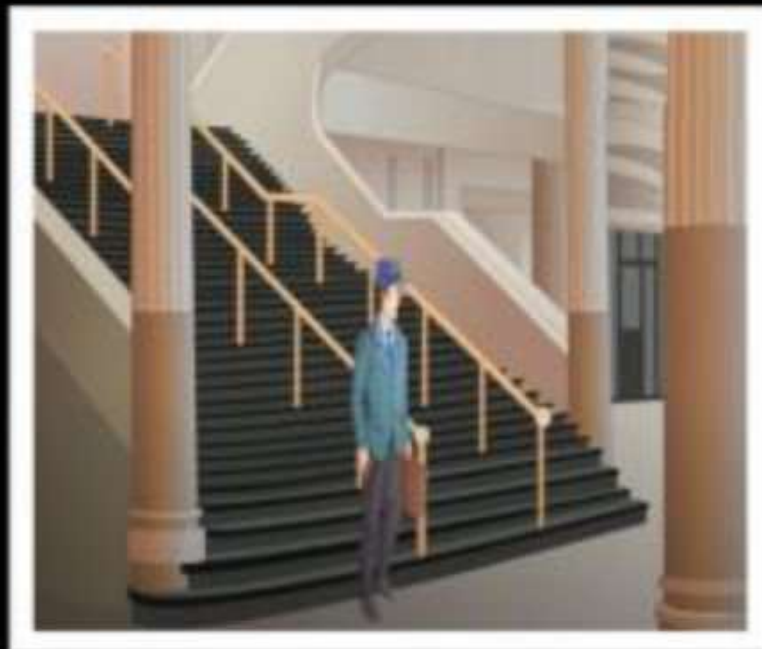
But that's the reason, he said, and my friends all agreed.
Everything points to it, they claimed. My stamp collecting, for
example; that's a 'temporary refuge from reality.' Well, maybe,
but my grandfather didn't need any refuge from reality; things
were pretty nice and peaceful in his day, from all I hear, and he
started my collection. It's a nice collection too, blocks of four of
practically every U.S. issue, first-day covers, and so on.
President Roosevelt collected stamps too, you know.





Anyway, here's what happened at Grand Central. One-night
last summer I worked late at the office. I was in a ^{first} hurry to get
area of town away from main area
uptown to my apartment, so I decided to take the subway from
Grand Central because it's faster than the bus.

*underground
to aim*



Now, I don't know why this should have happened to me. I'm
just an ordinary guy named Charley, thirty-one years old, and I
tawny brown a type of fabric
was wearing a tan gabardine suit and a straw hat with a fancy
band; I passed a dozen men who looked just like me. And I wasn't
trying to escape from anything; I just wanted to get home to



Louisa, my wife.

#Q. What explanation does the psychiatrist give for the narrator's experience?

- ☐ **A** He is mentally ill.
- ☒ **B** It was a waking-dream wish fulfillment.
- ☐ **C** He is trying to impress his wife.
- ☐ **D** He is overworked and stressed.

#Q. What hobby does the narrator mention as being seen as a 'temporary refuge from reality'?

A Reading books.

☒ **B** Stamp collecting.

— 'Philately'

C Playing chess.

D Painting.



#Q. Why does Charley mention President Roosevelt in relation to his hobby?

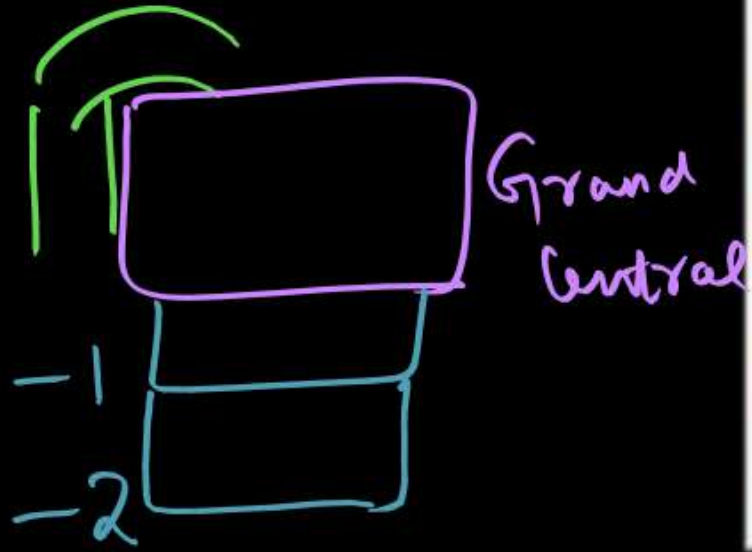
- ☒ **A** To highlight that stamp collecting is a prestigious hobby.
- ☐ **B** To show that his collection is better than Roosevelt's.
- ☐ **C** To argue that famous people don't need refuges from reality.
- ☐ **D** To indicate that Roosevelt also needed a refuge from reality.

Topic : MCQs



#Q. What implicit contrast does Charley make between his own time and his grandfather's era?

- A** A contrast between technological advancement and simplicity.
- B** A contrast between peace in the past and turmoil in the present.
- C** A contrast between financial prosperity and economic struggle.
- D** A contrast between familial bonds and social isolation.



arched doorway

street

I turned into Grand Central from Vanderbilt Avenue, and went down the steps to the first level, where you take trains like the Twentieth Century. Then I walked down Set of stairs another flight to the second level, where the suburban trains leave from, bent down; I still ducked into an arched doorway heading for the subway — and got lost. That's easy to do. I've meet by chance been in and out of Grand Central hundreds of times, but I'm always bumping into if find new doorways and stairs and corridors.



सुरंग

Once I got into a tunnel about a mile long and came out in the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel. Another time I came up in an office building on Forty-sixth Street, three blocks away.



Sometimes I think Grand Central is growing like a tree, pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots. There's probably a long tunnel that nobody knows about feeling its way under the city right now, on its way to Times Square, and maybe another to Central Park. And maybe — because for so many people through the years Grand Central has been an exit, a way of escape — maybe that's how the tunnel I got into... But I never told my psychiatrist friend about that

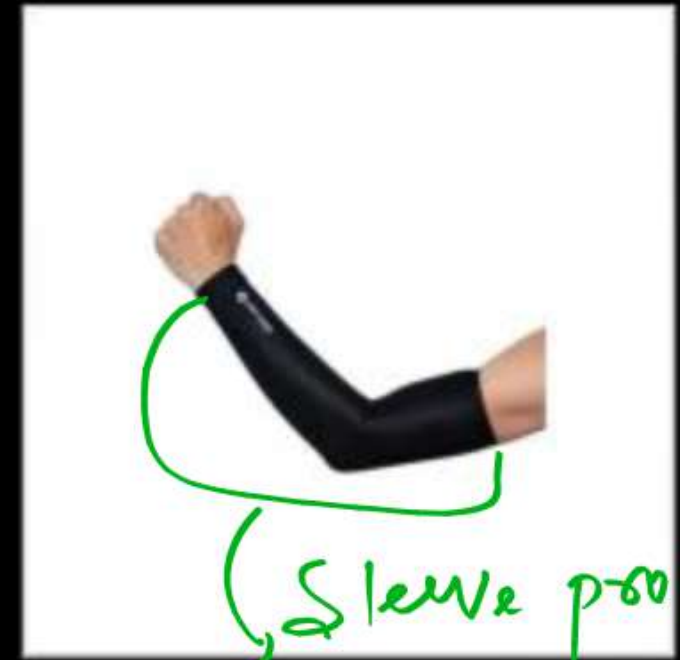




Sloping; झुकावा

The corridor I was in began angling left and slanting downward and I thought that was wrong, but I kept on walking. All I could hear was the empty sound of my own footsteps and I didn't pass a ^{person} soul. Then I heard that ^{type of} sort of hollow roar ahead that means open space and people talking. The tunnel turned sharp left; I went down a short ^{set} flight of stairs and came out on the third level at Grand Central Station.





Sleeve protectors

Open flame gas-lights

For just a moment I thought I was back on the second level, but I saw the room was smaller, there were fewer ticket windows and train gates, and the information booth in the centre was wood and old looking. And the man in the booth wore a green eyeshade and long black sleeve protectors. The lights were ^{dull} dim and sort of flickering.

Then I saw why; they were open-flame gaslights. लालचैन

टिमटिमका



1950s

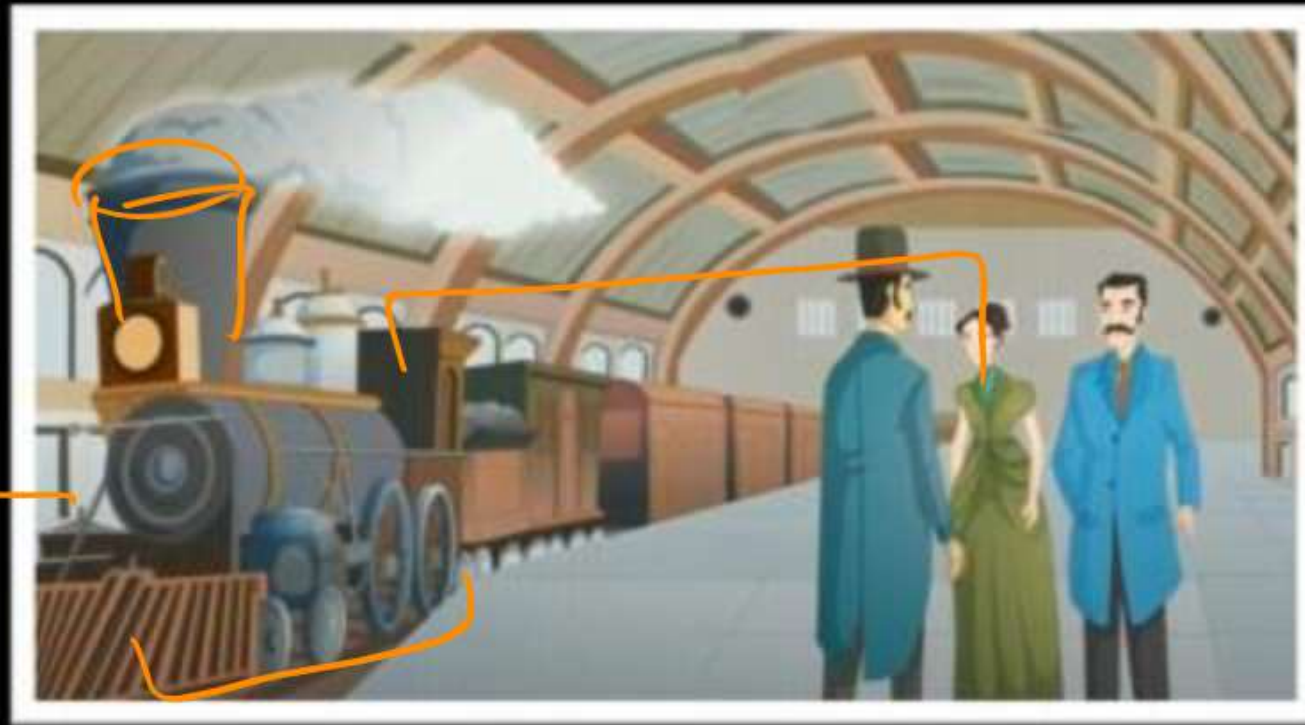
शुक्रवात

There were brass spittoons on the floor, and across the station a glint of light caught my eye; a man was pulling a gold watch from his vest pocket. He snapped open the cover, glanced at his watch and frowned. He wore a derby hat, a black four-button suit with tiny lapels, and he had a big, black, handlebar mustache. Then I looked around and saw that everyone in the station was dressed like eighteen-ninety-something; I never saw so many beards, sideburns and fancy mustaches in my life.



फैशिये fashionable

Locomotive



funnel-shape

A woman walked in through the train gate; she wore a dress with leg-of-mutton sleeves and skirts to the top of her high-buttoned shoes. Back of her, out on the tracks, I caught a ^{stretch} glimpse of a locomotive, a very small Currier & Ives locomotive with a funnel-shaped stack. And then I knew.



#Q. What unique feature did Charley notice about the third level that indicated it was different from the second level?

- ☐ A There were modern electric lights.
- ☒ B The information booth was made of wood and looked old-fashioned.
- ☐ C There were more ticket windows and train gates.
- ☐ D The room was much larger and more crowded.

#Q. Why does Charley suggest Grand Central Station might be growing like a tree?

- ☐ A He has seen blueprints of its expansion.
- ☒ B He frequently gets lost in its new corridors and staircases.
- ☐ C He has read historical accounts of its construction.
- ☐ D He noticed the station physically expanding during his visits.

#Q. What is the significance of Charley's comment about the man in the information booth wearing a green eyeshade and long black sleeve protectors?

- ☐ A It highlights the formal dress code of the station staff.
- ☒ B It indicates a specific historical period when such attire was common.
dress
- ☐ C It shows the station's commitment to tradition.
- ☐ D It signifies the man's high-ranking position.

#Q. What does the detail of the "open-flame gaslights" on the third level suggest about the period Charley believes he has entered?

- ☐ A It is a futuristic vision of the station.
- ☒ B It is a period before the widespread use of electricity.
- ☐ C It is a contemporary yet poorly lit part of the station.
- ☐ D It is an artistic interpretation of the station.



Topic : Glossary



- **Stack** : pile
- **Obvious** : clearly notable
- **Refuge** : shelter or protection from danger, trouble etc.
- **Uptown** : in or parts of a town or city that are away from the main area, where most people live
- **Subway** : underground railway/ rail road system
- **Tan** : tawny brown colour
- **Gabardine** : a closely woven fabric



- **Ducked into** : bent down to get in
- **Bumping** : meeting by chance
- **Glint** : a sudden flash of light
- **Snapped open** : opened quickly with a sudden sharp noise
- **Glanced** : looked quickly
- **Suburban trains** : city trains
- **Spittoons** : vessels for spitting into
- **Lapels** : a part of coat-front folded back



- **Derby** : a bowler hat
- **Sideburns** : hair that grows down the sides of a man's face in front of his ears
- **Premium** : excess over original price
- **Fussing with** : paying much attention



Topic : Key Points



Three levels at Grand Central Station

- the narrator feels there are three levels at Grand Central Railway Station, New York
- there are, in fact, only two levels
- his psychiatrist friend tells him it is a wakingdream wish fulfillment
- says that modern man is full of insecurity; wants an escape

Narrator's hobby of stamp collection

- according to the psychiatrist it was a 'temporary refuge from reality'
- the narrator finds it hard to believe
- argues that grandfather needed no refuge from reality; was contented, yet he pursued philately
- there was no insecurity in good old days as we know it today



Charley loses his way and reaches the third level

- Charley works late one summer night in office
- keen to get back home to his wife Louisa
- in a hurry to board a train goes down to the second level
- crosses the arched doorway for the subway
- loses his way
- feels Grand Central grows like a tree and pushes out new corridors and stairs



- narrator walks down a corridor
- hears empty sound of his own footsteps
- finds himself on the third level at Grand Central Station
- finds smaller rooms, fewer ticket windows and open-flame gaslights
- everybody at the station dressed in 19 th century dresses
- finds lead story about President Cleveland in Paper, 'The World' dated June 11, 1894
- goes to the ticket window and demands two tickets for Galesburg, Illinois



- wants to go there with his wife Louisa
- imagines the town in the year 1894 and thinks First World War still twenty years off and Second World War still forty years ahead
- his currency bills not accepted; the clerk gets angry
- runs away to escape jail



Thank
You