1.The Third Level (Vistas)

The President of New York Central and other railroads could swear that there were only two levels in the New York Central.

Charlie, a businessman wanted to take the subway so that he could reach home early to Louisa, his wife.

He went down one level, then a second level. There were so many corridors and passages leading to distant places, he got confused. Then he went to the third level of the Grand Central Station. He wanted to buy two tickets; for his wife and himself to Galesburg Illinois. He was told to bring the correct money. It was 1894, and the booth, and outside had people dressed up differently.

There were brass spittoons on the floor.

Everybody had a moustache and a beard. There were open flame lights. The newspaper lying there was ‘The World’ 1894, June 11.

The man in the ticket booth demanded more money.

People sat on their lawns, men smoking cigars and talking quietly. There was such a peaceful atmosphere all around.

Women had palm leaf fans.

The first world war was twenty years off.

The next day Charlie changed three hundred dollars to two hundred bills but he could not find the third level.

His wife got angry with him because his psychiatrist Sam told him he was mentally disturbed, and wanted to escape to a better world.

Charlie went to Galesburg and saw a letter from Sam. It was a first day cover with the stamp of President Garfields’ picture—of 6 cents.

He opened the letter. It was from Sam. Sam had disappeared. He wrote that he was in the third level and there was absolute peace there. He had spent 800 dollars to set up a feed, grain and hay business.

Somebody was playing the piano, and others singing a song.. He asked Charlie to come with Lousia to the third level.

This lesson is more of a phantasy. There was no third level. Both Charlie and Sam do show a desire to escape from the tensions of the present world. The third level is fictional, virtual and promises a life free of tensions in 1894. It is not possible for human beings to go back in time. Both Grandfather & Charlie collected stamps.