

Classic Works Assignment 25

- *poetry memorization*. Memorize parts 1–3 of Christina Rossetti’s lovely poem “The First Spring Day” in your reader.
- *literature*. Read *The Time Machine*, chapters 9–end and complete the study guide questions. Make sure that you complete *all* the study guide material.
- *picture*. The picture on the right is of “New Harmony,” as proposed by Robert



Owen. Utopian communities were popular in the 19th century; in fact, one of the most esteemed 19th-century American authors, Nathaniel Hawthorne, was involved with a utopian community located in West Roxbury, Massachusetts called Brook Farm, which had been founded by a former Unitarian minister George Ripley. Hawthorn left the community disgruntled and wrote about his negative experience in the novel *Blithedale Romance*.

Utopian communities are attempts to set up a “perfect world” which inevitably fail because of human nature. Communities at first may *appear* to be perfect, but there is always something lurking in background—the evil in the heart of man. It is therefore easy to see why “*negative utopias*” —failed attempts to fashion a perfect world through man’s device and technology— are the stuff that makes up science fiction, such as *The Time Machine*.

Communism as a type of utopian political system fails partly because its view of societal problems is *simplistic*, its view of humanity is *idealistic*, and its faith in the leaders—that they are agitating out of pure motives—is *naive*.

- *critical paper*. Your critical essay on *Great Expectations* is due **this coming week**. This five-paragraph essay will discuss the novel as a satire on lawyers, money or amateur acting. If you need an extension, let me know!