

# **City Study Guide**

**City by Clifford D. Simak**

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# Plot Summary

City, by Clifford D. Simak is about the possible evolution of life on Earth, the role of violence in our society and the effects of colonizing other planets. There are eight tales told from the perspective of dogs who take over humanity's place in the world. The tales are passed down by the Dogs through the generations to the point where humans are considered mythical creatures. Eventually, other Earth creatures evolve and the world is in danger of domination by ants.

Tale one begins with the decline of cities due to hydroponic farming, better methods of communication, atomic power, transportation by helicopter, and migration to other planets. Humans live mostly in the country, abandoning once thriving cities. People also leave cities to hedge on the threat of nuclear war. In the second tale, the isolation created by living in the country living causes Tyler Webster's agoraphobia, which prevents him from helping his Martian friend Juwain. We also learn that robots, like the Websters' own Jenkins, do most of the work for man.

In tale 3, Bruce Webster alters Dogs' throats so they may talk. He also provides them with contact lenses so they can read. A census taker arrives and sees the changes to society and tells the Dogs they must be ready to take men's place if mankind fails. Meanwhile, the mutant human, Joe, helps the ants begin to evolve. Joe also takes Juwain's manuscript and finishes developing the Martian Juwain's philosophy.

Tale four and part of five take place on Jupiter. Fowler, the project leader, finds people are disappearing after being transformed into Lopers, the native creatures on Jupiter. He volunteers to be transformed himself and discovers Jupiter is a Loper paradise. Fowler comes back to Earth to spread the good news, but is blocked by Tyler Webster who knows everyone will leave for Jupiter. Joe makes a kaleidoscope that spreads the Juwain philosophy about understanding other people's points of view. This helps Fowler spread the word about the wonders of Jupiter, and most people opt to migrate to become Lopers.

Tale six opens with only 5,000 humans remaining, including Jon Webster living in Geneva. Jon visits Jenkins and the Dogs in North America and is so impressed with the Dogs' development that he decides to encapsulate Geneva so that man can not interfere with the Dogs' evolving social order. The canines continue evolving in the last two tales, living peacefully with other animals and killing is non-existent.

When Peter Webster kills a bird, Jenkins realizes that humans will never overcome their inclination towards violence, so he takes the humans that have not gone into a sleep state to a parallel cobbly world where Jenkins stays for five thousand years. When Jenkins comes back to earth he finds the ants are a threat to the world. He wakes Jon Webster and asks for advice, but Jon tells the robot to use an insecticide, so Jenkins thinks it is better to lose the world than to start killing again.



# Preface

## Preface Summary

City by Clifford D. Simak is the story of the decline of Cities, which creates a decrease in humanity due to isolationism in the country. Improvement in methods of space travel, especially to Jupiter, also reduces Earth's human population. This reduction in humanity gives the now genetically improved Dogs the chance to begin to develop as the master race when they are given the ability to speak and read. After tale five, they have almost exclusive control of North America. In tale seven, the few humans not in suspended animation are transported to another world. By tale eight, the Dogs are now the main intelligent civilization on Earth; however, the ants are taking over fast. Each of the eight tales has notes from the point of view of Dogs, speculating if the tales are stories or the history of man and dogs.

In the preface, the reader learns that the Dogs tell stories and tales around the campfire to pups. The tales attempt to explain a city, man, and war, which is a concept lost on the Dogs. The Adults tell the pups the tales are untrue but some Dogs desire to know if there is any truth in the tales. Some do look to the tales to provide some view of history.

The concepts and words in the tales have no meaning in the Dogs' world, so there is a meaning assigned to them that may or may not be valid. A discovery of some new literature makes it difficult to discount that there may be a shred of truth in some of the tales. Also, due to the extreme slat towards holding humans as a god-like creature, the Dogs speculate that such worship does not typically exist without a bit of truth. Ultimately, the editor asks that the tales be taken at face value so the reader does not go insane wondering what portions are true.

## Preface Analysis

Half of the Dogs think the stories are fake and assume the stories are science fiction; however, some think the stores are history. The world is different, Dogs rule, humans do not exist and the concepts of city, humans, and war is so far removed from current thought that no reference exists to help the Dogs relate.

After thousands of years the Dogs know the tales have been distorted but they wonder how such tales can exist without some basis in fact, especially since the concepts are so foreign to the Dog's thought process. The concept of man is especially foreign; some view man as gods, some assume man and dogs used to co-exist, and some assume humans are like unicorns that never existed. In the end, the editor asks that the reader not analyze the tales too much since the tales are so foreign to current thought.



# Notes 1 and Tale 1

## Notes 1 and Tale 1 Summary

The notes explain that the concepts in the first tale are foreign to the reader. First, no dogs exist in the first story and second, cities exist. The idea of a city is almost beyond grasp but the general idea is a place where a large number of inhabitants can stay.

The Dogs disagree on the purpose of the city and Bounce thinks it is a concept made up by an old storyteller. The majority of Dogs agree with Bounce because they think that nobody would ever want to live in a city. Rover assumes the first tale is just a spoof that Dogs do not understand. The context, language, and concepts in the tale are difficult for a Dog's brain because they understand living together in harmony with all life. War is a foreign concept as well, as the Dogs have never experienced war. Tigre is one of the few Dogs who believe the tales are the Dogs' history and believe they should be studied.

In tale 1, men are attempting to hold onto the concept of cities. Gramps is watching his mower mow the yard and wonders why everything in the current world is automatic. Gramps grumbles under his breath at Betty, his daughter, about his age and pretends to be feebler than he actually is when he hears the sounds of Ole's car. The streets are overrun with plant life since Ole is one of the only cars left because there are atomic-powered helicopters.

Ole is headed in to town to sell his vegetables grown in real soil. Both men discuss farming vs. hydroponics and comment on the fact that no one wants to buy "real" plants anymore. As Ole heads in to town, Gramp's friend Mark stops by to tell him that he and his wife are moving to the country. Upset, Gramps points out the empty houses and complains that even his daughter and son-in-law want to move to the country. He tells Mark the only reason they have not moved is because Johnny is the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for the city. Mark leaves and Gramps look at the houses, especially the Adam's place across the street where his old war buddy used to live, and reminisces about the times when families lived in the city.

Gramps is startled out of his thoughts by the approach of a young man who is looking for his families' home. The young man is the grandson of Gramp's war buddy, F.J.Adams. Henry Adams tells Gramps that his grandfather helped develop atomic power once the world decided it could not start an atomic war.

In the city, John "Johnny" Webster speaks to the squatter Levi who lives in one of the empty houses. Webster tells Levi that certain people in the government want to burn the houses to prevent squatters from living in them. Levi defends his friends stating that the government is just looking for someone to govern and they are not the ones responsible for the thievery in the city.



Inside the city council meeting, the argument about the abandoned houses continues and despite Webster's disagreement, the consensus is to burn the homes. Jon tells them that the cities are dead, so it does not matter who lives in those houses.

Meanwhile, Ole is unable to sell his vegetables and realizes his time has passed and he is unemployable. Webster is worried he is also unemployable and heads to the Bureau of human adjustment to get help finding a job. The Bureau is expecting him and offers him a job convincing the remaining people, especially the squatters to be productive members of society and give up on cities.

When Webster is done at the Bureau, he runs into Levi who tells him that the fight between the squatters and the city council has begun. Even Gramps is fighting to keep the houses from being burnt down, which worries John. Luckily, Gramps finds a peaceful solution when Adams buys all the houses using some of his Grandfather's atomic power money. Henry decides to make the houses a memorial that the squatters can maintain. Webster is glad there is peaceful solution but realizes that he must move to the country now that cities are a dying concept.

## Notes 1 and Tale 1 Analysis

The notes show the lack of knowledge the Dogs have about their history. They have stories passed down over generations but they keep discovering tales that describe a different world. The world is so different from the perspective the Dogs have on life that they are unable to relate to the stories. To the Dogs, war is such a foreign concept that the idea must have come from a very savage past. With the advent of the Dog Brotherhood, this makes such an idea as war especially foreign. Just like most beings, if you cannot relate to something, you have trouble understanding and believing the truth in the stories.

The Dogs view of these tales is very similar to our views on certain of our stories, especially bible stories. Faith verses belief is a never-ending argument. How do you ever truly know what to believe, words on paper is not solid proof. However, because the thought process is so different for the Dogs, they question who could have possibly written the tales if they are not true, which gives some of the Dogs reason to believe in humans and portions of the tales.

In tale one, the opening shows the rapid change in society. Gramps is not used to the idea of a robot mower that does everything for him. He watches the mower as if it is a living, thinking being, and complains about the automation of life. This is foreshadowing to the automation of everything, which makes humans have little purpose in the future.

The empty houses and the desire to move to the country shows the isolation attitude of the current generation and the reader knows that as people can do more from their homes, the less they will leave it to interact with others. The trend is isolation and country living in the younger generation. Even in the case of the squatters, the city council, and the older generation like Ole and Gramps, holding onto the old ways, such



as cars, farming, and cities, everyone will eventually disappear and even they will move. The fact that there is a bureau of human adjustment means that they are trying to make everyone conform. Living on a large piece of property in the country is the only way each individual can live life as they see fit. The time for government intervention in a person's life is quickly fading.



# Notes 2 and Tale 2

## Notes 2 and Tale 2 Summary

The notes tell of the struggle that the character feels in the second tale. The Dogs relate to the struggle and also recognize more of the concepts in this tale. The second tale talks about robots, which the Dogs still have in their current lives. Dogs wonder how robots came to be since they and the other animals do not know how to create a robot. This is the first tale that some Dogs think may have some basis in fact and history because of the existence of robots. However, most Dogs believe that robots were created by a creative Dog and that robots then continued creating additional robots.

The part of the second tale that puzzles the Dogs is the concept of traveling between different planets. They believe going to other planets is a fantasy and if such a thing were possible Dogs would be traveling between planets.

In tale 2, Jerome Webster, the great, great grandson of John Webster from the first tale is attending the funeral of his father, on the Webster land, in the country. He reflects on how long the Webster family has lived on the estate in tranquility and how sad he is that his son Thomas is leaving for Mars soon.

Jerome heads back to the house where he looks at his book about Martian Physiology with pride just as Jenkins, his robot, knocks on the door. Jenkins tells Jerome it was a wonderful funeral and that his father was a fine man whom he enjoyed serving.

Webster is glad that cities are gone and everyone lives in their country homes isolated with their families in a peaceful life with robots as servants. Nobody has to go anywhere because you can use the dial-in room to do anything including hear a concert or communicate with a friend over a great distance. While in this room Juwain, a Martian philosopher and friend, calls Jerome. Juwain is glad that he will get to meet Thomas Webster when he comes to Mars and also compliments Jerome for everything he has done to advance Martian health. Juwain explains to Webster that he is close to his own advancement, one that will change the course of human and Martian evolution. They end their talk in silent reflection.

The day Thomas is leaving for Mars arrives and Webster is at the Space Field to see his son leave. While at the space field, Jerome has a panic attack and realizes he must go home immediately. Jenkins tells Webster that his father had the same fear whenever he left the Webster home. Jerome realizes he has agoraphobia and that many of his family probably developed a similar problem due to isolation.

While Jerome is writing a paper on mans' growing fear to leave their familiar homes, Clayborne, a doctor acquaintance from Mars, calls to tell Jerome that Juwain is ill and that Webster is the only person who can perform the surgery needed to save his life. Webster tells him that he is unable to leave his home and refuses to explain his





condition. Henderson, the president of the World Committee, calls after hearing about the refusal and orders Webster to save his friend, which will also save the new philosophy that only Juwain understands. Despite his fears, Webster realizes he must attempt to get on the ship to help his friend and begins packing. Jenkins taps on the door and tells Webster that two men came with a ship but he convinced them that there was no way Jerome could leave the planet.

## Notes 2 and Tale 2 Analysis

The contradiction that Dogs do not know how to create robots yet robots exist is the first time the reader sees a chink in the Dogs' belief that the tales are fantasy. They assume that in the past a Dog figured out how to build one robot that subsequently created more robots; however, the Dogs have no hands, which makes it nearly impossible to build. The Dogs need the delusion so that they continue to think of themselves as the ultimate race. They also justify the tales as fantasy since it is impossible for them to travel to other planets and tale 2 describes traveling to other planets.

The Dogs know such travel is impossible since after thousands of years they would have already discovered other planets and how to travel to them because of the advanced nature of their race. The stars at night are only lights hanging in the sky and really quite close in their opinion and they have no natural curiosity about them as would humans in a similar situation. Even the existence of cobbly worlds does not make them think too greatly about other places. The cobbly worlds have always been there and sensed by the Dogs so this is one sense that is much more developed than humanities. If things go bump in the night, we look for a logical reason, not another world or dimension. Once again, the Dogs' belief in their being the ultimate race prevents them thinking that the tales may be information about the past.

In tale 2, during the funeral, the reader sees that generations of family now live together on one plot of land, isolated from others. Very few people outside of the family attend the funeral and Jenkins comments on how infrequently anyone leaves their own properties. Later, when Webster talks to Juwain on Mars using the dial-in room, we see another reason people do not need to leave their homes. This is foreshadowing that people tend not to leave their homes and there is a bigger issue of isolation for all humans from each other.

After seeing his son off at the space field, Webster panics and realizes that he is unable to be away from his home. Jenkins explains that his father had the same condition and after some reflection, realizes that most of his generation must have the same problem since people rarely leave their property. The need for isolation does not produce a very friendly race or one that reproduces rapidly, which causes a dwindling in earth's human population. When Clayborne calls, Jerome is writing a paper on isolationism. He knows the paper can not be published until after his death as most people do not realize what is happening and he does not want to make the situation even worse. When Clayborne asks Webster to fly to Mars to save Juwain he is afraid he will be unable to get on the



ship. Jenkins solves this problem by sending the pilot away but Jerome will always feel a sense of guilt for not going to save Juwain as will future generations of Websters.

The reason everyone wants Juwain saved is because Juwain has a new philosophy that will change the course of human and Martian history that everyone is anxious to see completed. As it turns out, the philosophy changes the course of the human race in the tales but it is questionable whether it is for the positive. The irony is the humans are so upset and anxious to get the philosophy that they blame Webster for its loss. They even blame him for some of the problems of the human race in general. The reader wonders if they had never found the philosophy and gone to Jupiter, would the human race actually be better off and still present in the tales and in reality?



# Notes 3 and Tale 3

## Notes 3 and Tale 3 Summary

In the notes, the theory of mutation is discussed. Tigre explains that since mutation is a foreign concept to Dogs it provides stronger evidence that humans may have existed. Bounce argues that it is just a good story and it is a favorite among the Dogs because it is the first time a dog is mentioned. The dog Nathaniel could not have performed all the acts associated with him, but Tigre argues that Nathaniel may have existed because it is a name Dogs have heard through the years. Also, the Webster family is important in all the tales and even though a real human family called the Websters may not exist, the constancy of the family is useful in tying unrelated tales together.

In tale 3, Richard Grant, an enumerator is sitting by a stream when a dog walks up. The dog tells Grant that his name is Nathaniel and he lives with the Webster family. After realizing the dog is really talking to him, Grant tells the dog that he is here to take a census. Nathaniel invites Grant to go hunting with him but their target disappears so Nathaniel invites him back to meet the Webster family.

At the house, Thomas Webster, the son of the Jerome Webster, talks to Jenkins and drinks watered down whiskey. He will be eighty-six so his family is careful with his diet as his health is not as good due to his age. He sees the census taker approach with Nathaniel and wonders who is being brought to the home.

Grant is introduced to Bruce Webster, Thomas's son, and they talk about census taking and how the real goal is to watch the hidden population that lives in the woods. They discuss the mutants, which are of interest to the government and the world committee, because they have new viewpoints that are totally different from most men and may be capable of far-fetched reasoning that man is unable to comprehend. Bruce tells Grant that it was his grandfather that caused the new philosophy to remain unfinished by not saving Juwain. Grant consoles him because he says it was not Jerome's fault that he was suffering from agoraphobia.

Bruce admits that the change he is making to help dogs become an intelligent race is to make up for the mistake by his grandfather. The two races, humans and dogs are meant to work side-by-side and they can develop new philosophies that humans alone cannot. Webster is also working on corrective lenses to enable the dogs eyes to see in such a manner that they will be able to learn to read.

When Grant heads to bed, he hears Thomas Webster and stops by to meet him. He tells Grant that he was meant to build a spaceship to help humans travel to space. Thomas explains to Grant that long ago he was unable to work out the spaceship drive, when a mutant walked by and told him the problem with the drive and disappeared. After hearing the stories, Grant heads to bed and looks at his records and hopes that



someone will see a person in these papers that deviates from the norm so as to help the race develop more quickly.

Grant hears a scratch on the door and it is Nathaniel who asks him why he has not talked to him when he has to all the others. Grant learns that dogs are psychic and can hear things that humans cannot. Tired from all the talking, Grant heads to bed with Nathaniel sleeping at his feet. The next morning he heads to the woods where he is attempting to use an atomic gun to start a fire. Grant hears a noise and a mutant appears, fixes the broken gun, and then vanishes.

To learn more about the people that live in the woods, Grant questions Dave Baxter who tells him that there is a mutant in the woods named Joe who can fix machinery. He says that he used to come around and fix things for them and never waits for thanks. Joe had done this in his grand-pappy's time as well and does not appear to age. Dave also tells him about Joe covering an anthill with a greenhouse but then says it is probably just a tall tale. That night, Dave's grandson whispers to Grant that he has seen ants pulling carts near a glass house in the woods, so Grant figures the story may be true.

In the morning Grant investigates the anthill and discovers that ants are pulling carts and a broken cover is over the hill. Joe appears and tells Grant that he is responsible for the ants' transformation. He heated the hill and fed the ants so that they do not have to hibernate and will have time to advance as a race. Grant listens to Joe and feels fear for humanity because Joe does not care about people or about their approval and answers to no one. He does things because they amuse him and stops when it is no longer interesting. Grant learns Joe knows how Juwain's philosophy works and asks him to tell others. He threatens Joe with a gun and Joe punches him. Nathaniel wakes him with dog kisses and asks to go with him on his travels. Grant tells him he must stay there and pass the word on to future generations as he fears for the future of the human race since he thinks many others will eventually mutate. He asks Nathaniel to tell the other dogs that some day they may need to pretend to be humans and to carry on the dream for earth and its creatures.

## Notes 3 and Tale 3 Analysis

In the notes, the argument that humans exist because something in the tale is a foreign concept to Dogs continues. This time, the argument is about mutation. The Dogs do not understand mutation, which means someone had to come up with the concept and it must be humans. The Dogs seem to have little sense of history and this lack shows in their explanations for mutants, their explanation for Nathaniel, and most of all in their explanation of the Websters. The Websters may only be an attempt to tie the tales together and not really exist. The tales according to Rover are probably only a way to explain racial beginnings. Grant is also shown as a character that sees that man is harmful to himself and tells Nathaniel that the Dogs must be ready to save the world. As the tales continue, the continuity between them makes it harder for the Dogs to believe that the tales are pure fiction.



In tale 3, Grant is startled when a talking dog approaches him; however, not as shocked as the reader would expect. Mutations are becoming commonplace in the current world in any race. Interestingly, they meet because the dog Nathaniel is hunting a squirrel. Both Grant and the dog hunt for the squirrel, which is ironic considering the future is against violence. The instinct to hunt is strong in both races.

Grant learns that Bruce Webster is modifying dogs to be able to talk and read because he wants to make up for his grandfather's inability to advance the human race because of Juwain dying. The stain on the Webster name is known throughout the world. The anger and bitterness directed at the Webster's and the need for the Webster's to make up for Jerome's mistake change the entire course of the human race. If Bruce had not felt the need to modify the dogs, maybe humans would still be prodding along and dogs would not be the dominant race. Bruce may have inadvertently caused more damage to humanity; however the way humanity was already coming to depend on robots and becoming less creative and productive may have guaranteed the death of the race anyway.

When Grant talks to Thomas Webster, he learns that Thomas has created a space drive that allows humans to travel anywhere in the galaxy. Space travel foreshadows humans traveling to other planets and is also inadvertently the cause of most humans leaving Earth permanently for greener pastures. Joe helps Thomas with his design when he is at a standstill and without this design most people may not have deserted earth. Here again, we suspect this was amusing for Joe to cause man to leave earth and is probably why he helped Thomas in the first place.

During his census taking, Grant meets the mutant Joe who scares him because Joe does not need the approval of other humans. The approval of other people is partially what keeps humans doing what is right and being helpful to others. He worries about what will keep the current and future mutants in check. Joe reads minds, which means he knows in advance what a person thinks and feels so this makes life boring and he is constantly looking for something that is amusing or interesting. Also, the mutant figures out Juwain's theory simply by looking at it and refuses to share with the human population simply because he does not want to give it to a race he considers inferior and says he can use it himself. He does eventually reveal the philosophy, but of course he does it at the worst possible time causing most people to leave for Jupiter. As usual, Joe is not interested in what is best for humanity.

Joe is also helping the ant's advance too quickly, which is more foreshadowing that changing a race before they are ready interferes with the natural progression. Ants are not ready for advancement and they eventually destroy life on earth including themselves by not knowing how to do things in moderation.



# Notes 4 and Tale 4

## Notes 4 and Tale 4 Summary

The notes explain that most Dogs think the fourth tale has no basis in history or fact. While there is a dog in the story, the dog does not have any ability to speak or read until he is transformed. Also, because there is space travel and transformation of a race, the validity of the story is in question. The tale is considered fun.

Tale 4 opens on Jupiter. Ken Fowler, the Jupiter dome supervisor, is counting the number of men that had gone to Jupiter's surface and never returned. His dog, Towser is sleeping under his desk while he explains to a new young recruit that he does not have to be transformed and go to Jupiter's surface. Fowler tells Allen that others have not returned and the chances are likely that he will not either. Fowler explains that Miss Stanley, who operates the converter, is very experienced and that the men are properly changed into Lopers when they leave. Allen says he is looking forward to his conversion.

Fowler knows these tests are essential to succeed on Jupiter but is afraid they may fail. He worries that people will never be able to populate Jupiter as it is impractical to live under a dome. Jupiter's extreme pressure and bitter rain make it impossible to live on the planet if one is not a Loper. Miss Stanley is furious that Fowler keeps up the tests and asks him how long he is going to continue sending men to what she believes is their deaths. He knows they must continue as long as there is hope that someone might come back. Fowler blames Stanley's machine but she insists that it is not a problem. He knows she is right as men have been converted on other planets and been fine. His only thought is that perhaps the biologists somehow have the genetic specs for Lopers wrong.

Allen is converted to a Loper and like the other men, does not return to the station. Five men are gone, so Fowler decides he and his dog will go through the conversion and go out on the planet. He wants to know why people are not coming back. Fowler is not willing to risk any more lives.

Fowler is amazed at how wonderful being a Loper feels. He loves the new body and the expansion of his mental abilities. Fowler is also thrilled to find that Towser can communicate mind to mind with him on his level. Towser explains that he always knew how to communicate and he just lacked the tools to allow him to talk to Fowler. As they explore Jupiter, both realize they cannot go back to being only man and dog.

## Notes 4 and Tale 4 Analysis

In the notes, the Dogs do not like that the dog in the story is a companion, but they relish the fact that once he is transformed he is smarter than humans. This is further proof that the story was written by a dog and confirms that Dogs are the ultimate race.



The fact that there is space travel and transformation makes this tale impossible to be believed. The Dogs feel that they would have discovered space travel by now since humans, who do not come across as being as intelligent as Dogs, have supposedly gone to the stars. Besides, they do not really believe the lights in the sky are planets or stars. According to their scholars, other worlds are a multiple of the same world just at slightly different times, and even though some of them are closed to travel the reason is known and it is not because it is a world like Jupiter. The Dogs believe this tale is a fake and do not see it as an explanation for the lack of humans in their lives.

In tale 4, the fact that nobody returns to the station on Jupiter should have made Fowler fearful and unwilling to continue to send men on the planet, much less himself. Man's unflinching desire to explore and find ways to live on other worlds is what brings about the end of our race, in human form, in the book. When Fowler changes to a Loper, he believes the Loper's have a better life. They live longer and their brains are far superior to the human brain in that they make use of all the brain. They also use all their senses to enjoy life. For instance, the whole body absorbs scents not just the nose, plus their eyes see things a human could never imagine. "A world of beauty that even the dreamers of earth had not yet imagined" (pg116). Being a Loper is so much better than being human so Fowler and Towser do not feel they can go back to being just man and dog. Now he knows why the five men did not come back to the dome.

The one human thing he does feel is guilt about not going back to tell the others about being a Loper. This nagging guilt does have consequences later in the book. Fowler knows that Lopers are so superior, which foreshadows the downfall of the race in human form. People are always looking for something better than what they have, so of course, being a Loper will be desirable to many. This ultimately, almost brings the human race to extinction. Being something more and better is one of the driving forces of most of humanity and when we lose this desire, life is meaningless so we continually strive.



# Notes 5 and Tale 5

## Notes 5 and Tale 5 Summary

The Dog writing the notes for tale five feels the race of man has to be a myth as humanity is too unstable to ever advance to the degree described in some of the tales. Man is too involved in a mechanical society and does not considering other peoples' perspective to really sustain a stable society. Man knows this and that is why mankind wants Juwain's philosophy.

Tale 5 opens on Jupiter where Fowler stares at the Dome where he once lived. He debates going back to the Dome, knowing that he owes it to the human race to explain life as a Loper, but fears being turned back into a human. Trowser tells him to stay on Jupiter and knows that he cannot go back to being a dog, which means Fowler must make the transformation alone.

Fowler is worried that he can never make the human race understand how it feels to live as a Loper but he bravely puts his name in the conversion machine to head back to life as a human. Before entering the conversion room, Trowser makes a desperate plea for him to stay but Fowler knows he must go forward.

Back on earth Tyler Webster, chairman of the World Committee, is holding a press conference. He talks a bit about Venus, Pluto, and even an expedition to Centauri. Tyler also mentions that there have been no murders in the solar system for one hundred twenty -five years. One of the newsmen asks about his son and Tyler talks about the kaleidoscope he has bought for his son, not realizing how important this object will be in the future. Finally, someone questions him about the man that has come back from Jupiter. The chairman refuses to comment even knowing that this will make the press more eager to learn the details.

The Dogs call Tyler to report that Joe, the mutant, has appeared at his house but he figures Jenkins can handle it. The Websters rely on and think of Jenkins as being a Webster even though he is a robot. Jon Culver, the World Security chief, says he is in control of the mutant situation and hopes the mutants have given up harassing normal men, but Tyler thinks that is unlikely.

After Tyler hears Fowler's story about Jupiter, he goes to visit him. He has a dog, Elmer watching Fowler and the dog says he is human but a bit more. The bit more is from the influence of being a Loper for five years. Tyler says he knows Fowler has come to tell of the paradise that is Jupiter and knows that all humans on Earth will want to be a Loper. Tyler protests because he wants humans to stay human and follow their destiny. Tyler and Fowler argue and Fowler says he is going to tell everyone in the world about a Loper's life. The World Committee has no right to deny humanity the knowledge of the wonders of a Loper's life.





Tyler gets a call on his visor from Jenkins who says Joe wants to talk to him. The mutant offers him Juwain's philosophy, but the chairman wants to know the cost and why the offer is coming now and not years before when the mutant first had the information. Webster soon finds out it is another joke on humans when a sign appears in the sky that flashes colors just like a kaleidoscope. This sign reveals Juwain's philosophy and enables people to understand Fowler thus promoting the desire to go to Jupiter. The chairman considers killing Joe and Fowler to try and stop the events that will cause mass migration to Jupiter, but realizes murder is no longer an option in today's world.

## Notes 5 and Tale 5 Analysis

In the notes, Rover says that man has a totally opposite viewpoint from Dogs, which means man may be discussed in the tale to show the contrast between man and Dogs. Man is always seeking something better and that is one reason most leave for Jupiter. Also, man sought Juwain's concept more for fame and learning than for any great desire to comprehend others.

In the tale, Fowler knows that a normal human can never understand many of the feelings and senses of a Jovian Loper, as their brain power is more all encompassing than mans and more powerful than a normal person can ever hope to attain. Mankind will only see the advantages of not having to eat and sleep and the ability to extend their life span thousands of years. Fowler realizes most of humanity will desire to transform to Jovians, as man is always striving to be more and exist beyond their current human limitations.

While thinking of Jenkins taking care of Joe, Tyler proudly contemplates that the Websters have always had a prominent place in the progression of mankind. The deeds may not have always been for the better, such as the failure with regards to Juwain, but at least his family keeps trying to do their best. We have to wonder if the Websters are really concerned with what is best for mankind. Perhaps, it is more that they are on an ego trip and want to feel that their family is first in everything and more powerful than others. Tyler does not realize until later that Juwain's new philosophy will not be beneficial to mankind. The philosophy is actually detrimental because mankind does not want to endure as a race in human form.

Fowler accuses the Websters of causing the loss of too many useful advances for man, such as Juwain's philosophy and working with the mutants for mankind's benefit. He says he will tell the world about Lopers. Meanwhile, Joe's idea of "helping" humanity by giving them the philosophy is what enables man to understand Fowler as he describes Jupiter and Lopers. This knowledge of paradise causes all but five thousand people to leave for Jupiter. There are now fewer people to bother the mutants and it also amuses Joe to hurt man as the mutants never wanted to be associated with mankind.



# Notes 6 and Tale 6

## Notes 6 and Tale 6 Summary

In the notes on six, it is the Dog's opinion that this is an original tale by Dogs. Tigre thinks this tale shows evidence that man did exist at some time but some disaster befell humanity because there is no sign of them in the present world. Rover feels this is just a lesson to show that a culture with no stability, such as man, cannot survive. Bounce's book "The Myth of Man" is mentioned and one big question in it is if man had developed differently, could he not have been as great as Dog?

In tale 6, the dog Ebenezer is chasing a rabbit for fun when a wolf grabs the rabbit and kills it. The Dogs have helped this wolf in the past, so he offers the rabbit to the Dog as a sign of friendship. But then the wolf is so hungry that he takes the bunny and leaves wagging his tail. Ebenezer tells Jenkins about his encounter with the wolf and Jenkins says to try to encourage the friendship with the wolf if he meets him again. After Ebenezer leaves, Jenkins thinks about the benefits of having wolves on the Dogs' side to help watch the wild robots and the mutants.

Ebenezer seems to know that a Webster fixed the dogs throats and eyes and that there are a few men left on earth. He thinks that he should be back listening for cobbles and reading the old books, but would rather be out chasing a rabbit for fun. The Dog does feel guilty about this desire for fun, but he feels their Doggish society has had to develop too fast.

Meanwhile, in Geneva, Jon Webster is in a vault with wheels and dials that was a means of defense a long time ago. He finds the room described in an old map when war was still a possibility. Jon decides to leave the room and go work on the paper he is writing on the development of Geneva. Jon knows he must document current events despite the fact that he feels no one will care about the paper as they are too busy with their aimless hobbies.

Sara, the mother of his son Tom stops by to tell Jon she is going to be put into suspended animation for a few hundred years and dream good dreams. She hopes that things will have changed when she wakes up. Jon says it will not be different unless people take an interest in developing new ideas and have genuine interests again, which does not seem likely.

Jenkins is now guiding the Dogs in North America. Since the Websters no longer have his service, Jon has a new robot he calls Oscar. Oscar tells Jon that North America is not that far away, so he decides to dial Webster House. Jenkins is surprised to hear the buzz on television as no one has called for a thousand years. Jon Webster asks him if he may come to visit and even after being told about an overabundance of Dogs living there, he still decides to go because he is lonely.



Jon is very impressed with the Dogs developing culture. Ebenezer sneaks in to see Jon and they talk about things including cobblies. The Dog heals Jon's warts with his mind's power and this impresses Webster. Later Jenkins tells Jon about the Dogs being psychic and also about them making friends with the other animals. For a thousand years, man has huddled in Geneva and does not know about the Dogs' new society, the wild robots, or what is going on with the mutants. If man should come back to Webster House, they will interfere in the Dogs gentler culture and take over. Jon decides to return to Geneva and fix it so humans can not leave and bother the dogs. Jon also decides to sleep forever.

## Notes 6 and Tale 6 Analysis

In the analysis on the notes, the Dogs think that tale 6 shows a better grasp about ethical matters. Evidently some of the tales do not portray Dog's high standards of morals; therefore, the Dogs assume someone other than a dog has written some of the other tales. The Dogs feel their ethics are much better than the mythical humans' ethics. The question remains as to whether Dogs are really better than humanity or do both races have too high of opinion of themselves? It might have been better if both had continued to develop together as intended when the Dogs were first modified.

In tale 6, when the wolf offers the rabbit to the Dog he is showing that he is grateful for the past aid when he was injured. Hunger is a strong motivator and the wolf knows the dog does not need the rabbit and takes it back. It is encouraging for future relations that this friendship has been formed. The dogs' dream of a brotherhood of animals will come true and it starts here.

The dogs have come back to Webster House in this tale and are trying to carry on the traditions of humanity as they have been told to do by Nathaniel, the first dog, as he was told to do by Grant. They are trying to act like they think man acts. Fortunately, they have their own value system that is better than man and less violent. They do use cows for milk and meat in tale six, so there is still killing of cows. In tale seven we get the impression from the wolf that they now use some kind of a yeast product rather than meat. This seems a hard road to travel for former carnivores.

When Ebenezer tells Jenkins about chasing the rabbit for the fun of the chase, the robot feels badly that there is not more time for this type of activity. After the dog leaves, Jenkins ponders on how quickly their society has had to develop and realizes that there has not been enough emphasis on enjoying life, so he decides he will have to make sure they take more time for play. The robot knows the dogs do not have the mechanical abilities of the humans, but their senses make up for this lack. Their gentle friendliness and desire to do good, as well as their psychic abilities, are what impress Jon Webster enough to try to isolate humanity from the dogs.

Jon Webster is discouraged by the fact that man has made no new advancements in the last thousand years. With so few people left on earth, and most work being done by robots, man has nothing to strive for because everything they need to live comfortably is



readily available. No human has any reason to attempt to achieve anything. Now people just enjoy life and hobbies. Eventually, idle pursuits become boring; so many people are opting to be placed in suspended animation.

Juwain's philosophy ends any quarrels among people. Since struggle is one of the things that help humans' to progress by creating new ideas, Joe really did help grind mankind to a halt by giving the world the philosophy. Religion is obsolete and people live together when they wish instead of for economic or religious reasons, so even a sense of belonging is gone. All of this leads to the total decline of humanity on Earth, which gives dogs the chance to become "man." Jon Webster contributes even more to the situation by closing off Geneva to help the dogs. Unfortunately, it also makes it impossible for the people left in Geneva to travel.



# Notes 7 and Tale 7

## Notes 7 and Tale 7 Summary

In the notes on tale seven, some old text with stories is found and the Dogs feel it may not be written by Dogs. Tigre, the dog feels tale seven is very old and may have been written by humans, which have been all but forgotten by now. Jenkins says the Dogs have been helped to forget man, but the Dog writing these notes says that if this is true, the tales would not still be told today.

In tale seven, a creature from another world has come to earth by saying words in its mind. This creature has come to the Dog's world to hunt. The bear, Bruin and the wolf, Lupus have a discussion about the funny killings, so it is probable the creature from a cobby world that is doing the slaying. Lupus also says Peter helps run a feeding station as is bored with only playing and he is a man not a webster. Bruin says Jenkin's body is seven thousand years old and the Dogs are having a new body made for his birthday as the old one is breaking down too often

Meanwhile Peter is using his knife to fashion a bow and arrow, which is a lost art so he thinks he is doing something new. The wolf watches and Fatso the squirrel asks why Peter wants to throw a stick further, and Peter says for fun. Unfortunately while demonstrating the new bow and arrow, he kills a robin in a tree. When the squirrel says he will tell on Peter, Lupus offers to take care of killing Fatso but Peter says no more killing.

Jenkins sits in Webster house and reflects on the past when he brought Jon Webster's son Peter and his friends to Webster house after Jon encapsulates Geneva, forgetting the kids are outside the city limits hunting in the woods. The robot also realizes with no killing, the animal population will overwhelm the earth's resources. He tells Joshua, the dog a little about the Websters but then changes his mind about revealing all.

Joshua tells Jenkins that they can not travel to the past to find out what legends may be true or false. The worlds pile up on top of each other so a past that may be traveled to, does not exist. Joshua knows that they need other worlds to send animals to because of overpopulation and is trying to figure out how to do this. Finally, he reveals that they suspect a cobby has entered their world and is doing the strange killing.

Fatso appears and tells about Peter killing the bird, so Jenkins decides to have his brain transferred to the new body and go to the mutants for help. He finds the Mutant castle deserted and doors to other worlds and planets inside one large room. He knows that is where the mutants have gone. Jenkins closes the castle door and leaves. On the way back to Webster House, he finds Peter courageously battling a cobby with only his strong, violent emotions since an arrow does not work. As the creature leaves in fright, Jenkins is able to read its mind as to how it travels home and Jenkins decides he has no choice but to take the rest of the humans to a cobby world.



## Notes 7 and Tale 7 Analysis

In the notes, Jenkins does work to wipe the memory of man from Dogs' minds because he wants the Dogs to develop their own culture and save their dignity. Jon Webster contributes to the same goal in tale six. Perhaps we are to conclude that the Dogs would have resorted to the humans' violent ways if man had still been around. Since Dogs are hunters by nature this is probably the case.

In tale seven, Jenkins is promoting the Dogs forgetting humanity. By this tale, man is referred to as websters because the animals are not aware that they are man and that Webster was a family name not a type of creature. When Jenkins starts to tell Joshua about the Websters and the Dogs beginnings, he stops himself in time so he does not traumatize the Dogs with his knowledge. He acts forgetful even though he is not so that Joshua does not realize he is not being told the entire story. The Dogs are very trusting of Jenkins even though they think he may be forgetting things due to his great age.

When Peter tells Fatso he wants to throw the stick for fun, the squirrel says he wonders if websters have good sense. We know they do not think before doing something and when Peter shoots the robin, we see that humans have once again acted without thinking about the consequences and brought about killing. Killing is a thing of the past or it was until Peter's act. Jenkins desire to keep humans away from animals is understandable. It seems that it is wise of Jon Webster to close off Geneva even though not quite all of mankind was contained.

When we read about a being from another world using its mind to transport to Earth, it does seem believable because we know the mutants have telepathy and Lopers have all kinds of powers including telepathy. The cobbly seems to have killed the wolf with emotions and thoughts. The cobbly leaves frightened because of Peter's thoughts of anger and killing, which are even stronger than the cobbly's own thoughts of killing.

The fact that beings can move from one world to another in this manner foreshadows Jenkins finding the doorways in the mutants' home as well as his transporting Peter and his friends to a cobbly world. The robot knows that if he does not totally remove man from Earth, the influence of their violent personality and their desire to impose their will on others will harm all that the Dogs have accomplished as far as the brotherhood of animals. When he takes Peter and his friends to a cobbly world, Jenkins feels that since cobbly's kill, the humans will fit right in. Jenkins fears man may be worse than cobbly's.

When bear and wolf discuss the killings and the bear says if he kills, he eats it. He also says that he no longer hunts because of the Dog's new psychology. From the discussion we get the impression there may be some killing and eating going on but no one will admit it. The wolf also says the yeast food does not taste the same as meat, so we know he has probably eaten meat. This is confirmed when he eats the bird Peter kills and he says that he and Peter could get along as they are so much alike; both are killers. It will take the Dogs' new canon of rules awhile to be totally followed.



# Notes 8 and Tale 8

## Notes 8 and Tale 8 Summary

The notes on tale eight indicate that the Dogs do not believe this story is as well written as the other ones, so perhaps it is not really an old tale passed down but is recently written. There are no humans on the world they inhabit but there is historic basis for this story because there is a closed ant world. The Dogs do not know if the ant world is the original Earth.

In tale eight, Archie the raccoon wants to live his life as his ancestors did rather than as the Dogs now advise. He does not wish to go to an alternate world because of losing the lottery that says which animals stay or go due to the potential overcrowding of Earth. The raccoon picks up a small object that looks like an ant in the grass, which disappears into his fur. When his robot Rufus leaves him to help on a large building, Archie is caught by the Dogs. The building keeps growing even though a hundred years ago it was no bigger than Webster house. It is scary how fast the structure is growing.

The Dog Homer, who represents the other Dogs, decides to visit the wild robot camp to find out what they know about the large structure as all are worried about the rate at which it is growing. Andrew, a robot talks to him and tells him that it is being built by the ants and starts to tell him about a man called Joe. This goes into a discussion of websters, which is what the Dogs now call man. When he tells Homer that man taught them to speak he starts to doubt the truth of anything the robot says. The robot says he deals in facts while the Dogs deal in dreams. Andrew does tell him all about Joe and the ants and he considers this information later and ponders the Dogs' legends verses the robots' legends.

His musing is interrupted by Hezekiah, a robot with the information that Rufus has been caught. When the raccoon is taken before the Homer, he says they would not have caught him if Rufus was still with him. Homer asks Archie if anything unusual happened to Rufus before he left to help the ants build. The raccoon says he fell into an ant hill as the robot is a klutz. Homer suspects the ants are somehow responsible for the robots' desertion and when the ticking ant Archie has caught runs up the robot Hezekial's leg, he is almost certain this is true. In the furor over trying to catch the fake ant, Archie escapes out the window.

Meanwhile, after five thousand years, Jenkins has come home to Webster House and finds Archie there. The raccoon tells Jenkins that the Dogs are having trouble with the ants so Jenkins goes to see Homer. He tells Jenkins that the ants will cover the earth in a thousand years if they keep building at their present rate. Homer knows that they can escape to another world but are sentimentally attached to this one. The Dog explains about the tiny robot ant that is now in Hezekial's brain and says he knows Hezekial will now get the call to help build for the ants. Jenkins agrees to ask Jon Webster about what can be done about the ants.



Jon Webster wonders why he wakes up because he knew he said he wants to sleep forever. Jenkins appears to use telepathy to question Jon. When he tells him about the ant problem, Jon tells him humans poisoned the ants when they became a problem. Jenkins does not care for this solution as killing is not an option in the new peaceful world and decides it is better to lose the current Earth than start killing again.

## Notes 8 and Tale 8 Analysis

In tale eight the reader know that man did exist, but it is obvious the Dogs no longer live on the original earth and have gone to this planet to escape the ants. There is no way of proving or disproving the tale that the ant planet is the world the Dogs are originally from. It is not safe to go to the ant world to see if there is a Webster House or people asleep in Geneva.

By tale eight, we are getting the idea that the earth is now a peaceful paradise and all is well with the new society. Archie the raccoon disproves this theory as he is not happy with the Dogs lottery and does not want to go to another world. We have to wonder if all is as well in this new society as it first appears.

When Homer goes to question the robot Andrew, his information on the ants makes us suspect that the ants are going to be a serious problem. Homer is also very confused with the information that a human helped the Dogs to speak as he always thought they developed on their own. He is naturally upset but seems to prioritize and realize the solution to the ant problem must come first, before he does in depth thinking on his origins. Homer does realize after what Andrew says, that Dogs think differently from man and are more creative and less mechanical.

When the ant from the captured raccoon jumps on Hezekial, Homer's comments help us realize he is a very smart Dog and seems to be capable of understanding cause and effect. At this point we realize the ants are going to be a very big problem.

Jon Webster has been asleep in Geneva for ten thousand years and it is amazing to think that Jenkins can wake him and question him and then let him go back to sleep. Apparently Jenkins has developed telepathy over the last five thousand years as one of his many new talents.

Jon feels life has no purpose and decides to sleep forever rather than just for a limited time as did Sara. Even though Jenkins feels humanity is so violent, people go into suspended animation rather than killing themselves or each other in this story. Perhaps there is yet some small hope for mankind.

Jenkins decides not to inform Homer of Jon's solution of poisoning the ants. We have to wonder if he fears the Dogs may utilize this method of handling the ants. The robot has always been upset about mans' violent nature and maybe he feels even the animals have this trait lurking beneath the surface and does not really want to find out. We do have to wonder if the Dogs would have killed the ants because after all, Dogs, wolves, and other animals were originally hunters and killed for food.





# Characters

## Jenkins

Jenkins is a robot who is introduced in tale two but plays a major part in several other tales as well. He is one of the unifying elements in many of the tales. He is the robot who serves the Webster family, even when better models of robots are made. Jenkins is considered a Webster by the Websters because they love him. When Jerome Webster discovers that he has agoraphobia and decides he must go to Mars despite his issues, Jenkins takes the decision out of his hands by sending the ship home. This is the first time we see how Jenkins' decisions play a pivotal role in deciding someone's fate.

When the Websters move to Geneva, Jenkins stays with the Webster's dogs and takes care of them. In tale six, he has the Dogs listen for cobblies, spy on the mutants and wild robots, and try to make friends with other creatures such as wolves. In tale seven, Jenkins takes care of the problem of Peter killing a bird by taking the rest of the humans, who are awake in North America, to one of the Cobbly worlds. He does not want any more killing to occur on Earth. Once again, the reader sees Jenkins making decisions about what is best for the dogs and for the remaining humans.

Jenkins feels that man is a violent race and even when we try to be peaceful, violence wins out in the end. In tale seven he says man is a vicious race that takes out anything in its way.

In tale eight, Jenkins wants to help the dog, Homer with the ant problem. Here again, when he asks Jon Webster what the humans did about controlling ants, Jon's answer is that they poisoned them. Of course, Jenkins does not want to introduce killing back into the world, so he feels it is better to lose the world to the ants. A robot makes the final decision about the fate of Earth without the help of the humans or the dogs. The Webster family is blamed and congratulated for their accomplishments but many of the decisions are actually made by Jenkins. We realize both the humans and Jenkins change the world and influence the Dogs.

## Jerome A. Webster

Jerome A. Webster is the fifth Webster who wrote a book called *Martian Physiology, With Especial Reference to the Brain*. He is a well-known surgeon and when he is young he visits Mars. He is now friends with Juwain, a famous Martian philosopher because of his stay on the planet. Jerome stays in touch with Juwain when he returns to earth and talks to him on the dial machine on his desk.

Jerome does not use his medical abilities and only writes papers that he knows will never be published. The changes in society and communication make the older generation very segregated from any interaction in society. Jerome is used to staying on the Webster property and being taken care of by robots. Once you are older you



communicate through dialed machines and the younger generation is the only one that travels, and the only one expected to work.

When Jerome is at the space field to see his son off to Mars, he realizes he has agoraphobia, a fear of open spaces. Jenkins also tells him that his father had the same issues. The problem with isolating the older generation on their property, and expecting the younger to travel and make changes to the world, creates a fear in the stagnant generation of leaving everything they know.

Webster is called to help Juwain when he needs brain surgery. Jerome finds it hard to leave home to go to Mars to perform the operation even though the Martian is one of his good friends. He may have worked up the courage but when the ship arrives for him, Jenkins tells the pilot Jerome never leaves Webster house and sends the pilot away. Because of this, Jerome's claim to fame is letting the great Martian philosopher die and this shame is with his family for centuries. This disgrace affects each of the following generations of Websters and may be one of the main causes of the Dogs becoming the dominant race and human beings becoming extinct.

## Joe

Joe is the wild card Grant is looking for in the third tale to help complete Juwain's philosophy. Joe tells Grant that he understands the philosophy and could explain it to humans but refuses to at the time.

The mutant thinks differently than normal humans and is telepathic. The Dogs spy on him and the other mutants for the Websters. Joe knows about the spying but he is not bothered it. He finds life amusing and prefers to be alone doing his own thing in his own way. Joe fixes Grant's gun and helps Thomas with the spaceship design problem but it is more because it is amusing than for any real desire to help. Joe seems to like to show how much smarter he is than a normal human.

Joe eventually shows humans the theory of Juwain's philosophy at a time when it has the most impact on humans. The result is that most people leave Earth for Jupiter without any protest from the remaining few.

Joe also changes the way that ants develop. He provides them with food and a dome that protects them from the elements. The ants no longer have to hibernate and proceed to develop at a rapid rate. Joe's interference in the fate of the ants eventually leads to the downfall of Earth when the ants expand, destroying everything in their path.

Joe helps change the Earth through his interference in the lives of the humans and the ants' evolution. He does everything for his amusement and to relieve boredom because there is a lack of anything more interesting on which to use his great intelligence. Eventually the mutants migrate to other worlds and other planets through doorways they invent. The reader wonders what mischief they cause there.



## Bruce Webster

Bruce Webster is the seventh Webster and is the one who fixes the Dogs throats so that they are able to talk. When talking to Grant, Bruce tells him why he fixes dogs throats to be able to talk. He feels Dogs are a feeling, thinking creature and if they have speech and hands they will develop a culture of their own.

While the dogs do not have hands, they have robots to perform certain tasks. Now that they have speech, they communicate their thoughts to man. The first few dogs find it difficult to pronounce the words needed to communicate well with man because their thought patterns are different than humans. Eventually, Bruce plans to create special contacts that will allow them to read as well.

Bruce makes these alterations to dogs because he feels bad that his grandfather, Jerome let Juwain die without at least trying to save him. He hopes that the Dogs will be able to come up with an alternate way of thinking that will help make up for the loss of the Martian's new philosophy that was supposed to advance mankind.

## Jon Webster

Jon Webster is one of the few remaining humans on Earth who does not leave to become a Loper on Jupiter. He lives in Geneva and is writing a book, which he feels no one will ever read. The five thousand humans left are not interested in anything but their hobbies and pleasure. Work is now being done by robots so thinking is not needed.

Jon is the one who finds the defense switch in the vault underground. After visiting Jenkins and the dogs in North America, he decides to pull the switch to keep the humans confined, thus giving the dogs the freedom to develop on their own. Unfortunately, he does not think of his son and his friends that are out in the country. Since the dome only covers Geneva, the young people are still free.

Jon decides to take the long sleep like Sara, his son's mother. However, he tells the Temple robots he wants to sleep forever with no dreams. In tale eight, Jenkins briefly wakes him to ask him the solution to controlling the ants. Jon recommends poisoning the ants and then goes back to sleep.

## John J. Webster

John J. Webster is the first Webster and the first to declare that the City is a dead concept and place. He tells the members of the Chamber of Commerce, especially the head alderman, King that they are really an unnecessary organization now because people are leaving the City in droves.

John objects to the houses that the squatters live in being burned because he knows that nobody will care about cities in the future or who lives in abandoned houses. When



King fires him, John Webster moves to the country where he builds the first unit of Webster house, which endures down through the centuries. John is the first Webster to stand up for what he believes in and is the first to make an attempt to change the world by denouncing cities and working for the Bureau of Human Adjustment to help others accept the loss of cities.

## Thomas Webster

Thomas Webster is the sixth Webster and is twenty years old in tale 2. He goes to Mars and plans on meeting Juwain. Thomas works on a design to make a spaceship that will have the speed needed to go interstellar.

In tale 3, he tells Grant about his design having something missing and being stumped. Along comes the mutant Joe who shows him where his mistake is and then leaves without letting Thomas say a word of thanks. Because of his work, Humans can now travel quickly from place to place, in space, and even travel beyond our solar system to places like Centauri. The ability to travel enables people to populate planets like Jupiter, which eventually leads to most humans leaving Earth and becoming Lopers on Jupiter.

## Tyler Webster

Tyler Webster is the chairman of the World Committee in Geneva. He tries to get Fowler not to tell the people about how wonderful Jupiter is because he knows everyone will want to go there. The mutant, Joe contacts Tyler by visor in Geneva and offers him Juwain's philosophy. Tyler looks through a kaleidoscope and realizes what the philosophy is all about. For one hundred twenty-five years man has not killed another, but Tyler thinks of it twice; once in regard to the mutants and once in regard to Fowler. Even after all this span of time, humans still think of violence first to solve a problem.

## Kent Fowler

Kent Fowler is the head of Dome #3, Jovian Survey Commission on Jupiter. Towser is his dog. When Fowler has himself converted to a Jovian Loper, he has Towser converted as well. They both like being Lopers so much that they do not want to be turned back to human and dog. It takes him five years before he feels guilty enough to go back to explain why people do not return after being changed to Lopers. When he tells the public how wonderful being a Loper is, there is a mass exodus for Jupiter.

## Richard Grant

Richard Grant is a census taker. He meets Joe, who fixes his gun, and takes the Martian papers from him. Richard is the first to understand what Joe has done with the ants. When he first arrives at Webster house, he encounters Nathaniel who is the first talking Dog. He is surprised about the talking animals until he remembers rumors of



Bruce operating on Dogs. He talks to Thomas and Bruce Webster, which helps him comprehend how past events are changing the future. Grants main purpose seems to be to describe past events as well as track current events. One critical thing he does is tell Nathaniel the Dogs must carry on the humans' dreams even if they have to pretend to be man

## Oscar

Oscar is a robot that serves the Websters in Geneva because Jenkins is with the Dogs in North America. When Jon Webster tells him the painting by Sara is Webster House, which is in North America, Oscar says that is not that far. Jon thinks about his roots because of Oscar's statement and this leads him to visit Webster House.

## Nelson F. Webster

Nelson F. Webster is the fourth Webster who died at the beginning of tale 2. At the funeral, there were very few people outside of the family unit. His son Jerome, realizes that he has infrequent visitors and rarely sees anyone come or go on the Webster property.

## Tige

Tige is a dog that thinks the tales are true and is one of the few dogs who believes the tales speak the truth. He regards Jenkins as the hero of the legends.

## Nathaniel

Nathaniel is a dog in tale three who talks to Grant and promises to remember to pass down to other dogs the stories of man and the way they were in the past. Grant is afraid humans will become like the mutants. He also says that if humans change, the dogs must pretend to be man. Nathaniel passes the advice to future generations and is considered the first Dog by future generations of dogs.

## Rover

Rover is a dog who believes the tales may be a satire.

## Bounce

Bounce the dog is mentioned in the notes for two as not believing man invented the robots. In the notes for six, he is credited with writing a book called "The Myth of Man" where he wonders if man had taken a different path would he have been as great as



dog (pg 166). The dogs by tale six are not sure if man ever really existed. The few humans that are described in the tales are considered Gods by the Dogs.

## Trowser

Trowser is Fowler's dog on Jupiter that stays a Loper. The notes on four say that once he is made a Loper his mind is the equal of a human.

## Ebenzer

Ebenzer is a Dog that chases a rabbit for sport but is quite upset when a wolf kills the rabbit for dinner. The Dogs do not hunt to kill for food anymore, but instead raise cows for meat and milk as well as grow grain for dog biscuits. Most dogs now have a robot companion to be their hands and we meet Shadow, Ebenzer's robot in this tale.

Ebenzer says that man is the one who gave the dogs the ability to speak and eye contacts to enable them to read. He is quite philosophical and feels that dogs have had to evolve too fast compared to men. He heals Jon Webster's warts and apparently is a psychic as are all the dogs. Dogs also sense cobblies in the walls (things from another dimension or world) and ghosts.

## Homer

Homer is a Dog that talks to the robot Andrews. Homer finds out from the robot that the Dogs were taught to speak by humans, which at first he does not believe. He decides it does not matter who was first, man or Dog. All that matters is that this place is home and he does not want to be chased off by the ants. When Jenkins comes back, Homer asks for help with the ants.

## Archie

Archie is a raccoon who does not want to follow the Dog's ways. His robot gets the call to work on the ant house. When, Archie is captured without his robot, he explains to Homer that his robot, Rufus was called to work with the ants. Archie has what he thinks is a flea in his hair, which gets on the robot Hezekiah. Homer realizes it is a robot ant but it is too late to keep Hezekiah from being controlled by the ants.

## Dave Baxter

Dave Baxter tells Grant that Joe fixes things for his family. Dave calls Joe a crazy fellow who just leaves without being thanked for fixing things. Dave says he did it when his grand-pappy was young too, so we know Joe stays young-looking for a long time while



others around him age. He also tells Grant about Joe building a greenhouse over an anthill and heating it in winter.

## Gramp Stevens

Gramp Stevens is father-in law to John Webster. He has a lot to say about everything including the radio "twitch noise" his "dadburn" grandson, Charles F. Webster, listens to. Gramps does not care for new "fangled" things such as the family robot mower that does not need to be pushed. He helps Adams see that the houses should not be burned and is generally a very outspoken person with an opinion on everything.

## Ole Johnson

Ole Johnson is a farmer who keeps an old car running despite the fact that automobiles have become obsolete. He is unable to sell his crops at market because people say hydroponic gardening is better because the produce is bigger and tastier. At the end of the tale he has decided to turn his farm into a "dude" farm.

## Mr. Taylor

Mr. Taylor offers John Webster a job on the World Committee adjusting people, which is what the committee does on the sly.

## Levi Lewis

Levi Lewis is a former farmer that lives in one of the houses that the chief wants to burn down to get rid of the undesirable squatters. He hunts wildlife for food. Levi says tank farming has run the farmers off their land and the chief is not going to run them out of the houses without a fight. They will stand their ground this time.

## Forrest King

Forrest King is alderman of the Chamber of Commerce. He wants to burn down the abandoned houses to get rid of the squatters. Most of the squatters are farmers who have been replaced by hydroponic gardening.

## Henry Adams

Henry Adams comes to the City to see where his grandfather lived. He ends up buying the old houses to prevent them from being burnt down by the Chamber of Commerce. Adams says he plans to preserve them by making them into a memorial. He hopes that when the current way of life is gone, people can tour the houses just like they would a



museum. Gramp Stevens encourages him to buy the houses. Henry has lots of money because his granddad was one of the founders of atomic power, which now is the main power source for the world.

## **Henderson**

Henderson is president of the World Committee and calls Jerome to try to get him to go to Mars to operate on Juwain.

## **Claybourne**

Claybourne is a gray-haired man with sad eyes who is a doctor that knows Jerome from Mars, and is still on Mars. He tells Jerome that he is the only one capable of doing the surgery on Juwain.





# Objects/Places

## City

The city is a cluster of empty houses with a few remaining bureaucrats holding onto the old idea of people living together. Cities are declining as man is now self-sufficient and able to live in the country due to advances such as atomic power, hydroponics, and improved transportation and communications.

## Earth

The planet Earth is where Dogs eventually become the dominant species and in the end, the ants begin to take over.

## Robot Mower

This is the first item in tale one that gives us a clue that this is an advanced version of Earth.

## Ole's Obsolete Car

Ole, a farmer in tale one, keeps an old gasoline powered car running even though the main mode of transportation is atomic powered helicopters.

## Robots

Jenkins is one of the first robots made to serve mankind and is around 12,000 years old by tale eight. Robots become so common that the Dogs and other animals each have one to help because animals do not have hands.

## Space Field

The space field is where Jerome Webster goes to see his son off to Mars and where he realizes he has agoraphobia.

## Webster House

The Webster home is started by the original John J. Webster, which becomes the huddling place for the Websters' and eventually the Dogs.



## **Cobbly Worlds**

This is an alternate world to Earth, which may even be another dimension or just another time line.

## **Jupiter**

The planet where most of Earth's population migrates to and live as Jovian Lopers.

## **Mars**

The planet Mars is where some of mankind lives with the Martians. This is where Juwain, the philosopher lives.

## **Geneva**

The city of Geneva where Jon Webster and most of the last five thousand humans now live. By the end of the novel these people have gone into hibernation mostly due to boredom.

## **The Vault**

Jon Webster finds the wheel in the vault room that enables him to encapsulate Geneva so that mankind is unable to bother the evolving Dogs.

## **Dial-in Room**

This room is where mankind communicates with others. It is more than a phone, almost like a very sophisticated computer even more advanced than our computers. The whole room becomes a hologram so that man can watch scenes of other places and see people as they talk. Jerome Webster used this to talk with Juwain on Mars.

## **Kaleidoscope**

An optical device that contains mirrors and chips of glass that display a variety of symmetrical, multi-colored forms as it rotates. The mutant Joe uses this device to demonstrate to humanity Juwain's philosophy.



## **Atomic-Powered Helicopter**

The development of atomic power allows humanity to travel cheaply and easily so they no longer have to be close to everything.

## **Robot Ants**

The ants evolve to the point of making small robot ants that can control the minds of the big robots so they are able to get the robots to build massive structures for the ants.

## **Peter's Bow and Arrow**

Peter reinvents the bow and arrow and kills a bird, which shows Jenkins that humans are still a violent race even after all this time.



# Themes

## Decline of the City & Depopulation

The decline of the City is one of the main themes in this novel. Many reasons contribute to this decline. Foremost is the threat of an atom bomb being dropped, which makes people move to the country so that less people will die if a nuclear war does happen. With the development of the family helicopter that is run by atomic power, people no longer have to live near their jobs. Atomic energy makes it reasonable to live where you want, as well as build a house that is self-sufficient.

Robots also do much of the work as far as service jobs, so man is becoming able to do as he pleases. Advanced communications also let humans contact anyone, anywhere without even going there. Considering this novel was written in the 1950s, it almost seems as if Simak anticipated what the computer was going to be like and how much it would influence the world. Tyler was even able to talk to and see Juwain on Mars as if he was right in the room with him. If you can see anyone, anyplace that you wish without being there, then why would you not opt for living in the peaceful countryside.

Hydroponic farms also make it possible for people to have food that does not have to be transported, so man is able to lead a self-sufficient life on his property without needing others. That is one reason that the Webster house becomes a refuge that the residents do not like to leave. Even when they do leave, such as when Thomas Webster goes to Mars, they always come back and tend to stay there until they die.

Space travel also contributes to not only the decline of cities, but also to the depopulation of the world. Other planets are very attractive to man, especially Jupiter, so Earth loses more of its population to space as well. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence and man always wants something more and better than his current situation.

## Violence of Mankind

The violence and aggressiveness of man is also an important theme throughout this novel. This was written right after WWII and shows Simak's disillusion due to the war and his disenchantment with humanity. He also feels nuclear warfare is a real threat to peace due to the brutality of man, thus his creation of talking, thinking Dogs and the robots that help create a better, less violent world than that created by humanity.

In tale five, Paradise, Tyler Webster's first thought on how to handle the problem of Joe, the mutant, and of Fowler, when he returns to tell of wonderful Jupiter, is violence. At the end of the tale, he even gets a gun out of his desk to shot Fowler but at that point, there has been no killing for one hundred twenty-five years so he does resist the urge.



In tale seven, Jenkins takes Peter and his friends to another world when Peter reinvents the bow and arrow and kills a bird, much to the shock of his animal companions. Jenkins feels that if he does not remove the destructive humans' influence, the Dogs will learn bad habits and may not be able to resist killing as well. He takes the humans to a cobbly world and when he leaves them there, he is more worried about the cobblies than the humans. By tale seven, there has been no murder committed for a very long time but obviously the violence was simmering just beneath the surface. Even in tale eight, when Jenkins asks Jon Webster for help with the ant problem, Jon's answer is to poison them, which does not really surprise the robot since he knows of man's violent tendencies.

## Evolution and Mutation

Simak feels man will never be a truly peaceful race, which is why he has a human create a new mutant species of dogs. The character Bruce Webster fixes Dogs throats so that they may speak. The robots are given to them to serve as the dog's hands, as it is hard to create and advance without hands. The development of special contacts allows the dogs to read as well. The dogs evolve throughout the tales. We find they have psychic abilities that enables them sense other worlds and cobblies, which are creatures in some of the other worlds. In tale six, Ebenezer tells Jon Webster all about listening for cobblies in the walls and Jon realizes the Dogs can sense other dimensions. Perhaps when our dog barks in the night and we are not able to figure out why, he is hearing something we humans are unable to detect, or maybe he just likes to bark.

When Ebenezer heals the warts on Jon Webster's hand in tale six, we realize some Dogs have other powers as well. Jon wants to give the Dogs' society more chance to evolve as it seems they are building a better culture than humanity. Webster uses already existing technology to enclose Geneva to keep the humans confined, as he feels they will give Dogs the wrong kind of leadership.

Some humans evolve or mutate as well. Mainly we read about Joe, but it is implied that there are other mutants as well. These people develop a new way of thinking. They are also telepathic. In tale seven, Jenkins goes to the mutants' home and discovers they have been gone for a long time. When he opens a door in their home, he finds another world with a blue sun so he knows the mutants have advanced even more than he knew. Jenkins thinks they are exceptionally intelligent. Joe did help people with problems but it was more for his amusement than a desire to help. He was laughing at humanity and their foibles all the time. When the mutants no longer find humanity amusing they leave for other worlds, so they will have new amusing or interesting things to challenge their intellect.

Joe also helped the ants evolve as something different to do. He heats the hill and gives them food because hibernation each year keeps them from advancing. He also gives them several little carts for hauling. He tells Grant it took the ants ten years to figure out the purpose of the carts. The ants even make smokestacks so they can heat their hill.



He then kicks at the hill with his boot because they no longer amuse him and this inspires the ants to strive harder. In tale eight, they have even made ant size robots to control the minds of full size robots and have the robots building a huge building over their hill. This is why Jenkins worries they will take over the earth.

# Style

## Point of View

This book is written in the third person, which makes everyone's viewpoint and thoughts known. Descriptive passages are simple and easy to understand but get the point across well. There is some dialog between characters, which helps convey multiple points of view. The dialog enables the reader to see that the Dogs have small, simple vocabularies because their tongues have trouble saying certain words that are hard to pronounce. Even the wolves, bears, and squirrels have conversations in later tales. The conversations show their personalities more than if Simak had just described their attitudes and thoughts.

The robot Jenkins makes quite a few observations and has a great deal of self-reflection about the state of the current world. We do not generally think of a robot as having his own thoughts and feelings, but Simak makes Jenkins seem human, without the violent tendencies. Jenkins helps subtly guide the Dogs and later in the book, the robot even takes more aggressive behavior in getting rid of the last humans in North America by taking them to another world. When Jenkins gets a new robot body, his whole character changes and he is a more omniscient robot. The change in Jenkins personality allows Simak to make events in his tales go quicker and fewer tales are needed to bring the novel to a conclusion. The ending leaves the reader with the impression that the ants will eventually take over the world. The depressing state in which the world continually finds itself at each evolutionary step helps show Simak's dissatisfaction with the world at the time he wrote this book.

This book is interesting to read and even though humanity does not show to good advantage, the Dogs leave you with a warm, fuzzy feeling, especially if you are a Dog lover. In the author's forward, Simak says it was written out of disillusion due to the war and it does show in his disenchantment with humanity. He also felt nuclear warfare was a real threat to peace due to the brutality of man, thus his creation of talking, thinking Dogs and robots that help make a better, less violent world than that created by humanity.

## Setting

Tales 1 through 3 take place on Earth. This Earth develops differently than ours. People are moving to the country due to fear of a nuclear attack and because it is a nicer place to live. With the advent of atomic power, everyone uses planes and helicopters to travel to work or communicate through sophisticated devices that simulate being in a location, which means people no longer need to live in cities.



Tale 4 takes place on Jupiter. Man is living in a dome because it is difficult to live on the planet's surface without their bodies being genetically altered to the Loper, which is the intelligent life form on Jupiter.

The first two pages of tale 5 take place on Jupiter where Fowler decides to go back to Earth to tell the people how wonderful it is to be a Loper. The remainder of five takes place on earth where Tyler Webster tries to stop Fowler from spreading this joyful news because he knows there will be a mass exodus from Earth to Jupiter.

In tale 6 most of the five thousand humans that have not gone to Jupiter or other planets now live in Geneva on Earth. Jon Webster turns a wheel in a vault that isolates Geneva from the rest of the world so that the Dogs in North America can develop their own society without interference from man.

Tale 7 is on Earth; however, a cobbly has come from a different world to hunt on Earth. Peter, a human, sends the cobbly back to his own world with all his human thoughts of violence and hatred. Afraid of the violence, the robot Jenkins goes to find the mutants to ask them for help. Jenkins discovers that the human mutants have left earth through doors they created to other worlds. There is very little said of these worlds as he only opens one door onto a desert with a Blue sun and since Jenkins closes the door again and leaves these worlds, they are not important as a setting. In the future, these places may be important if anyone else needs to escape Earth.

Tale 8 also takes place on Earth. The ants are becoming a problem so Jenkins tries to find a solution but due to his abhorrence of violence, the reader knows from the notes that Jenkins takes the dogs and leaves earth before he resorts to killing the ants as Jon Webster advises.

## Language and Meaning

Simak's writing manages to get his point across without long tales and without a lot of description. He describes events and people but does it in such a manner that we get the idea without huge narratives. For instance, Tigre, the dog in the first chapter's notes says the first tale could not tell the whole story of the collapse of a society, so it must be only one account from what used to be many stories, and maybe only a minor tale at that. Since the tales are passed down by the Dogs some of the stories may be lost. The first tale does get across the idea of the basic collapse and reasons for the failure of Cities in only 16 pages, which is amazing.

The fact that much of the narrative and a lot of the dialog in the tales concentrates on one main family and the dogs helps with the conciseness of the book. There are some terms and words that modern readers may not know as this was written in the fifties, such as dadburn and lighting out, which are rarely used in current speech or writing. There are plenty of vocabulary words that the normal reader may not know. The language is a little different from the modern novel but it is still an interesting book. The difference in writing style does not detract from the reader's ability to understand the





tales and the lack of descriptive passages make the tales quick to read and help move the story along.

Simak does develop the personality of the characters fairly quickly although he does not provide many descriptions of physical characteristics and instead he describes how they act and what they say. For instance, Gramp Stevens says he is getting old and feeble but there was never a lot of physical attributes describing Gramps. Another example of the lack of physical attributes is the description of the first dog Nathaniel. When Nathaniel appeared to Grant, his tail was wagging and his eyes were full of fun but Simak does not say the type of dog, the color, or the size.

Simak does a good job building the characters of the main players and also sets the mood of a declining population and the cause. The tone of the book is somewhat depressing and was probably especially so at the time it was written. During the '50s, people were remembering the war and were worried about the atom bomb being dropped and causing a major atomic war.

## Structure

This novel is comprised of 8 tales told by the Dogs when they get together for story telling as a group. The pups generally ask questions about the tales and there are not always answers. Each tale is preceded by notes written by a Dog with opinions of other Dogs mentioned, such as Tigre, Rover, Bounce and others.

Each tale's name foreshadows some event in the tale. The tales are tied together by some event, place, or character that is discussed in each tale. Large amounts of time pass between most of the tales and the whole book spans a period of twelve thousand years. Jenkins, the robot is almost as old as the time span in the tales and brings constancy to the whole book.

The main plot of this novel is the decline of mankind with the ascending of the Dogs to take mans' place in the world. The invention of robots contributes to both events. Part of the reason man declines is because robots do their work and part of the reason Dogs advance despite their lack of hands is due to their robot's help. Also the Dogs do not exhibit the violence that has contributed to man's decline.

The first tale, called City is 16 pages long and told simply as are all the tales. The name does foreshadow what is discussed in the tale. This tale describes the decline of a city and no Dogs are mentioned in this tale. In the notes, Tigre says that this tale can not possibly tell all about the disintegration of a City, as well as a culture of such magnitude as that of mans. Of course the tale does not explain all, but it does give the reader the general idea of why cities are declining. John J. Webster, the first Webster, is introduced in this tale. He is the one who builds Webster House, which is mentioned in a number of the tales and helps tie them together. This story is depressing as it does not hold out much hope for mankind.



Tale 2 called Huddling Place, is 11 pages long and is about the huddling place of man, particularly one human, Jerome A. Webster, the fifth Webster. Now that man has left the Cities, their "huddling place" is rural areas where man lives and is not inclined to leave. Jenkins the robot is also introduced in the tale. He is in many of the tales and is another transition character that helps the tales flow together.

Tale 3, Census, is 16 pages and is about Grant, a census taker who basically minds everyone else's business. This story introduces the talking dogs and the mutant Joe. This tale is a bit more upbeat as we feel there may be hope for the Dogs even though man is declining.

Tale 4, Desertion, is only 7 pages. It takes place on Jupiter and shows little hope for man as a species. The life of a Loper is too appealing, so this tale foreshadows mans' demise.

Tale 5, Paradise, which is 14 pages, is about spectacular Jupiter. Fowler tells the public about Lopers and how wonderful their life is in the paradise that is Jupiter. This causes the Earth to be further depopulated by people leaving for that planet. Tyler Webster almost decides to shoot Fowler to stop him telling others about Jupiter, but decides there have been no murders for one hundred twenty-five years and he should not ruin this trend. This lack of killing is one upbeat part of this tale.

Tale 6, Hobbies, which is 21 pages, is about man no longer striving to learn or create so mankind has become stagnant. He only wants to do his hobbies and pursue pleasure. Jon Webster feels the Dogs need their chance to do better than humanity, so he pulls the lever in the vault sealing away the remaining five thousand people in Geneva. Thus, there is hope for the Dogs to develop their own society. This is a downbeat tale for humans, but upbeat for Dogs.

Tale 7, Aesop, is 19 pages. The notes on this tale indicate that it must be a fable as the whole tale is strange to the Dogs. Peter is introduced and invents a bow and arrow that he uses to kill a robin. Peter's violent nature also scares a cobble that came from another world into fleeing back to his home. Jenkins finally takes the initiative in this tale to do something about the violence of the humans. The violence is a continuing theme that is carried on in many of the tales, and it is generally Jenkins who bemoans humans' bad traits.

Tale 8 is 14 pages and called The Simple Way. In the notes, the Dogs feel this tale is too pat in that it ties all the other tales together. Simak does do that in this tale but he does leave the Dogs fate somewhat up in the air in relation to the ant problem.



## Quotes

"There is no doubt that, of all the tales, the first is the most difficult for the casual reader. Not only is its nomenclature trying, but its logic and its ideas seem, at first reading, to be entirely alien." Tale 1, City, p. 9

"But the fact that they could buy a house twice as good for half as much, the fact that they could live as they wished to live, that they could develop what amounts to family estates after the best tradition set them by the wealthy of a generation ago—all these things outweighed the leaving of their homes." Tale 1, City, p. 26

"It was decided, rightly or wrongly, that progress should come first, regardless of its effect upon the people." Tale 1, City, p. 32

"Numbly, Jerome A. Webster wondered if they understood—if they understood life and death—if they understood what it meant that Nelson F. Webster lay there in a casket, that a man with a book intoned words above him." Tale 2, City, p. 46

"There was a fancy word for it—agoraphobia, the morbid dread of being in the midst of open spaces—from the Greek root for the fear—literally, of the market place." Tale 2, City, p. 57

"An enumerator is someone who counts people," Grant explained. "I'm taking a census." Tale 3, City, p. 69

"Juwain, the Martian philosopher, had died, on the eve of a great discovery, because Jerome A. Webster couldn't leave this house, because agoraphobia chained him to a plot a few miles square." Tale 3, City, p. 82

"Them ants had carts and there was chimneys coming out of the hill and smoke comin' from the chimneys." Tale 3, City, p. 91

"Look Nathaniel. Men may not always be the way they are today. They may change. And if they do, you have to carry on; you have to take the dream and keep it going. You'll have to pretend that you are men." Tale 3, City, p. 101

"Maybe the brains of Earth things naturally are slow and foggy. Maybe we are the morons of the universe. Maybe we are fixed so we have to do things the hard way." Tale 4, City, p. 115

"We got a lot to do and a lot to see," said Towser. "We got a lot to learn. We'll find things —" Tale 4, City, p. 116

"Man's inability to understand and appreciate the thought and the viewpoint of another man would be a stumbling block which no amount of mechanical ability could overcome." Tale 5, City, p. 117



"His brain wrenched with a sudden sickness and the color burned itself into his mind in a single flare of soul-twisting torture." Tale 5, City, p. 138

"For one hundred twenty-five years no man had killed another-for more than a thousand years killing had been obsolete as a factor in the determination of human affairs." Tale 5, City, p. 144

"If Man had taken a different path, might he not, in time to come, have been as great as dog?" Tale 6, City, p. 146

"The dogs had come home when the men had gone, come from the four corners of the earth back to the place where the first dog had spoken the first word, where the first dog had read the first line of print-back to Webster House where a man, long ago, had dreamed of a dual civilization, of man and dog going down the ages, hand in paw." Tale 6, City, p. 150

"Man gave up trying. Man enjoyed himself. Human achievement became a zero factor and human life a senseless paradise." Tale 6, City, p. 163

"The dogs had to have their chance. Had to be left unhampered to try for success where the human race had failed." Tale 6, City, p. 187

"Man never thought of one great animal society, never dreamed of skunk and coon and bear going down the road of life together, planning with one another, helping one another-setting aside all differences." Tale 7, City, p. 200

"Man has a way with him-a very vicious way. A way of dealing with anything that stands in his path." Tale 7, City, p. 225

"In Geneva, Jon Webster rounded out his ten-thousandth year of suspended animation and slept on, not stirring. In the street outside, a wandering breeze rustled the leaves along the boulevard , but no one heard and no one saw." Tale 8, City, p. 227

"We have our legend of the rise of the brotherhood of Beasts and the wild robots have their legend of the fall of man. At this date, who is there to tell which of the two is right?" Tale 8, City, p. 241

"I stood by the Webster dogs when the race of men had gone and finally I took the last bothersome survivors of that madcap race into another world to clear the way for Dogs ... so that the Dogs could fashion the Earth in the way they planned." Tale 8, City, p. 248



## Topics for Discussion

What are two reasons why cities are being abandoned? Is this happening in our world? If so why? Why do the Dogs consider a city an impossible concept?

Why do the people come to depend so much on robots? Why do you think some Dogs prefer Jenkins and other robots over man? Do you think we would come to depend on robots to such an extent in our world if someone made such intelligent robots? Would you like a robot to do all your work and why or why not?

Do you feel the idea of man ever going to Mars and living there is a possibility? How long do you think it would be before this could happen? Would you like to live on Mars? Why do you think it was so popular to visit Mars in this novel?

What is agoraphobia? Do you think you would let a fear like this stop you from helping a friend? Would you feel guilt the rest of your life if it did?

What is a census? Have you ever had anyone taking a census come to your door? How did Grant take the census in his world? How do we do census taking in current times and why?

How do the Dogs in this book differ from real Dogs? Do you feel Dogs are psychic and we do not know it because they are unable to talk? Why are Dogs so important to man? Do you think we would be happier if dogs could talk? Why or why not?

After Fowler told humans about Jupiter, most people left earth. Do you think we would mass migrate and leave earth? Are we really attached to earth or is it a case of the grass being greener on the other side of the fence? Would you leave and why?

Jenkins feels humans are a violent race. Do you think this is true of only some humans or do you feel we all have violence simmering just beneath the surface? Why or why not?

Some people talk about their great desire for peace. Do you think a peaceful world is even remotely possible? Do you think a perfectly peaceful world is good or bad? Do you think that the world needs a certain amount of violence to continue, why or why not?

If Jenkins had told the Dogs how to get rid of the ants do you think they would have killed the ants or was the no killing trait so ingrained after five thousand years they would have let the ants continue? Would the possibility of losing a world be enough to inspire the Dogs to destroy the ants? Do you feel Jenkins feared that this one act of violence would be enough to bring about all kinds of violence? Do you agree with Jenkins line of thinking and also assume violence is uncontrollable after it starts? Why or Why not?

What do you think of the mutant Joe in this story? Do you think the others have good reason to distrust him when he helped the humans make discoveries? How do you think



we would deal with mutants like this in our world? Do you think this is similar to the segregation problems we have in our society?

Why do the Dogs doubt the existence of man throughout most of the tales? Do you think the Dogs feel a belief in man diminishes a Dogs' worth? Do you think the Dogs' pride makes them too much like man and they are doomed to the same fate? Why or Why not?