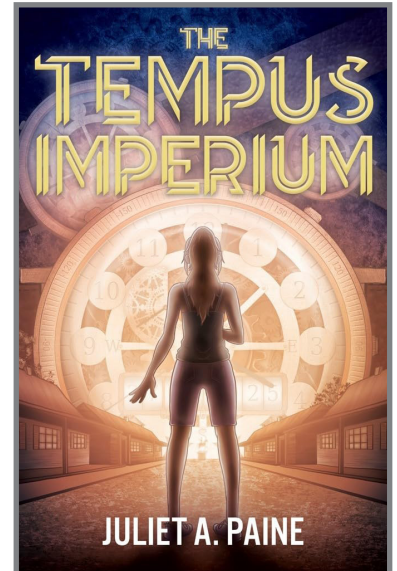


The Tempus Imperium

AUTHOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Secondary

SYNOPSIS

The end justifies the means.

The many over the few.

Time travel has rules as seventeen-year-old, Charlie Lamp, is about to learn.

But what happens when you break one?

When Charlie's grandmother is murdered, she is plunged into the world of the Temporal Sinistrum. A secretive organisation of time travellers tasked with maintaining the historical timeline. Her grandmother was once one of their star agents, and Charlie must step into her footsteps and solve the mystery of her death, in an adventure that takes her from Australia in 1966 to the post-apocalyptic wasteland of Los Angeles in 2120.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Juliet A. Paine grew up in Adelaide, South Australia. She lived in a leafy inner-city suburb, where she liked to walk home from school each day while reading novels by Charlotte Bronte and F. Scott Fitzgerald. She met her husband at university, where she studied a Bachelor of Arts, followed by a teaching degree. Over the years, she has lived in Hobart, San Diego, in the USA, and Vancouver, on the west coast of Canada. These days, she lives again in Adelaide with her two children and husband, where she works as a high school English teacher.

Juliet has published two collections of poetry and has had poems and prose pieces appear on ABC Radio and in *The Australian* newspaper. She recently completed a PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide, where an early draft of *The Tempus Imperium* formed the creative component. *The Tempus Imperium* is her first novel.

THEMES

- Coming of age
- Intergenerational relationships
- Moral choices

STUDY NOTES**PROLOGUE AND PART 1**

- Describe Charlie's relationship with her grandmother.
 - What evidence do you have of their closeness?
 - How has this relationship changed at the start of Chapter One?
 - How does Charlie react to her grandmother's death?

Writing Technique: Pathetic Fallacy

- At the start of Chapter Two, Charlie describes how on the day of Penny's funeral: '... the rain beat its fists against the windows. One of those unseasonal summer storms, where the rain for the last two months comes down in an hour' (p 16). Define the technique of pathetic fallacy in your own words.
 - How does the author's use of a pathetic fallacy reflect Charlie's emotions in this passage about the loss of her grandmother?

Charlie's Choices

- What choices confront Charlie at the start of Chapter One?
- Has she made the right choice regarding her university course, or has she done what everyone else expects of her?
- How does this fit with the pattern of Charlie's life, including her current relationship with Dan?
- Find two examples of imagery used in Chapter Seven, p 57–58 and explain their effect on the reader. (Remember to identify the type of imagery used: metaphor, simile, personification, pathetic fallacy, etc.)
 - What word choices and other descriptive elements help contribute to the suspense in the passage? (You might like to consider the technique of connotation here.)
 - Now, in your own words, explain how the author creates a rising sense of tension in this passage, using your notes from the previous two questions.
- Who is Odysseus Clay, and what choice does he offer Charlie?
 - Where has she seen him before?
 - Why does Charlie eventually take up his offer?

PART 2**The London Blitz**

- What was the London Blitz? Research the relevant dates and the effect on the civilian population.
 - The start of Chapter Eight shifts the action to London, December 1940. From whose perspective is this chapter told? How is their narrative style different from that of Charlie's?

The Temporal Sinistrum

- What is the motto of the Temporal Sinistrum? In Charlie's mind, what is the issue with such a motto?
- How does Richard Hinze, the leader of the Sinistrum, justify its actions?
- What is your opinion of such an issue? What choice would you make?

Writing Technique: Neologism

- *The Tempus Imperium* is a science-fiction novel, in which the author uses a range of invented words, or words with altered meanings, to help build its universe. These words are known as neologisms, and you might be familiar with some from other well-known texts like 'lightsabres' and 'Jedi' from Star Wars, and 'mockingjay' and 'muttation' from The Hunger Games. Make a glossary of these words and their meanings in *The Tempus Imperium*.

Writing Technique: Motifs and Symbols

- In a text, like a film or novel, a repeated symbol is known as a motif. Throughout Part 2, there are repeated mentions of dinosaurs that act as motif throughout *The Tempus Imperium*. Create a table with the following heads, to record where these examples occur:
 - Examples (include quotation)
 - Chapter and Page Numbers
 - Time Period
 - Characters.

Why has the author chosen to include this motif? How does it reflect on the challenges Charlie is facing?

- What does Charlie learn from James Kepplar about the impending Fulcrum and the origin of the syneghasts?
- Read Chapter Fourteen, p 138–9, then answer the following questions:
 - The Fulcrum is an example of a dystopia, that is a post-apocalyptic world people struggle to survive.
 - What details in this passage reveal what life is like in the Fulcrum?
 - What is Charlie’s emotional state in this passage?
 - Find two examples of writing techniques that the author uses to convey Charlie’s emotions at this point?

Chernobyl Nuclear Accident (1986)

- What was the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident? Research the disaster and its consequences for the local people and surrounding environment.
- Why does Penny choose to resign from the Temporal Sinistrum at the end of Chapter Twenty-Two? Why does she start to see the Sinistrum’s mission as flawed?
- How has Charlie’s understanding of her grandmother changed?
- How has Charlie changed throughout Part 2 of the novel? What events precipitate this change? How is she becoming more decisive?

PART 3 AND EPILOGUE

- Why does Charlie choose to breakup with Dan? How is this a sign of Charlie changing?
- Why is it risky for Charlie to visit her grandmother in 1966? What are the potential consequences of such a journey?
- Is Hinze a true villain in this final section of the novel or are his reasons for keeping the Factoreum running justified?
- Why does Charlie decide to join the Temporal Sinistrum in the end? How is she different to the Charlie at the start of the novel?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Writing Technique: Narrative Structure and the Hero’s Journey

- In *The Tempus Imperium*, the writer uses the classic structure of the Hero’s Journey to construct the over-arching narrative. Search the websites listed below, read some background on the Hero’s Journey and ask them to make notes on how it applies to Charlie’s story.
 - Reedsy Blog—‘The Hero’s Journey: 12 Steps to A Classic Story Structure’
 - Masterclass—‘Writing 101: What Is the Hero’s Journey? 2 Hero’s Journey Examples in Film’

Key Themes and Techniques

- What does *The Tempus Imperium* have to say about the following central themes? Use evidence from the text to substantiate your points.
 - Coming of age
 - Intergenerational relationships
 - Moral choices.
- For each theme, find two examples, and a relevant technique, that reveal this idea to the reader. Record your notes, in a table using the following headings:
 - Theme
 - Example/quotation
 - Technique
 - How does this technique reveal the theme to the reader?
- Write a case report in which Odysseus details his recruitment of Penny Jones.
- Write a first-person narrative from the perspective of Madam Zhao, explaining why she joined The Tempus Imperium.
- Use the features of descriptive writing to describe a post-apocalyptic wasteland like that featured in *The Tempus Imperium*.