ang070
Assignment "Analysing Fiction"

Analyse the following passage from: H.G. Wells. *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. 1896. Ed. Mason Harris. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview, 2009. 145.

Had Moreau had any intelligible object, I could have sympathised at least a little with him. I am not so squeamish about pain as that. I could have forgiven him a little even, had his motive been only hate. But he was so irresponsible, so utterly careless! His curiosity, his mad, aimless investigations, drove him on; and the Things were thrown out to live a year or so, to struggle and blunder and suffer, and at last to die painfully. They were wretched in themselves; the old animal hate moved them to trouble one another; the Law held them back from a brief hot struggle and a decisive end to their natural animosities.

In those days my fear of the Beast People went the way of my personal fear for Moreau. I fell indeed into a morbid state, deep and enduring, and alien to fear, which has left permanent scars upon my mind. I must confess that I lost faith in the sanity of the world when I saw it suffering the painful disorder of this island.

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Please analyse this text, addressing the following tasks and questions. Refer to the categories presented on the narratology handout. You may write up to three pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of our style sheet.

1. **Narration and Focalisation (30p)**

   Comment on narration and focalisation in the given passage and support your findings with textual proof.

2. **Characterisation (30p)**

   How are Dr. Moreau and Edward Prendick characterised in this passage? What modes of characterisation are employed in the given passage? Support your statements with textual proof.

3. **Wider Context (30p)**

   a) Name one other passage in the novel which corresponds or contrasts with this passage in one particular aspect.

   b) Describe the nature and significance of the correspondence or contrast.

   c) Relate both passages to one of the central themes of the novel.

4. **Tutorials (10p)**