

## Increasing Tension

1. Read the extract below which is the last paragraph of Chapter 1, 'The Eve of the War':

One night (the first missile then could scarcely have been 10 000, 20 000 miles away) I went for a walk with my wife. It was starlight, and I explained the Signs of the Zodiac to her, and pointed out stars, a bright dot of light creeping zenithward, towards which so many telescopes were pointed. It was a warm night. Coming home a party of excursionists from Chertsey or Isleworth passed us singing and playing music. There were lights in the upper windows of the houses as the people went to bed. From the railway station in the distance came the sound of shunting trains, ringing and rumbling, softened almost into melody by the distance. My wife pointed out to me the brightness of the red, green, and yellow signal lights hanging in a framework against the sky. It seemed so safe and tranquil.

2. Using PEA paragraphs, comment on the following:
- Use of adjectives;
  - Use of detail;
  - How Wells, the author, makes the reader aware of impending (about to happen) danger;
  - Impact of the last sentence.
3. Now read Chapter 2, 'The Falling Star' and Chapter 3, 'On Horsell Common' and consider how the author continues to build tension in these chapters.