

The Time Runners: The Cast

Narrator 1	_____
Narrator 2	_____
Biff	_____
Chip	_____
Kipper	_____
Tyler	_____
Neena	_____
Wilma	_____
Mortlock	_____
Wilf	_____
Nadim	_____

Narrator 1: Rome didn't have a king. Instead, Roman citizens voted for two councils of leaders called the Assembly and the Senate. It was their job to discuss important issues and make laws.

Narrator 2: Chip couldn't sleep. Living in the Time Vault was exciting enough. But now they had started training to fight the Virans there was so much to learn as well. With a sigh, he sat up and flicked a switch. The lights in his sleeping pod glowed. He picked up his training manual and began to read.

Narrator 1: As he read, Chip held the communication Link in his hand. He couldn't wait to use it for real. He couldn't wait to become a Time Runner.
The day's training began in the laboratory.

Neena: You look half asleep.

Narrator 2: Said Neena as Chip shuffled in late.

Wilf: At least he's got up.

Narrator 1: Said Wilf, closing his locker.

Wilf: Tyler must still be in bed!

Narrator 2: At that moment, the door burst open. It was Mortlock. Behind him, something zoomed into the room.

Biff, Chip, Kipper, Neena and Mortlock: Tyler!

Narrator 1: Everyone gasped.

Mortlock: And his new techno-chair!

Narrator 2: Tyler turned suddenly and then skidded to a stop.

Tyler: Do you like it? (Grinning). Mortlock built it. Now I'll be able to do anything you lot can!

Mortlock: And a lot more! (smiling)

Nadim: Impressive.

Narrator 1: Everyone gathered around Tyler.

Chip looked at the control panels on the chair.
Chip: What does this one do? (pushing one of the buttons)
Tyler: (yelling) No.
Narrator 2: But it was too late. Tyler shot backwards and slammed into the lockers. Immediately the chair lurched forward.
Tyler: Whoa! (giggling) Stop!
Narrator 1: They all laughed at the sight of Tyler zipping wildly across the laboratory. But suddenly the laughing stopped. Tyler was heading straight for the vat where the captured Virans were held. They held their breath as he ploughed into the side of the vat with a loud crash.
Narrator 2: The glass vat shuddered. The black matter stirred, sparking and hissing angrily inside the glass chamber. Everyone rushed to help Tyler.
Tyler: (in a shaky voice) Even behind the glass, those Virans are scary. The vat slowly settled with a quiet hiss. Mortlock quickly checked it.
Mortlock: It seems all right. No harm done. But we must be careful near the vat.
Narrator 1: The training carried on all day. There was a lot to learn about the Link. As he listened, Nadim flicked up the secret lid and studied the tiny screen and keyboard. But Tyler couldn't concentrate. He tried to listen to Mortlock, but something was bothering him. He kept thinking about the Virans and how frightening they were.
Mortlock: So remember, with the Link you'll be able to talk to the Time Vault when you are on a mission. The Link also sends and receives text downloads. (Looking around the room). Any questions?
Tyler: (hand raised) I'm worried. We can't use the Link to protect ourselves against Virans, can we? We've been lucky so far, but we won't always be.
Narrator 2: The others agreed.
Nadim: Yeah. I mean, how are we supposed to trap them and bring them back?
Mortlock: (Nodding thoughtfully). It's time to show you. Let's go!
Narrator 1: No one had noticed, but all this time the Viran vat had continued to hiss quietly . . . Something was not right.
Narrator 2: Everyone followed Mortlock into the library. At the far end, he stopped and pulled a large book away from the shelf. Immediately the whole bookcase juddered, and then slid inwards like giant doors. Beyond the bookcase was a dark space. Mortlock stepped into the darkness. Lights blinked on to reveal a large room. The bookcase doors closed behind them.
Mortlock: This is the Control Centre.
Narrator 1: In the centre of the space, on a desk, was the Time Web. Its mass of glowing threads shimmered gently. In front of it was the Matrix and beside it was a globe that glowed with a faint light. Mortlock pointed at the open tubes that dropped into the space.

Mortlock: (smiling) They were chutes that were connected to the sleeping pods. With these, you can get here in seconds.
Wilma: (grinning) So that's what the chutes are. "Cool!"
Narrator 2: Next, Mortlock slid open a drawer in the desk. He took out a silver ball and held it up.
Mortlock: This is a Zaptrap. They are used to catch Virans.
Narrator 1: Mortlock began to explain how they worked. But Chip's mind wandered. It had been a long day. Sleep - the thought of it made him yawn.
Mortlock: (smiling at Chip). Perhaps we should all get some rest. It's been a long day. Tomorrow I'll show you how these zap-traps work. For now, take them with you and get used to them. Look at the section on Zaptraps in your manuals.
Narrator 2: Meanwhile, back in the laboratory, the Viran vat continued to hiss.
Narrator 1: Even though Chip was tired, he still couldn't sleep. So he lay in bed reading. Eventually, he fell asleep still holding the manual. A voice jolted Chip from his deep sleep. Chip to Control immediately, it barked. It came from the speaker in his pod. He had overslept. He was late for training again. Chip scrambled to the chute. He hadn't used it before. He landed with a loud thud in Control.
Mortlock: (laughing) So glad you could join us.
Narrator 2: But something was wrong. Chip was in pain. He had twisted his ankle.
Biff: You'd better rest it.
Tyler: Ere, Chip, give you a lift back to your pod. Hop on!
Narrator 1: Chip climbed on to the techno-chair and Tyler spun it round. But as they headed out to the library, there was a grinding sound. Smoke billowed from under the chair and it stopped suddenly.
Tyler: Oh no! "I'm sorry," said Tyler. "It must have been damaged when I crashed into the vat.
Narrator 2: Mortlock studied the techno-chair's motor.
Mortlock: It may take time to fix. Don't worry (smiling). I'll push Chip back to his pod, then I'll take the chair to my workshop and try to fix it. The rest of you stay here. Use the time to study the Time Web.
Narrator 1: They looked at the Time Web in silence.
Wilma: It's like a map. A giant map of history. Every point of light is a moment from the past.
Neena: Every moment affects the next right up to the present.
Narrator 2: The Time Web stirred. A point of light suddenly turned black, sending a pulse of darkness towards the edge of the web.
Narrator 1: They watched in horror.
Kipper: Is it a Viran attack? Now what do we do?

Narrator 2: Tyler tried to call Mortlock on his Link, but there was no answer.
Biff: We have to do something!
Narrator 1: Tyler peered into the globe next to the Matrix.
Tyler: Ancient Rome, 44 BC. The Virans must be attacking. You have to go now! I'll stay on Control.
Narrator 1: They stepped into the portal and in a few head-spinning seconds they had arrived. Within a moment, Tyler had contacted them on the Link.
Wilma: (whispering into her Link) What can you see?
Biff: Early morning. A quiet street. Tall buildings like blocks of flats. A large marble building with tall columns covered in scaffolding. Looks like it's being rebuilt.
Narrator 2: Tyler had done some research in the library.
Tyler: It's the Senate building. In 44 BC the Senate was closed for repairs.
Kipper: What's the Senate?
Tyler: It's where the Roman government - the senators - met.
Narrator 1: Tyler quickly looked in a book.
Tyler: Oh no!
Neena: What is it?
Tyler: 44 BC is when the leader, Julius Caesar, was assassinated by some of the senators.
Narrator 2: At that moment, a man turned into the street and walked quickly toward the Senate.
Nadim: (whispering) Wait. He looks important. He's wearing a.....
Wilf: (interrupting) Toga! We did this at school.
Kipper: (gasping) He could be Julius Caesar!
Tyler: Possibly. But it is more likely that he might be a senator.
Narrator 1: Suddenly, from the shadows, a rough man leapt forward and dashed after the senator.
Biff: (gasping) He's going to attack him. Supposing he's a Viran? What if that man is Julius Caesar? I'll use my Zaptrap!
Tyler: Wait! You have to be sure it's a Viran. You must not get involved otherwise. Just wait!
Narrator 2: Chip woke with a start. Over the pod's speaker he could hear Floppy barking. He hobbled down the slope to level one. It sounded as if Floppy was in the library. Why hadn't the others heard him? As he pulled open the library door, his blood froze. He saw a swirling mass of darkness. It was ripping the library to pieces. It could only be a Viran. It must have escaped from the vat in the laboratory.
Narrator 1: Meanwhile, back in Ancient Rome ...
Neena: We must stop him. Before it's too late.
Narrator 2: The rough man caught up with the senator, and grabbed hold of him.

Biff: He has to be a Viran. (holding her Zaptrap). Tyler ... answer me! I'm going to launch it.
Wilf: (gasping) But we have to be sure.
Narrator 1: Biff held her breath. I've got one chance, she thought. At the same time, in the Time Vault ...
Narrator 2: As fast as he could, Chip limped back up to his pod. He had to think quickly. He spoke into his Link.
Chip: Is anyone there?
Narrator 1: Tyler answered.
Tyler: Chip? I'm at Control. We've had an emergency and ...
Narrator 2: Chip interrupted him.
Chip: There's a Viran in the library. It must be trying to get into Control. Are you all safe? Can the Viran get to you?
Narrator 1: Tyler was scared. He had locked the bookcase doors, but on the other side he could hear crashing sounds. If the Viran got in, they were finished. The Viran would destroy the Time Web. From the library came a loud thud. The bookcase doors shook. Tyler spoke to Chip urgently. `
Tyler: I can't move quickly without my chair. The others are out in the Time Web. I don't know where Mortlock is.
Chip: Call them back. Now!
Narrator 2: Back in Ancient Rome.
Narrator 1: Just as Biff was about to throw her Zaptrap, the rough man pulled the senator backwards. From the roof of the senate, a huge block of stone crashed to the street where the senator had been, a second earlier. The man had saved the senator's life. Biff and the others had got it wrong. Nadim looked up at the roof. A shadowy figure stared back.
Nadim: Viran!
Narrator 2: Biff threw her Zaptrap. Everyone's Link buzzed. It was Tyler.
Tyler: Emergency! Get back, now!
Narrator 1: Chip could hear the crashing below his pod. It was getting louder and more frantic. He hadn't been able to contact Mortlock either. Suddenly Tyler's voice burst from Chip's Link.
Tyler: I've called them back! But maybe it's too late. I think the Viran's about to break through. Oh no, it's ...
Narrator 2: Then silence. Chip clasped his Zaptrap. I've got one chance! he thought, and he threw himself down the chute.
Narrator 1: He hit the ground hard. His bad leg buckled under him. Out of the corner of his eye, he glimpsed the Viran. He launched his Zaptrap as he fell. As it flew, it opened up and released a bolt of plasma. Instantly the Viran froze. It was sucked into the trap which snapped shut.
Chip: (screaming) You're history!

Narrator 2: Chip had fainted with pain. He came round and saw everyone looking down at him.

Narrator 1: Mortlock held Chip's Zaptrap which had trapped the Viran. He smiled gently.

Mortlock: I'm sorry I wasn't there for you. But I had to deal with the vat. It must have been damaged by Tyler's chair. There were other virans trying to escape from it.

Narrator 2: Mortlock took Biff's Zaptrap.

Mortlock: But you dealt with it. Well done! You've just proved that you are ready to be Time Runners.