There Will Come Soft Rains

1. Who is talking in the house on the morning of August 4, 2026? In what ways does the house prepare for people who do not appear?
2. What is ominous about the house at the beginning of the story?
3. Describe the scene of the destruction of the house. How is the house left in the end? How does the action of the house in the last line compare to its action in the first line?
4. What makes the actions of the house senseless? Might it be dangerous to put too much of our lives in the hands of machines? Why, or why not?
5. What do you think the theme of Sara Teasdale's poem is? Why do you think Bradbury chose to use the name of this poem for the title of his story as well as to incorporate the poem into the story? How are the themes of the poem and the story similar?
6. What is special about this house that makes it different from other houses? What specific lines, especially in the fire scene, describe the house in human terms? What is ironic about the survival of the house?
7. In this story the daily schedule is clear because of the frequent chimings of the house. Write an hourly **schedule** for one day in your life. If desired, write out activities and events in little jingles as the house does to help remind you of things that you have to do.