

There Will Come Soft Rains

Short Story by Ray Bradbury

Inside the Home of the Future

Newspaper Article by Kelly Greene

The Car of the Future

Advertisement

VIDEO TRAILER



KEYWORD: HML10-324

Is TECHNOLOGY taking over?

COMMON CORE

RL1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. **RL5** Analyze an author's choices concerning how to structure a text and order the events within it. **RL4** Determine the figurative meaning of words in a text.

Which technological innovations have improved the quality of everyday life? Which ones have had a negative impact? In "There Will Come Soft Rains," you will read about the far-reaching consequences of technology on one particular home.

What's the Connection?

The following short story depicts a futuristic society in which human misuse of technology has had cataclysmic results. After reading "There Will Come Soft Rains," you will read an expository text and view a visual that share a more positive view of technological innovation.

Section 3



© www.CartoonStock.com

● TEXT ANALYSIS: CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Writers make choices about how to organize events in a story. The most straightforward way of structuring a story is to describe events in **chronological order**—the sequence in which events occur. To determine chronological order in a story, look for the following:

- words that identify time, such as *six o'clock* and *today*
- words that signal order, such as *before*, *next*, and *last*
- breaks in the chronological flow of events

As you read “There Will Come Soft Rains,” think about the reasons Ray Bradbury might have chosen to present this science fiction story in chronological order.

● READING SKILL: DRAW CONCLUSIONS

A **conclusion** is a judgment based on evidence in the story and your own prior knowledge. Use the following strategies to analyze information about the house in the story:

- Analyze details about the family and their routine.
- Analyze details about the areas near the house.
- Identify changes in the performance of the house.

As you read the story, record and analyze important details. Later you will draw conclusions about what happened.

<i>Important Details</i>	<i>My Thoughts</i>
<i>It's morning and the house is empty.</i>	<i>The people are gone. The house still acts as though they're there.</i>

Review: Compare and Contrast

▲ VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Substitute a different word or phrase for each boldfaced vocabulary word. Write a brief definition of each boldfaced word in your *Reader/Writer Notebook*.

1. The **silhouette** of the great oak is visible for miles.
2. Your increasing **paranoia** is making you a nervous wreck.
3. To **manipulate** a puppet properly requires practice.
4. The sight of the rattlesnake made Don **tremulous**.
5. She is **oblivious** to the mess all around her.
6. This is a **sublime** piece of cheesecake!



Complete the activities in your **Reader/Writer Notebook**.

Ray Bradbury

born 1920

Prophet of the Future

Ray Bradbury is one of America's best-known science fiction and fantasy writers. His most chilling stories comment on the human consequences of progress. “Science ran too far ahead of us too quickly,” Bradbury once remarked, “and the people got lost in a mechanical wilderness.” Sadly, Bradbury has lived to see some of his frightening concerns become fact.

A Magical Childhood

Bradbury's interest in science fiction and fantasy emerged when he was growing up in Waukegan, Illinois. He devoured the popular culture of his day, including movies, radio shows, comics, and science fiction magazines. He was also a fan of the local library, where he enjoyed books by such early science fiction writers as H. G. Wells and Jules Verne. While various writers have influenced his style, his themes are drawn primarily from his own childhood.

BACKGROUND TO THE STORY

Technology: No Guarantee

Before 1900, electric machines were used primarily in workplaces. With the spread of electricity, however, families enjoyed modern appliances in their homes. In the early 20th century, many household machines, such as the vacuum cleaner and the toaster, became available for the first time.

Science fiction writers of this period often created works featuring utopias—or ideal worlds—in which machines freed people of difficult tasks. In “There Will Come Soft Rains,” Bradbury challenges this idea by presenting a society harmed by modern technology.

Author
Online

THINK
central

Go to thinkcentral.com.
KEYWORD: HML10-325



THERE WILL COME Soft Rains

Ray Bradbury

Text not available for online use.
Please refer to your print textbook.

Analyze Visuals ▶

Examine this image.
What details convey the
orderliness of the family
that lives in the house?

A CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Reread lines 1–11. Which
words and phrases
tell you that the
story is organized in
chronological order?

B DRAW CONCLUSIONS

Reread lines 14–20.
Which story details
suggest that this is an
unusual day for the
family?

1. **relays**: devices that automatically turn switches in electric circuits on and off.



7:00

Text not available for online use.
Please refer to your print textbook.

C DRAW CONCLUSIONS

Think about the **setting** of this story. What do you learn about the society from the house's many automated features?

silhouette (sɪl'oo-ět') *n.*
an outline that appears dark against a light background

D DRAW CONCLUSIONS

Reread lines 31–44. Based on the story details about the city, what do you think has happened?

paranoia (pär'ə-noi'ə) *n.*
an irrational fear of danger or misfortune

2. **Baal** (bā'ə): an idol worshiped by certain ancient peoples of the Middle East.



Text not available for online use.
Please refer to your print textbook.

E COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Compare the actions of the dog with those of the house. What does the dog's death suggest about the house?

Text not available for online use.
Please refer to your print textbook.

F DRAW CONCLUSIONS

What do the nursery's furnishings tell you about the family and their relationship to the natural world?

manipulate
(mə-nĭp'yə-lāt') v. to move, operate, or handle

tremulous (trēm'yə-ləs)
adj. trembling, unsteady

3. **okapi** (ō-kä'pē): an antelope-like hoofed mammal of the African jungle.

Text not available for online use.
Please refer to your print textbook.

G DRAW CONCLUSIONS

What do you think is the **theme**, or main message, of the poem?

H CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

How has the marking of time changed in the story? Explain.

COMMON CORE L.5b

A FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Personification is the giving of human qualities to an inanimate object. Reread line 141. How does the personification of the house in this line reflect the rise of artificial intelligence technologies?



Language Coach

Word Meanings The suffix *-s* usually means “more than one,” but sometimes it gives a new meaning to the base word from which it derives, or comes. In line 154, *reinforcements* refers to additional troops. How does that meaning apply in the story? What does the singular form, *reinforcement*, mean?

▼ Analyze Visuals

Review all of the illustrations in the story. Together, how effective are they at conveying the story’s **chronological order** of events? Explain.

Text not available for online use.
Please refer to your print textbook.

4. **Picassos and Matisse:** paintings by the famous 20th-century artists Pablo Picasso (pī-kā’sō) and Henri Matisse (mā-tēs’).



Text not available for online use.
Please refer to your print textbook.

oblivious (ə-blɪv'ē-əs)
adj. paying no attention,
completely unaware

sublime (sə-blīm') *adj.*
supreme, splendid

1 DRAW CONCLUSIONS

What idea about technology does Bradbury convey in the burning of the house?

Comprehension

- Recall** When and where does the story take place?
- Recall** List three functions the house performs.
- Summarize** Describe the changes the house undergoes during the story.

COMMON CORE

RL 1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly. **RL 5** Analyze an author's choices concerning how to structure a text and order the events within it.

Text Analysis

- Draw Conclusions** Review the chart you filled in as you read. What has happened to the McClellan family and the town? Use details to support your conclusion.
- Interpret Theme** What do you think is the theme, or main message, of the story? Cite evidence from the story to support your answer.
- Examine Point of View** In the third-person point of view, a narrator outside the action describes events and characters. How does the third-person narrator of "There Will Come Soft Rains" maintain the reader's interest in a story where there are no human characters? Explain.
- Analyze Chronological Order** Consider how the story would have been different if it had included numerous **flashbacks**, or scenes that recall earlier experiences. Why might Bradbury have chosen to follow chronological order? Cite evidence from the story to support your opinion.

- Compare Literary Works** Review Stephen Vincent Benét's "By the Waters of Babylon," pages 310–321. Use a chart to compare the characters, events, and setting of the Benét story with those in Bradbury's "There Will Come Soft Rains." Which author presents the most disturbing view of society and its technology?

	<i>"By the Waters of Babylon"</i>	<i>"There Will Come Soft Rains"</i>
<i>Characters</i>		
<i>Events</i>		
<i>Setting</i>		

Text Criticism

- Author's Style** Many critics admire Bradbury for his use of **imagery**, or words and phrases that appeal to the five senses. Find three examples of imagery in "There Will Come Soft Rains," and discuss how they contribute to your experience of the story.

Is **TECHNOLOGY** taking over?

Are people becoming too dependent on technology?

Vocabulary in Context

▲ VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

1. Leon has overcome his _____ and now enjoys friendships and social activities.
2. The cellist knows how to skillfully _____ his instrument to make beautiful music.
3. In her old age, my great aunt walks in a _____ manner.
4. Jenna enjoys all kinds of winter activities and is _____ to the cold.
5. Critics agree that the artist's recent painting is her most _____ work yet.
6. The young girl left a chalky _____ of her hand on the sidewalk.

WORD LIST

manipulate
oblivious
paranoia
silhouette
sublime
tremulous

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY IN WRITING

• consequent • crucial • initial • shift • survive

Imagine a future time when technology fails and causes widespread trouble. Write a paragraph describing the **initial** crisis and the **consequent** problems. Use at least one Academic Vocabulary word in your response.

COMMON CORE

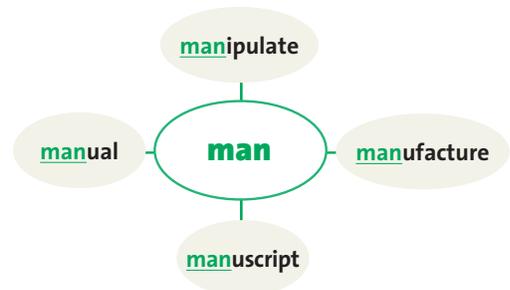
L 4c Consult reference materials to determine or clarify a word's etymology.

VOCABULARY STRATEGY: THE LATIN ROOT *man*

The vocabulary word *manipulate* stems from the Latin root *man*, which means "hand." To understand the meaning of words with *man*, use context clues as well as your knowledge of the root.

PRACTICE Write the word from the word web that best completes each sentence. Use context clues to help you, or, if necessary, consult a dictionary.

1. They _____ these clothes in another country.
2. Before typewriters and printers, a book _____ was written only by hand.
3. I am not sure how to _____ this complicated-looking tool.
4. Many factories still depend on _____ labor, rather than machines.



Interactive Vocabulary **THINK** central
Go to thinkcentral.com.
KEYWORD: HML10-335