

SAMPLE BODY PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

Thesis Statement:

With the use of setting, symbolism and irony, Ray Bradbury's short story "There Will Come Soft Rains" weaves a compelling story that warns readers of the personal destruction & devastation that results from humanity's over-reliance on technology.

Topic Sentence:

The home in this short story simply seems to be a nifty and futuristic example of technological advancement, but the setting actually symbolizes mankind's unhealthy obsession with technology.

Evidence:

"In the living room the voice-clock sang, Tick-tock, seven o'clock, time to get up, time to get up, seven o'clock! as if it were afraid that nobody would. The morning house lay empty. The clock ticked on repeating and repeating its sounds into the emptiness" (1).

"The house stood in a city of rubble and ashes. This was the one house left standing. At night the ruined city gave off a radioactive glow which could be seen for miles" (1).

Explanation:

Throughout the story, the house performs its daily tasks dutifully, unaware of the absence of its masters or other houses.

Even the simplest chores are completed for the humans, such as alarms telling the time and waking the family, or cooking meals and cleaning the living space.

However, the house is empty, revealing that it has been designed to be self-sufficient and does not need its human inhabitants to operate.

Bradbury reveals that not only is the house empty, but the city itself has been emptied and left in radioactive ruins that extend for “miles.” This suggests that humans have been killed as the result of a nuclear explosion or forced out of the city due to the nuclear fallout that followed.

Before their death, the humans had become completely reliant on the houses capabilities, and trusted in their technological advancements to improve their lives and keep them functioning effectively in posterity.

However, through inference, the reader can see that this technology ultimately betrayed them. Not only did it strip away their ability or motivation to care for themselves, but it literally brought their ruin down upon them.

Concluding Sentence:

Thus, the setting is an example of how over-reliance on modern technology will lead to the destruction of humanity.

A body paragraph must contain the following elements:

➤ ***Topic Sentence***

➤ ***Content/Background Information***

○ ***Who says the quote***

What is happening in the text when that quote is stated.

➤ ***“Quote” (page number) X2***

➤ ***Explanation***

○ ***An explanation of the quote; how the literary device is used to support the story’s theme.***

➤ ***Concluding Sentence***

○ ***Summarizes the big idea and links it back to the theme stated in your thesis statement***

To begin, the home in this story simply seems to be a nifty and futuristic example of technological advancement, but the setting actually represents mankind's unhealthy obsession with technology. The story opens with a description of the technologically advanced house beginning its daily routine. The narrator says, "In the living room the voice-clock sang, Tick-tock, seven o'clock, time to get up, time to get up, seven o'clock! as if it were afraid that nobody would. The morning house lay empty. The clock ticked on repeating and repeating its sounds into the emptiness" (1). Throughout the story, the house performs its daily tasks dutifully, unaware of the absence of its masters or other houses. Even the simplest chores are completed for the humans, such as alarms telling the time & waking the family, cooking meals, and cleaning the living space. However, the house is empty, revealing that it has been designed to be self-sufficient and does not need its human inhabitants to operate. Later in the story, the author reveals the state of the city outside the house. Bradbury writes, "The house stood in a city of rubble and ashes. This was the one house left standing. At night the ruined city gave off a radioactive glow which could be seen for miles" (1). Bradbury reveals that not only is the house empty, but the city itself has been emptied and left in radioactive ruin that extends for "miles." This suggests that humans have been killed as the result of a nuclear explosion or forced out of the city due to the the nuclear fallout that followed. Before their death, the humans had become completely reliant on the houses capabilities, and trusted in their technological advancements to improve their lives and keep them functioning effectively in posterity. However, through inference, the reader can see that this technology ultimately betrayed them. Not only did it strip away their ability or motivation to care for themselves, but it literally brought their ruin down upon them. Thus, the setting of the house is an example of how over-reliance on modern technology will lead to the destruction of humanity.