





“AUGUST 2026:
THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS”

by Ray Bradbury

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The story was written & published in the year 1950.
- The world had just survived World War II (ending in 1945), which included the bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan.
- The story explores society's fears of the devastating effects of war and of the potential destruction technology can bring.

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- Society's fears only grew further, as the world entered the Cold War era (1947-1991).
 - The Cold War saw the rise of nuclear weaponry, and the Soviet Union tested their first nuclear bomb in 1949.

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- Sara Teasdale's poem "There Will Come Soft Rains," which was included in Bradbury's story, was published in 1918.
 - The poem was inspired by the events of WWI and the 1918 flu pandemic, which also devastated the planet and the natural world.
 - Bradbury included this poem as it reflects how history repeats itself.
 - Bradbury uses his story to predict the future.