

Write a separate paragraph for each question you choose.

You will hand in THREE paragraphs in total.

Must be written in the statement + evidence + explanation format.

DOUBLE SPACED PLEASE

"There Will Come Soft Rains"

by Ray Bradbury

Due: Friday, March 1st

BEFORE Reading:

Watch "There Will Come Soft Rains" by Peter Cotter: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x304oxa>

Vocabulary Highlights

- Cavorting (verb): *leaping about; frolicking*
- Tremulous (adjective): *trembling*
- Whim (noun): *sudden desire or change of mind, especially one that is unusual or unexplained*
- Oblivious (adjective): *unaware*
- Sublime (adjective): *majestic; grand*

INFERENCE: to make meaning by combining background knowledge + details/clues from the text to come to a new conclusion that is suggested, but not outright stated. Choose question 1 or 2.

1. What has happened to the people in the story? What evidence do you base your conclusion on (provide quoted evidence from the story to support)? **notes: conflict, external setting...**
or
2. How has technology changed the way people live in the story? What evidence do you base your conclusion on (provide quoted evidence from the story to support)? **notes: conflict, internal setting... What about the humans has been impacted negatively?**
3. This story was first published in 1950. What scientific invention and/or historical event likely inspired Ray Bradbury to write this story? What evidence do you base your conclusion on (provide quoted evidence from the story to support)?

Choose question 4 or 5.

INTERPRET: to explain the meaning of the text; to understand a particular action, event or item as having particular significance. focus on symbolism; what do these ideas or images, etc. represent?

4. Who are the gods, and why are they referred to as such in the lines: "But the gods had gone away, and the ritual of religion continued senselessly, uselessly" (page 2)? (Use quoted evidence to support)
or **Why did he choose the word "gods"? What is suggested by the word "gods"?**
5. What is the purpose of the inclusion of Sara Teasdale's poem on page 3 in the story? What is the main idea of her poem when you consider the other events of the story? (Use quoted evidence to support)
How does Teasdale's message compare to Bradbury's message?

*There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;
And frogs in the pools singing at night,
And wild-plum trees in tremulous white;
Robins will wear their feathery fire,
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;
And not one will know of the war, not one
Will care at last when it is done.
Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree,
If mankind perished utterly;
And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn
Would scarcely know that we were gone.*

EVALUATE: to form an idea about the value of the text as a whole; to assess for the overall theme/message.

6. What idea about scientific advances and technology is Bradbury warning about in this story? Support your answer with evidence taken from your knowledge of society today and the story itself.

START WITH A THEME STATEMENT.

*****YOU MUST ANSWER QUESTION 6.

Question: This story was first published in 1950. What scientific invention and/or historical event likely inspired Ray Bradbury to write this story? What evidence do you base your conclusion on (provide quoted evidence from the story to support).

Sample Response:

Must answer the question, using key phrases and providing a clear position/opinion. It should be written as a single sentence.

Statement

Ray Bradbury was likely inspired to write "There Will Come Soft Rains" by the events of World War II and the bombing of Hiroshima. The author alludes to these events

Evidence

2-3 quotes from the text; using proper formatting

through his vivid descriptions of the remnants of the city, such as the following: "The house stood alone in a city of rubble and ashes" (Bradbury, 1). He then provides insight into the origin of such destruction, when the narrator states, "At night the ruined city gave off a radioactive glow which could be seen for miles" (Bradbury, 1). The

Explanation

5-8 sentences.

Explain how your evidence connects to your claim/statement.

description of the "rubble and ashes" and the "radioactive glow" here are similar to the images we often find in textbooks and documentaries depicting the aftermath of the great wars. As Bradbury himself witnessed the events of WWII and survived, he would have been familiar with such images. Much like Hiroshima's decimation at the hands of the atomic bomb during WWII, the city in Bradbury's story is similarly demolished. Bradbury's city has been left in heaps of broken "rubble" and piles of "ash" likely as a result of the initial explosion; the buildings are broken and

The writer provides inferences or interpretations of the images/actions identified in the evidence above, and explain how your evidence connects to your claim/statement.

fragmented, and organic material has been incinerated and reduced to "ash." In addition, the landscape continues to glow with the poison of radioactive waste. Such a substantial quantity of radioactivity, one that "could be seen for miles," would be vast; thus, the source must be from a large-scale nuclear event. Altogether, when the reader considers the physical destruction of the city and the radioactive waste that is left behind, it is most plausible that Bradbury is illustrating the mass destruction that only war and nuclear weaponry can bring to the world. Thus, as the events of WWII forever shaped our view of the world, it likely inspired many authors in the time that followed, including Bradbury himself.

You should also reference the evidence in the order it is given above.

Concluding Sentence -
restate the original position from your statement/topic sentence