

Plot Diagram for "The Veldt" by Ray Bradbury

1. The parents are concerned with the nursery, and when they enter they are continually faced with images of lions eating something unknown. They also hear familiar screams (inciting incident/foreshadowing).

2. They question their children's state of mind/their dishonesty & dark thoughts. So, a psychologist (David McClean) is called to determine what is going on. He suggests shutting down the nursery and taking a break from the house.

3. When they re-enter the nursery, they find a their own belongings (George's old wallet & Lydia's scarf), which are covered with blood and saliva (foreshadowing). George & Lydia realize how deeply the house has affected them and that they need to take a break from the house.

Rising Action

Falling Action

Climax:

George (with Lydia's support) decides to shut off the nursery (and the rest of the house) and he informs Peter & Wendy of the decision.

1. Peter & Wendy have a tantrum, claiming they hate their parents & can't live without the nursery (thus revealing their extreme attachment to the technology within).

2. They trick their parents into re-entering the nursery, and lock them inside.

Resolution:

The parents are "eaten" by the nursery. Peter & Wendy "celebrate" the death of their parents via a tea party/picnic.

Exposition (Introduction)

Protagonist: George Hadley (Lydia is a supporting character)

Antagonist: The children - Peter & Wendy

Setting – Time: The distant future - compared to Bradbury's world in the 1950s

Setting – Place: The Hadley's HappyLife Smart Home / Nursery

Internal Conflict: George vs. his own guilt about spoiling his children + promoting his family's dependence on tech.

External Conflict: George (Lydia) vs. The Children (and their dependence/attachment to tech/the children's warped minds/dark thoughts/their dishonesty)

Author's Theme: What is Bradbury's warning?

Symbolism: HappyLife Home/Nursery = modern/new tech (its potential); the dangers of becoming dependent on tech.; society's mindset towards the advancement of technology

The Veldt = the ability/potential for how tech. can warp one's mind - the death/loss of innocence

Foreshadowing: The narrator repeatedly describes the lions feeding, the familiar screams, the parents' items smeared with blood