

Pre Reading Activity “The Veldt” by Ray Bradbury

Ray Bradbury is an American Science Fiction writer who has more than 600 published works – short stories, novels, screenplays, poems and more. His writing tends to blend the macabre (ghoulish) with the humorous. For more information on Ray Bradbury, go to www.raybradbury.com.

Answer the following questions in your think book.

1. What might happen if rooms could become environments sensitive to the thoughts and feelings of their human occupants?
2. What is your perspective of the viewpoint held by some parents that “nothing's too good for our children”?

Reading “The Veldt” by Ray Bradbury

Begin reading “The Veldt.” Follow the instructions below.

Stop reading after Lydia says, “Why don't we shut the whole house off for a few days and take a vacation?”
Answer the following questions in your think book.

3. Describe the **setting** of this story. Give proof from the story to back up your answer.
4. Why do you think Lydia wants to shut off the house? At this stage in the story, what do you think will be the children's (Peter and Wendy) reaction to this idea? Support your opinion with evidence from the story.

Continue reading. Stop reading after George says, “I'm starting to wonder.” Answer the following questions in your think book.

5. What is the nursery? What do the walls of the nursery reflect?
6. In what way can the nursery serve the needs of both parents and children?
7. How does Bradbury describe the physical appearance of Peter and Wendy when they return home in the evening? How does their physical description contrast with what we know about their mental activities?

Continue reading. At the conclusion of the story, answer the following questions.

8. **Atmosphere** in a story is the prevailing feeling or mood. It usually sets up expectations in the reader about the outcome of an episode or plot. It is created by descriptive diction, imagery and dialogue. Describe the atmosphere of the story, using adjectives only (such as “creepy” or “cold”).
9. Why was Peter screaming, “Don't let father kill everything”? What was George actually doing? What does this suggest about Peter's relationship with technology?
10. Do you think the children realize what they have done to their parents? Explain your answer.

Post Reading Activity

Suspense and foreshadowing are major techniques used in this story. Look up these 2 terms in the glossary in your textbook. Write down the definition for each. Finally, give at least 2 examples of each from the story and tell what they do to maintain reader interest and enrich the story's meaning.