

Ray Bradbury: Master of the Short Story

Frank Palumbo, presenter Kellas: 217 SUNY 3 Sessions (1 ¼ hr)
Wed., March 11, 18, 25 / 10:30-11:45am

READING LIST: Short Story titles presented may include, but are not limited to,

“There Will Come Soft Rains”	“The Jar”	“The Leave Taking”
“The Pedestrian”	“John Huff”	“Cat’s Pajamas”
“The Sound of Thunder”	“Town Where Nobody Got Off”	“The Lake”
“The Big Black and White Game”	“Picasso Summer”	“The Dragon”
“The Flying Machine”	“Usher II”	“The Exiles”
“The Happiness Machine”	“Anthem Sprinters”	“The Veldt”
“To the Chicago Abyss”	“One More for the Road”	“The Murderer”
“Great Wide World over There”	“All Summer in a Day”	“The Banshee”
“The Drummer Boy of Shiloh”	“Sound of Summer Running”	“Time Intervening”

NOTE: These major titles will include the listed stories to be covered in class. If participants have personal editions, or can secure library texts, this will assist in having sufficient copies of the stories on hand for group discussions:

The Stories of Ray Bradbury
One More for the Road

Golden Apples of the Sun
Martian Chronicles

Dandelion Wine
Illustrated Man

LINKS -Visit these sites for additional background to the life and works of Ray Bradbury:

- <http://www.raybradbury.com/> <http://www.bradburymedia.co.uk/>
- <http://www.spaceagecity.com/bradbury/bio.htm> <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001969/>
- <http://www.isfdb.org/cgi-bin/ea.cgi?194>

SESSION 1 3/11

- Introductory discussion related to Mr. Bradbury's many exchanges with class instructor Frank Palumbo
- Review of materials from personal library of items received over the years (books, photos, letters, etc.)
- Reading of passages: “John Huff” and “Sound of Summer Running” to familiarize participants with the author's style, images, and poetic narration
- Video of a Ray Bradbury short story
- Discussion, handout of an outline related to assigned readings for week #2

SESSION 2 3/18

- Open discussion on any stories from suggested titles
- Review of the assigned short stories from session one BE SURE AND LOOK AT THESE:
 - "All Summer in a Day" (bullying at its worst);
 - "The Big Black and White Game" (Pre-Harper Lee story of racial segregation) Some links: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darktown_Strutters%27_Ball (background details) and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPOSEXvhTDU> (song in the story)
 - "The Leave Taking"
- Biographic texts passed around and discussed related to Mr. Bradbury's development as a writer
- Discussion of selected stories (from class members). Reading aloud: "The Leave Taking"
- Video of a Ray Bradbury video
- Discussion, handout of an outline related to assigned readings for week #3

SESSION 3 3/25

- Open discussion on short stories from session 2 or any of the extra readings from suggested titles
- You'll have a chance to view items from RB over the years 1996-2012.
- Ray Bradbury's influence on American Literature, Hollywood movies, Music, and NASA
- Final exchanges from class participants on their reading of RB stories