“All Summer in a Day” **Textual Analysis**

**About the Author**

Ray Bradbury has been called the world’s greatest science fiction writer. He once described himself more simply: “I am a storyteller. That’s all I’ve ever tried to be.” Through this connection of the imagined and the real, Bradbury’s fiction challenges the reader to question where we might be headed and what we might learn about ourselves now.

**Cross Curricular Connections (Science and History)**

*Find 3 facts about Venus.*

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2. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
3. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Find 3 important events in history in the 1950s and 1960s.*

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2. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
3. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Answer in complete sentences.**

“…this was the way life was forever on the planet Venus, and this was the schoolroom of the children of the rocket men and women who had come to a raining world to set up civilization and live out their lives.”

1. *With the current state of our American and global society, do you think this is a real possibility?*

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1. *Bradbury published this in 1959, what events do you think influenced this subject?*

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“They were all nine years old, and if there had been a day, seven years ago, when the sun came out for an hour and showed its face to the stunned world, they could not recall.”

1. *What is the significance of this excerpt as it pertains to the characters?*

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(Level Up Option) “She knew they thought they remembered a warmness, like a blushing in the face, in the body, in the arms and legs and trembling hands. But then…”

1. *What is the contradiction in this statement? How would she know? What do you think?*

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1. *What do you notice about that language Bradbury uses?*

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(Level Up Option) “She was an old photograph dusted from an album, whitened away, and if she spoke at all her voice would be a ghost. Now she stood, separate, staring at the rain and the loud wet world beyond the huge glass.”

“Juxtaposition is a literary technique in which two or more ideas, places, characters and their actions are placed side by side in a narrative or poem for the purpose of developing comparisons and contrasts.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. *Do you notice the use of juxtaposition in this quote? Where?*

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1. *Explain the use of any figurative language in this quote.*

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“the biggest crime of all was that she had come here only five years ago from Earth, and she remembered the sun and the way the sun was and the sky was when she was four in Ohio.”

1. *How does the author introduce depth to the conflict between Margot and the other students?*

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“There was talk that her father and mother were taking her back to Earth next year; it seemed vital to her that they do so, though it would mean the loss of thousands of dollars to her family.”

1. *What is the purpose of the author including this possibility? How does it add to characters’ motivation?*

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(Level Up Option) "Now, don’t go too far," called the teacher after them. "You’ve only two hours, you know. You wouldn’t want to get caught out!" But they were running and turning their faces up to the sky and feeling the sun on their cheeks like a warm iron…”

1. *What contrast is presented in this quote and what is the significance in this quote?*

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“It was a nest of octopi, clustering up great arms of flesh-like weed, wavering, flowering in this brief spring.”

1. *What is the meaning of this metaphor?*

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“They could not meet each other’s glances. Their faces were solemn and pale. They looked at their hands and feet, their faces down.”

1. *What do the characters’ reactions reveal about them?*

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1. *How does this contradict with their initial feelings (pg 3)?*

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1. *From what you know of her character based on her behavior throughout the story, how do you think Margot will react when she is let out of the closet? Should Bradbury have described what happens next, or do you like the story as it is? Explain.*

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1. (Level Up Option) *Why do you think the author ended the story this way?*

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1. http://literarydevices.net/juxtaposition/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)