Ray Bradbury

Key to abbreviations in this Lesson Plan
AD-SL Authors In Depth – SILVER LEVEL
Resources Teaching Guides and Customizable Resources
TG Teaching Guide
SAS Student Activity Sheet
GOT Graphic Organizer Transparency

Preview • 1–2 Days
1. With the class, read and discuss the introductory material in AD-SL, pp. 2–3.
2. If students will be reading a number of selections in AD-SL, you may want to distribute and discuss Reading Anthologies, Resources, p. 157.
   1. mass (mas) n. weight; bulk; magnitude (p. 4)
   2. condensations (kàn’dən sə̀ nə́nz) n. books reduced in number of words and content (p. 4)
   3. tabloids (tab’ə līdz) n. half-size newspapers, often with sensational news stories (p. 4)
   4. résumé (rē’ə mā́) n. summary; synopsis (p. 4)
   5. interminable (in’trə mi nə́ bəl) adj. endless (p. 9)
   6. reverie (rev’ə rḗ) n. musing; daydream (p. 11)
   7. catalysts (kæt’ə listə́s) n. things that precipitate change (p. 14)

from Fahrenheit 451 • 1–2 Days
   SAMPLE ANSWERS
   1. The “job” started about the time of the Civil War.
   2. The “intellectual pattern” is “out of the nursery into the college and back to the nursery.”
   3. Mildred wants to adjust his pillow.
   4. Mildred discovers the book behind the pillow.
   SAMPLE ANSWERS
   1. Beatty’s comments suggest that the era is beyond the twentieth century, because Hamlet seems to be beyond even the one-page digest stage.
   2. For many people, visual media have replaced books and pictures have replaced words.
   3. Montag treats Mildred abruptly because he does not want her to move the pillow and reveal the book.
   4. Students who agree may say that movies and television dominate modern culture and that fewer people prefer reading. Students who disagree may say that books are still the main vehicle for ideas.
   5. Writing Activity Ask students to write about the importance or unimportance of reading in today’s world. Students should use a quotation from Bradbury’s story to support their opinion.

Hail and Farewell • 1–2 Days
1. AD-SL Check Your Comprehension questions 1–4, p. 13.
   SAMPLE ANSWERS
   1. Willie is preparing to leave town because people have begun to notice that his appearance does not change and he fears his secret will be revealed.
   2. Emily Robinson says that she misses the eagerness and freshness of youth.
   3. He discovers that he wants to be a boy, a son, to people without children and to make lonely people happy.
   4. Willie enters another new town to join a new family.
   SAMPLE ANSWERS
   1. Willie is blessed with youth but is cursed with feeling unnatural and unaccepted for what he really is.
   2. Bradbury uses fantasy in creating a character who never grows up. He uses suspense in establishing a plot that makes the reader wonder where this character will go and what will happen to him.
   3. The theme may be that violating the natural flow of time leads to unhappiness or an unsettled life.
4. Willie decides that he will make people happy, create joy, and unselfishly bring love to others.

6. **Writing Activity** Ask students to write a paragraph about the real meaning of maturity.

7. **Assign** from Just This Side of Byzantium: An Introduction, AD-SL, pp. 14–16.

**from Just This Side of Byzantium: An Introduction • 1–2 Days**

1. **AD-SL** Check Your Comprehension questions 1–4, p. 17.

**SAMPLE ANSWERS**

1. Bradbury’s surprising result was a new story.
2. The writer recalls northern Illinois grass, dandelions, wild grapes, a rain barrel, bees, and a grape arbor.
3. When walking home late, Skip would hide under the bridge, then leap out and scare his brother.
4. People’s idea of what is ugly is learned when they grow up.


4. **AD-SL** Critical Thinking questions, p. 17.

**SAMPLE ANSWERS**

1. Memories serve Bradbury as inspirations for stories.
2. Bradbury is imaginative because he creates stories; energetic because he is always engaged in activities; happy because he enjoys his life, family, and town.
3. He probably did not want to disturb anyone who still lives in his real hometown. He may also have wanted a name that had a more symbolic meaning.
4. Students who agree may say that ugliness, like beauty, “is in the eye of the beholder.” Students who disagree may say that some things are universally considered more beautiful than others.

5. **Writing Activity** Ask students to write a paragraph about a sight, a sound, or an experience that they think would inspire a writer or an artist.

6. **Assign** Idea Bank activities, AD-SL, pp. 18–19. Make individual assignments from among the activities or let students choose an activity.

**Pulling It All Together • 1–2 Days**

1. **Idea Bank Activities** Collect and evaluate the written assignments. Have some students per-form their dramatic readings and demonstrate their sound tracks.

2. Review for and administer test.

**ANSWERS TO TEST**

**A. Thinking About the Works of Ray Bradbury**

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. b 5. a 6. c 7. b 8. a 9. b 10. d

**B. Recognizing Literary Elements and Techniques**

11. Suspense in Fahrenheit 451 rises because the finding of the hidden book is delayed as Mildred gets closer and closer to discovering it.

12. Bradbury inserts quotations from people at different times of Willie’s life, such as “What’s wrong with Willie, missus?” and “Better feed that boy vitamins, Steve.”

13. “Hail and Farewell” is a fantastic story of a man who remains a boy. It has a believable setting and realistic people. The elements of realism help the reader believe in the fantastic.


15. Simile. It compares two unlike things, memories and bottles, using the word like.

**C. Essay Questions**

16. **Easy** Books and movies are both ways of telling stories. Books can explore ideas in greater depth than movies. Books offer the enjoyment of language and art of literature. The reader sets the pace of reading. Books contain the author’s descriptions and imaginative word choices as well as the plot and characters. Movies tell stories with sights and sounds in addition to words. Most movies involve people emotionally and physically in a way that most books do not. Movies set the pace of viewing and may contain special effects.

17. **Average** Willie decides to keep moving because he is considered freakish by people who notice his non-aging condition. To avoid being an outcast, he becomes a stranger in a new town. His decision is a good one because it allows him to do good for lonely people. It is a bad decision because he carries a secret burden and stays a lonely person. If he decided to stay in one place, he might develop friends who could help him become a loved member of a community.

18. **Challenging** Bradbury says that an idea must be allowed to surprise the writer. He learned to find the surprising memories and delights of things and events in his own past and in the world around him. He considers surprise to be at the heart of writing—associating words with events and ideas and letting stories grow. He learned to let his senses and his past reveal truths to him. He learned to keep being surprised as he grew older.