**Ray Bradbury’s “There Will Come Soft Rains”**

**Get in groups of 5. Each group will receive a set of different questions. Answer your questions thoughtfully and carefully. Find textual examples to support your answers. Each group will present their answers to the class.**

**Group One:**

1. What happened to the family? Are you told, or must you draw your own conclusions?
2. Based on evidence from the text, describe the life of the family and what kind of people they were.
3. Why did Bradbury use the title of the poem as the title for his story? What impact does it have?
4. What is the theme of the short story? Explain.
5. Would you categorize this story as an example of utopian or dystopian fiction? Explain.
6. What is the time and place of the story? What atmosphere is caused by the setting?

**Group Two:**

1. From what point of view is the story told?
2. Define personification. Find 3 examples of personification in this story. What impact does this literary device have on the story? How does the personification relate to the setting?
3. Define extended metaphor. What is the house compared to in this story?
4. Contrast the frailty of human life to the powers of technology (as depicted in this story.)
5. Give an example of foreshadowing in the story.

**Group Three:**

1. What type of irony (situational, dramatic or verbal) is present in this story? Find an example to support your answer.
2. Why do you think Bradbury has the house broadcast the poem by Sara Teasdale? What is the theme of the poem?
3. How does Teasdale’s poem reveal the theme of the story?
4. A motif is defined as a unifying element in a work, especially any recurrent image, symbol, etc. Ex: the author compares the *fantastic* to the *ordinary* in many instances is the story-- an *automated house* is making a *traditional breakfast* of bacon and eggs. Find 2 more examples of the fantastic/ordinary motif.

**Group Four:**

1. Discuss the contrast between destruction of humanity and the survival of nature (as depicted in the story.)
2. What is the main conflict in the story?
3. How does Bradbury use time lapses to develop the plot?
4. Find an example of suspense in the story.
5. Find an example of symbolism in the story.
6. How is allusion used in the story?

**Group Five:**

1. Find 2 examples where sensory images play a role in describing something. Why would Bradbury include these images?
2. When considering the author’s style of writing, what type of language does he use: emotion or reason? Explain.
3. What age group would the target audience be for this story? Why?
4. What is “soft rain”? What is ironic about the diction choice “soft”?
5. What are 3 details from the story that tell us that the catastrophe happened some time ago?
6. What is the moral lesson of the story?
7. Explain how Bradbury uses an inanimate object as a protagonist. Is this effective? Why or why not?