

RAY BRADBURY

KEY FACTS

- ❖ Born August 22, 1920 in Waukegan, Illinois
- ❖ Died June 5, 2012 in Los Angeles
- ❖ Was a reader and writer throughout his childhood
- ❖ Began writing stories at the age of eleven
- ❖ Was influenced by Edgar Allan Poe, H.G. Wells, Jules Verne, Robert Heinlein, and Arthur C. Clarke
- ❖ Most of his stories are of the science fiction genre
- ❖ Published his first story, "Hollerbochen's Dilemma" in 1938
- ❖ Married Margaret McClure in 1947, and they had four daughters
- ❖ Has published 30+ books, around 600 short stories, and numerous poems, essays, and plays
- ❖ Best known for his science fiction novel *Fahrenheit 451*
- ❖ Winner of numerous awards including the National Medal of Arts and a Hugo Award for Best Novel



FAMOUS QUOTES

"Jump, and you will find out how to unfold your wings as you fall."

"You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them."

"Love. Fall in love and stay in love. Write only what you love, and love what you write. The key word is love. You have to get up in the morning and write something you love, something to live for."

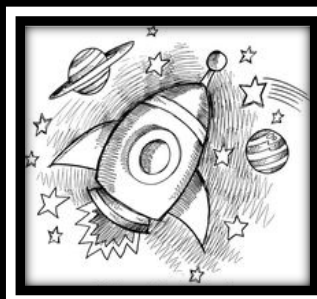
"There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them."

"We are cups, constantly and quietly being filled. The trick is knowing how to tip ourselves over and let the beautiful stuff out."

"You don't have to turn on the TV set. You don't have to work on the internet. It's up to you."

As a science fiction author, Bradbury often wrote about technology and its impact on humanity. However, he did not advocate for technological progress. Rather, Bradbury chose to highlight the dangers and implications of a highly-advanced society, suggesting that with technology comes the devolution of humankind. He even went so far as to claim that "[he] didn't try to predict the future. [He] tried to prevent it," when asked about his novel *Fahrenheit 451*. Bradbury wanted his readers to consider the consequences of a life centered on machines. So, as we read two of Bradbury's short stories, think about how you use technology in your own life and how drastically different that life would be without Twitter and Snapchat and BuzzFeed and heated seats in your car. Would it make you crazy? Or would it make you connect with your humanity?

WRITING



WE WILL READ

- ❖ "The Pedestrian" – published in 1951 – a dystopian short story focusing on unmet expectations, technology, and the government.
- ❖ "The Veldt" – published in 1950 – a dystopian short story set in the future warning about the dangers of technology.

"We are an impossibility in an impossible universe." – Ray Bradbury