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### “The Veldt” by Ray Bradbury

**Directions:** EVERYONE needs to take notes about the discussion and the thoughts/answers that everyone came up with during the discussion. Notes will be submitted at the end of class today.

A. Mandatory questions;

1. What vocabulary words did you not know?
2. Where did your reading break down?
3. What did you like/find interesting about the story?

Choose EIGHT (you must choose TWO questions from 1-3, TWO from 4-6, TWO from 7-9 and TWO from 10-12) of the following questions to discuss IN DEPTH with your group.

1. What is Bradbury saying about the future of society and technology’s role in it?

*Dig Deeper Think About:*

How do the children react/respond when their parents “turn off” the house? Is the message of “The Veldt” comparable to “The Pedestrian” or “The Lottery”? Explain.

2. Is there any significance to the names of the Hadley children? Explain what you’ve figured out!

*Dig Deeper Think About:*

Why might Bradbury have chosen those names? Does Bradbury **allude** to anything else? How does the **allusion** further characterize Wendy and Peter?

3. Analyze the way Peter addresses his father throughout the story. What might explain his word choice in certain situations?

*Dig Deeper Think About:*

How does Bradbury use the relationships between the parents and the children to critique his society? What aspects of parent/child relationships does he criticize? Which party is more culpable in this situation (the conflict in “The Veldt”)—the parents or the children?

4. What is **ironic** about the name of the home?

*Dig Deeper Think About:*

What else could Bradbury have named this house? Would the new names have the same effect? How does the name of the house make you think? Is the house dangerous? What “crutches” do we cling to in our modern society? How do assistive technologies affect our society?

5. What current technologies create generation gaps? What concerns do parents have today about their children? Are these concerns legitimate?

*Dig Deeper Think About:*

What else creates distance between generations? How do you think the author feels about these changes? Upon which aspect of society is he making a comment? What is his opinion? (Think about the characteristics of a dystopian story.)

6. How does this story fit the characteristics of a **Gothic** (genre) horror story? (A classic Gothic horror story often portrays “sick” houses and/or families.)

*Dig Deeper Think About:*

What clues are readers given throughout the story that something “very bad” (to quote David McClean) is going on in the nursery? How does the idea of a “sick family” connect to either of the other short stories we’ve read? Be specific in your correlations.

7. Try to explain one of the following:
  - a. George's chewed wallet in the nursery
  - b. Lydia's bloody scarf
  - c. Screams that sound familiar

*Dig Deeper Think About:*

Are any of these examples **symbolic**? If so, what does each symbolize? What do the items **foreshadow**? What effect does the *ambiguity* of the plot have on the **mood** of the reader?

8. What lesson about *abandonment* are we supposed to learn by reading "The Veldt"?

*Dig Deeper Think About:*

Who is abandoned? Is there more than one abandoned character? Construct a statement of **theme** related to the concept of *abandonment* in "The Veldt."

9. Identify the primary **human institution** that Bradbury is satirizing.

*Dig Deeper Think About:*

How is the house infantilizing the Hadley family? (Infantilize means to treat (someone) as a child or in a way that denies their maturity in age or experience.) How does Bradbury feel about the house? What series of words or images does Bradbury utilize to tell us how he feels about the house? How does the writer make me feel about the house? What types of connotative words are used to describe the house?

10. In what way can the nursery serve the needs of both parents and children?

*Dig Deeper Think About:*

What ways does a parent care for a child? What ways does a babysitter care for a child? What things does a parent look for in a nanny or babysitter? What does a homeowner look for in maid/housekeeper?

11. What is Bradbury suggesting about parent/child relationships?

*Dig Deeper Think About:*

Think about the relationship Peter and Wendy have with the nursery. Think about the relationship that Peter and Wendy have with one another. Think about the interactions between Peter and Wendy and Mr. and Mrs. Hadley.

12. In psychoanalysis, people's thoughts and feelings are analyzed in order to help them sort out problems. What if George had sent Wendy and Peter to a psychoanalysis immediately upon realizing that the nursery was becoming a threat? Do you think the story would have turned out different? Why or Why not?

*Dig Deeper Think About:*

What do you think Wendy and Peter would have told a psychoanalyst? Think about the relationship between Peter and Wendy and Mr. and Mrs. Hadley. Think about Peter and Wendy's level of intellect.