Shaimaa Husien

Dec 07,2021

Final Exam

“There Will Come Soft Rains”.

Ray Bradbury is a famous novelist who wrote a short story named “There Will Come Soft Rains”. This story is an apocalyptic tale that sends a warning to the mankind so that they understand the danger of becoming dependent on technology. The story revolves around a very modern “smart” house which the writer has used to relay his message to the audiences. The theme of this story is ‘Nature vs Science’. Everything the family would ever need was taken care by the smart house. Soon after some time, the story outlays that the family is very much extinct and has been destroyed by a nuclear occurrence. The smart house has also been ruined which satisfies Bradbury’s reason to write the story where he wanted to alarm the human race about their shortcomings in technology. So, the futuristic story has no characters instead of a single house left standing after nuclear blast has destroyed the remainder of Allendale, California in the year 2026. The story was evidence of how technology eventually overcomes humanity.

The smart house had different appliances, all with unusual qualities. The first thing is the clock that sings and declares time for breakfast. It also has a reaction that hints if something might not be right. In the kitchen, the stove prepares breakfast for four people that includes toast, bacon, eggs, milk, and coffee. The ceiling of the kitchen is also automated for voice blasts that announces, “Today is Mr. Featherstone’s birthday, Tilita’s wedding anniversary, and that bills are due”. The house walls are even capable of storing this information on memory tapes. The description of the house shows that the McClellan family who were perished in a nuclear explosion were so distant from nature because everything was automated and functioned as artificially intelligent. The negative effect of this dependance on technology is that even after several years of being inexistant, the smart house continues to operate. This shows that the family’s imprint on technology has blended it with human characteristics, and in real taken on the value of human and animals.

Based on the many automated features of the home, one can learn that this story presents death as pervasive. Related to the relentless dying of the McClellan family, people can learn that technology can be both helpful and destructive. The biggest message for the people was the dreadful side of technology in the form of nuclear weapons that could badly affect the human race and the whole world. Moreover, the story also highlights that advanced technology replaces man in various ways. The work once a man was expected to complete can be easily done by different machines. The importance and purpose of human existence is questioned!

Moreover, the story has some of the most powerful images of “yellow giraffes, blue lions, pink antelopes, lilac, panthers cavorting” (Bradbury 3). The colors used for these animals symbolized the unnaturalness of technology. Ray Bradbury has also presented symbolism, specific word choices, personification, and various literary devices to promote his message. One example is that Bradbury used symbolism when he said that the air was ‘glowing’ to represent the readers that some type of nuclear activity has happened. The color of the nursery was also used to relate to the atmosphere.

The specific word choices used by Bradbury were to enlighten the readers about the limitations of artificial intelligence. For example, the author describes the stove as “hissing” in the start of the story. This word choice helped the readers to get perspective of how the story was going to go because he used that word in the start of the story so nothing bad had happened in it. Ray Bradbury also used personification in the story by giving human characteristics to inanimate objects. An example of personification that can be seen throughout the story was that the house acted as a maid which is obvious that only humans can do when taking care of the chores for the family. Moreover, making the clock sing is also an example of personification. Thus, today’s society is already experiencing the technological advances that Bradbury anticipated would be available in 2026. People todays should be more cautious while being too much dependent on technology.