# ANALYZING SHORT STORY ELEMENTS

revised: kf/2020

1. Your task:

a. Read over the Short Story Elements sheet.

b. Analyze all four short stories by looking for the elements.

c. Write phrases/sentences to answer each of the elements.

d. Use this sheet as your template.

e. Please turn in as one document. I will have a file where you can upload it.

**2. \_AUTHOR FULL NAME:\_** Raymond Douglas Bradbury**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Short story title” in quotes: “The Veldt”**

**A. Setting: (fill in as many as apply)**

1. Place: A HappyLife house owned by the Hadley
2. Time: Sometime in the future
3. Weather conditions: In the veldt, it is hot and sunny
4. Social conditions: George and his wife are tired of all the automation that is taking over their children’s lives, and their children are addicted to the automation and would do anything to keep the house online
5. mood/atmosphere: Very aggressive by the children, alarmed from the adults

**B. Plot: de*scribe each part of the plot***

1. Introduction (setting/char): We are introduced to George Hadley and his wife. They live in a HappyLife house, which is fully automated and comes with a nursery room that can transform into any scenery imaginable. Their children, Peter and Wendy, are addicted to the nursery room. However, for the past couple of weeks, the nursery has been stuck as an African Veldt.
2. Rising action: Because of the children’s addiction, they decide to take a vacation from all of the automation. The children freak out.
3. Climax: The children lock their parents in the Veldt, where they are eaten by lions.
4. Falling Action: Mr Mclean comes to pick the children
5. Denouement: There is no denouement.

**C. Conflict:**

1. Type: External/Internal – explain: External because it is the Children going against their parent’s will.
2. Kind: Choose one and explain**:** This is a Person Versus person conflict because it is the Parents trying to control their children and their children killing them.

**D. Character: *Choose the most important characters (add more categories if needed)***

1. Protagonist’s name: George and Lydia Hadley

Characteristics of George and Lydia

George is strict towards his children

Lydia is more relaxed towards his children, but she is skiddish while in the nursery.

Type of char. – individual, developing, static

Both George and Lydia are both static characters as they don’t develop through the story.

1. Antagonist’s name: Peter and Wendy Hadley

Characteristics of Peter and Wendy

Both peter and Wendy are aggressive towards their parents

Type of char. – individual, developing, static

They are developing characters, as they develop from addicts to the Nursery to aggressive killers by the end of the story.

**E. Point of View**

1. Type?: Third person limited
2. Why?: Because it is told from the view of someone not in the story and we can’t read anyone’s direct thoughts.

**F. Theme: The ability for Humans to destroy themselves with Technology**

This story shows the children killing their parents using the technology, while also being destroyed by their addiction to technology.

3. Citation for this short story in MLA format.

Bradbury, Ray. *The Veldt.* Jefferson Union High School District, 2016, <https://www.juhsd.net/cms/lib/CA01902464/Centricity/Domain/256/2016_The%20Veldt.pdf>. Accessed April 6, 2020.

**2. \_AUTHOR FULL NAME:\_** Raymond Douglas Bradbury**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Short story title” in quotes: “There Will Come Soft Rains**

**A. Setting: (fill in as many as apply)**

1. Place: Allendale, California
2. Time: August 4, 2026
3. Weather conditions: Raining
4. Social conditions: No Social Conditions
5. mood/atmosphere: Lonely

**B. Plot: de*scribe each part of the plot***

1. Introduction (setting/char): We meet the fully automated house and find that the entire city was wiped out by a nuclear strike.
2. Rising action: The poem *There will Come Soft Rains* is read and the tree falls onto the house, starting a fire
3. Climax: The fire consumes the house
4. Falling Action: House stops burning
5. Denouement: The single wall repeats the date

**C. Conflict:**

1. Type: External/Internal – explain: External because it is a fight between man made house and the fire, both physical things.
2. Kind: Choose one and explain**:** This is a Person versus Nature conflict, as the personified house is battling the flames created from a natural cause.

**D. Character: *Choose the most important characters (add more categories if needed)***

1. Protagonist’s name: The House

Characteristics of the house:

Logical, Algorithmic

Type of char. – individual, developing, static:

Static because it is defined purely by its programming and does not change throughout the story

1. Antagonist’s name: The Fire

Characteristics of the Fire:

Angry, Clever

Type of char. – individual, developing, static:

Static because it is defined by its nature and does not change throughout the story

**E. Point of View**

1. Type? Third Person Limited
2. Why? It is told from a perspective outside of the story but it does not have access to the character’s thoughts, just what they do.

**F. Theme: The ability for Humans to destroy themselves with Technology**

This story shows an already obliterated world and humans’ destruction to themselves and nature that they have done.

3. Citation for this short story in MLA format.

Bradbury, Ray. *There Will Come Soft Rains.* Broom-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Jan 25, 2013, <https://www.btboces.org/Downloads/7_There%20Will%20Come%20Soft%20Rains%20by%20Ray%20Bradbury.pdf>. Accessed April 6, 2020.

**2. \_AUTHOR FULL NAME:\_** Raymond Douglas Bradbury**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Short story title” in quotes: ”A Sound of Thunder”**

**A. Setting: (fill in as many as apply)**

1. Place: Time Safari Inc, and somewhere on earth
2. Time: 2055 and 60000000 years bc
3. Weather conditions: Fog as the Machine Lands that quickly clears
4. Social conditions: Tension between all of the main characters
5. mood/atmosphere: Ominous, Expansive

**B. Plot: de*scribe each part of the plot***

1. Introduction (setting/char): Eckels walks into Time Safari Inc, meets Mr. Travis and his hunting group
2. Rising action: The hunting group travels back in time and gets prepared for the hunt and are warned not to touch anything for risk of messing up the future.
3. Climax: They shoot the Tyrannosaurus rex, but Eckels becomes afraid, accidentally steps off the path and crushes a butterfly
4. Falling Action: They travel back to the future and they notice that it has changed for the worse.
5. Denouement: Eckles notices the butterfly on the bottom of his boot and Mr. Travis shoots him where he stood.

**C. Conflict:**

1. Type: External/Internal – explain: Internal conflict because Eckles has to fight his fear
2. Kind: Choose one and explain**:** Person vs. Self Because Eckles is fighting himself to stay on the trail and to try to control his fear.

**D. Character: *Choose the most important characters (add more categories if needed)***

1. Protagonist’s name: Eckles

Characteristics of Eckles

Eckles is a timid character who is easily frightened. He lets this fear control him, which caused a complete upheaval of time.

Type of char. – individual, developing, static

Eckles is a developing character, as he begins the story careless for the world he is traveling to and ends the story cruelly aware of the effects of his crimes.

**E. Point of View**

1. Type?
   1. Third person limited
2. Why?
   1. The story focuses on the characters from an exterior perspective, but it doesn’t know any of the characters’ direct thoughts, only their words and actions.

**F. Theme: The ability for Humans to destroy themselves with Technology**

Eckles destroys and manipulates humanity’s entire history by accidentally wandering off the path.

3. Citation for this short story in MLA format.

Bradbury, Ray. *A Sound of Thunder*. Stony Brook University Astronomy, <http://www.astro.sunysb.edu/fwalter/AST389/ASoundofThunder.pdf>. Accessed April 6, 2020.

**2. \_AUTHOR FULL NAME:\_** Raymond Douglas Bradbury**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Short story title” in quotes: “The Record”**

**A. Setting: (fill in as many as apply)**

1. Place: Los Angeles
2. Time: 2171
3. Weather conditions: Not Applicable
4. Social conditions: Full scale war between all remaining humans
5. mood/atmosphere: Dark, Abandoned, Cruel

**B. Plot: de*scribe each part of the plot***

1. Introduction (setting/char): We hear about the end of civilizations. By 2150, humans had finished science and there wasn’t anything left to do in the universe. Because there was nothing new to do, people ended up fighting each other. There are now only hundreds of people left and they have congregated in Los Angeles to fight it out.
2. Rising action: Hedrik Hunson begins fighting
3. Climax: Hedrik gets knocked down by a spreader, grabs the phonograph, and tries to use it as a weapon
4. Falling Action: Hendrik begins playing music on the phonograph.
5. Denouement: All of the people stop fighting and inspired the people to rebuild the world

**C. Conflict:**

1. Type: External/Internal – explain: This was an external conflict between the characters and society’s warlike tendencies
2. Kind: Choose one and explain**:** Character versus Society because it is Hedrik accidentally contradicts society by playing music, which ends up stopping the war.

**D. Character: *Choose the most important characters (add more categories if needed)***

1. Protagonist’s name: Henrik Hunson

Characteristics of Henrik Hunson

Henrik Hunson is aggressive at the beginning of the book

Type of char. – individual, developing, static: Developing Character because in the beginning he is aggressive, but near the end when he hears the music he becomes peaceful and hopeful.

1. Antagonist’s name: Society

Characteristics of Society

Society is aggressive and warful.

Type of char. – individual, developing, static: Developing because they go from war-mongerers in the beginning of the book to the rebuilders of society

**E. Point of View**

1. Type? Third person Omniscient
2. Why? Because the story is being told by someone outside of the story but they know all the character’s thoughts.

**F. Theme****: The ability for Humans to destroy themselves with Technology**

In this story, Humans have finished technology and are now using technology to destroy each other. They are brought back from madness with the power of music.

3. Citation for this short story in MLA format.

Bradbury, Ray. *The Record.* *Futuria Fantasia,* Summer 1939, <https://americanliterature.com/author/ray-bradbury/short-story/the-record>. Accessed April 6, 2020.