

The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury

ILLUSTRATIONS Create detailed illustrations of people, places, things, or even events from one or more stories in The Martian Chronicles. These should be key ideas that would be recognized by anyone who reads the section. Pretend you have been hired by the publisher to include these in the book.

OR

Design a book jacket or cover with one or more drawings that represent what a reader will find in the book. The design should include the title and author.

OR

Make a collage of several smaller objects, people, or places on a bulletin board meant to interest someone who has not read the book.

People: *Yll or Ylla*
the Hathaways
Muha Ca

Places: *a dead Martian city*
Usher II
Yll and Ylla's home

Events: *Tomás Gomez's and Muha Ca's meeting*
the Blacks leaving Earth
the children playing in the Martian city ("The Musicians")

Objects: *Martian vehicles (sand ships)*
Martian buildings and towns
Stendahl's house ("Usher II")
Earth rockets
a kaleidoscope

A "Chronicles" ADDITION Write your own story to be added to Ray Bradbury's. Although it needs to be good science fiction and needs to take place on Earth or Mars, you are free to use any theme, create original characters and local settings, and introduce new events or objects. It is also up to you whether you model Bradbury's styles or introduce your own. Think science fiction, which does not have to mean bizarre or extraordinary.

KALEIDOSCOPE The old man in "Night Meeting" remembers receiving a kaleidoscope when he was a child. He remembers the patterns and the variations and the beauty the bits of materials and beads made. Describe in drawings or words the kaleidoscope of your life as it is or you wish it would be. What colors or patterns would represent the different parts of your life (family, friends, school activities, likes, dislikes, etc.).

OR

Draw what you think Earth **really** looks like or describe what it is like in an essay or poem. Remember what the old man in "Night Meeting" says about Mars; "Don't ask it to be anything else but what it is." Also remember that there is good **and** bad in almost anything and everything.

RESEARCH Research a topic or person related to the book. Display or present your information and insights in a short information paper, a children's book, a classroom bulletin board, a game, trivia note cards, a video or Power Point, or a speech. Be sure your research is thorough and accurate. Possible topics include:

telepathy

Ray Bradbury

the space program (1950-now)

science fiction

Edgar Allan Poe

the Civil Rights movement (40's -50's)

robots

Sara Teasdale

life on other planets

rockets

Mars

MOVIE Watch the movie version of The Martian Chronicles. Make a chart or diagram or write an essay that lists the comparisons and contrasts between the two. Also include a personal analysis of the movie's ability to replicate Bradbury's mood.

BOOK BANNING Identify at least ten books that have been banned somewhere in the United States and find out when and why the book was banned. Be able to explain the difference between book banning and censorship (if there is a difference).

STORY MODELING Model one of Bradbury's stories from The Martian Chronicles by completing one of the writing activities below.



Select a favorite poem (as Bradbury did in "There Will Come Soft Rains") and write a story with the same theme as the poem. OR Write a different story based on Sara Teasdale's poem.



Write a different version of "-And the Moon Be Still as Bright" where Spender kills the rest of the crew. What does he do after? What would he be like?



Write a sequel to "Way in the Middle of the Air" from one of the black character's point of view. OR Write a sequel to the story that takes place on Mars after the people have landed and started to organize their new settlement.



Pretend you, like Tomás Gomez in "Night Meeting," meet a Martian. Outline your conversation. What would you talk about? What plans would you make? OR How would you convince the other that he or she is in the wrong time? How would you prove that you were alive?

"Usher II" READINGS Read some of the pieces of literature referred to by Bradbury in "Usher II."

Poe – Fall of the House of Usher

"Masque of the Red Death"

"The Pit and the Pendulum"

"Murders in the Rue Morgue"

"The Premature Burial"

"The Cask of Amontillado"

Fairy Tales – "Snow White"

"Rupelstiltskin"

"Sleeping Beauty"

"Jack and the Beanstalk"

Misc. – Alice's Adventures in Wnderland

The Wizard of Oz

OR

Read Ray Bradbury's short story "The Veldt" from his book The Illustrated Man, and then consider the advantages and disadvantages of the type of nursery introduced in the story.

See if you can identify the literary source of the references used by Bradbury in "Usher II." You will need to consider both children's stories and books, as well as adult literature.

House of Usher

St. Nicholas

Headless Horseman

Snow White

Dormice

Rumpelstiltskin

Ruggedo

Phantom Rickshaw

Land of Oz

ape

Glinda the Good

Aamantillado

Jack Pumpkinhead

Polychrome

Alice

Beanstalk

Montresor

"Curiouser and curiouser"

Sleeping Beauty

Ozma

Looking Glass

Babbits

Tweedledum, Tweedledee

Red King

Tik-tok

Mock-Turtle

Rapunzel

7 rooms of different colors

Mother Goose

Bluebeard

Red Death

catcombs and a cap and bells

Mad Hatters

White Queens

"Strangled by an ape and stuffed up a chimney"

a pit and a pendulum