

THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS

Theme: -

1. Ray Bradbury's story is a chilling tale of a post-apocalyptic world in which no humans remain.
2. 'There Will Come Soft Rains' takes up a common concern of the mid-twentieth century. As technology advanced at a rapid pace, particularly following the development of the atomic bomb in the 1940s, a fear of robots taking the place of humans developed.
3. Another theme in the story is that machines can serve as both a help and a hindrance. The machines inside the house are clearly of great benefit as they zoom around cleaning the house.
4. Yet a nuclear event has apparently resulted in the destruction of all human life. For every advance in technology, some harm seems to result.
5. Nature, however, goes about its everyday business: the sun continues to rise and set, the sun shines, and the soft rains come.

ERC: -

1. Since you express no preference, I shall select a poem at random.

a) Whom does "I" refer to?

Ans: - Here "I" refers to the AI voice here

b) Who is the addressee in the above line?

Ans: - The addressee is Mrs. McClellan.

c) Why isn't there any preference expressed?

Ans: - A preference was not expressed because Mrs. McClellan did not give any preference.

d) Which poem does the speaker select?

Ans: - The speaker chose the poem "Sara Teasdale"

e) Why does the speaker select a particular poem?

Ans: - The speaker selected the poem because it was the addressee's favourite poem.

2. Delicately sensing decay at last, the regiments of mice hummed out as softly as blown Gray leaves in an electrical wind.

a) What did the mice sense?

Ans: - The mice sensed the dead dog on the floor.

b) Why does the author use the term "regiments" for the mice?

Ans: - The author used the term "regiments" for the mice as the mice were moving in large numbers.

c) What is the action of the mice compared with?

Ans: - The action of the mice is compared to the blowing of dried leaves in an electric wind.

III. Answer the following: -

1. Justify the title "There Will Come Soft Rains".

Ans: - Ray Bradbury's science fiction story shares the title of the poem by Sara Teasdale. The title refers to the passage of time and predicts what is to come in future. There is hope and optimism hidden in the title indicating the cycle of life. Both the story and the poem are based on the same theme that concerns man versus nature and how nature would carry on whether the humans were around or not. It is the favourite poem of the woman of the house. Also, at the end of the story "soft rains" come to extinguish the flames that have destroyed the house.

2. How did the dog react when it entered the house?

Ans: - The dog was hoping to meet his masters but was not able to find them hence he was disappointed.

3. Based on the story's details about the city, what do you think happened? Why was the west face of the house black? How did the silhouettes get there?

Ans: - The house died because it couldn't survive alone all-around nature, so the control panel exploited leaving the west face of the house black.

IV. Do you think technology provides more benefits or poses more hazards to daily life?

Word limit: -100-120

Ans: -