

# “THE VELDT”

- 1) The main theme of “The Veldt” is
- A) Children left to their own devices will often cause mischief.
  - B) Technology, when it replaces social interaction, dehumanizes people.
  - C) Families who spend more time together develop stronger ties to one another.
  - D) Parents who provide access to advanced technology to children forfeit their parental power.

- 2) The names of the children are excellent allusions because the children in the story
- A) have active imaginations and hate their parents.
  - B) don’t wish to grow up, and proceed to retreat to a fantasy world
  - C) are fascinated by modern technology and want more independence.
  - D) represent the lost innocence of young children, but have many positive qualities.

- 3) I It provides entertainment                      II It functions as a surrogate parent  
III It makes all of the family happy      IV It breaks the family bond

Which of the above statements is/are TRUE regarding the technology in “The Veldt”?

- A) I and IV only
- B) I, II, & IV
- C) II & IV only
- D) All are true.

- 4) The character most comfortable in the setting is
- A) Peter
  - B) Mr. Hadley
  - C) Mrs. Hadley
  - D) David McClean

- 5) Eventually, Mrs. Hadley would rather do the chores herself than let the machines do them due to her fear of
- A) feeling useless.
  - B) her husband’s anger.
  - C) the machine’s revenge.
  - D) the growing aggressiveness of her children.

- 6) Which instance of foreshadowing best shows the parents' general lack of awareness?
- A) Peter's threat.
  - B) Mc Clean's diagnosis
  - C) George Hadley's bloody wallet
  - D) the familiar screams coming from the nursery wall.
- 7) The fact that the Hadleys bought a "Happy Life Home" most effectively demonstrates which of the following literary elements:
- A) foreshadowing
  - B) symbol
  - C) Conflict
  - D) irony
- 8) David McClean's general attitude toward the situation is one of
- A) condescension and disgust
  - B) confidence and judgement
  - C) light heartedness and forgiveness
  - D) panic and confusion
- 9) The fact that the virtual reality wall is placed in the "nursery" shows
- I) It has functioned as a surrogate parent
  - II) The children's innocent nature
  - III) It is basically harmless
- A) I only
  - B) II and III
  - C) I, II, and III
  - D) none of the above
- 10) The children in the story are best termed as
- A) spoiled and whiny
  - B) conniving and violent
  - C) desperate and yielding
  - D) victimized and powerless
- 11) Peter Hadley is best characterized as
- A) static and flat
  - B) static and round
  - C) dynamic and flat
  - D) dynamic and round

## ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

### “THE VELDT”

1) The main theme of “The Veldt” is

- A) Children left to their own devices will often cause mischief.
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A) is understated....much more than mischief occurs.

B) most fully captures the entirety of the story. The technology of the nursery dominates the narrative and the murder of the parents is the most significant event by far.

C) this does not occur in the story and is phrased almost as a moral directive --- themes are more conditional.

D) It can be argued that the parents still had a chance to exert their power to turn off the nursery, which they did near the end of the story.

2) The names of the children are excellent allusions because the children in the story

- A) have active imaginations and hate their parents.
- B) don't wish to grow up, and proceed to retreat to a fantasy world**
- C) are fascinated by modern technology and want more independence.
- D) represent the lost innocence of young children, but have many positive qualities.

The allusion is to *Peter Pan*.

A) In *Peter Pan*, while Wendy and Peter have active imaginations, they do not hate their parents.

B) This is the correct answer --- the children in the story have no desire to change their situation.

C) “Modern technology” is not an accurate depiction of the magical *Peter Pan*.

D) While Loss of Innocence can be applied to both stories, the children in “The Veldt” do not seem to have many positive qualities.

- 3) I It provides entertainment                      II It functions as a surrogate parent  
III It makes all of the family happy              IV It breaks the family bond

Which of the above statements is/are TRUE regarding the technology in “The Veldt”?

- A) I and IV only
- B) I, II, & IV**
- C) II & IV only
- D) All are true.

The correct answer is B.

I is true as it provides entertainment to the children.

II is true as the children are really being raised by the nursery walls and would rather kill their biological parents than lose the nursery.

III is FALSE. Eventually the parents are not happy.

IV Plainly when the parents are killed by the children, the family bond is broken.

4) The character most comfortable in the setting is

- A. **Peter**
- B. Mr. Hadley
- C. Mrs. Hadley
- D. Mr. McClean

Peter is the only character who would like the setting (largely the nursery) to remain the same. The other three seek to change it.

5) Eventually, Mrs. Hadley would rather do the chores herself than let the machines do them due to her fear of

- A. **feeling useless.**
- B. her husband's anger.
- C. the machine's revenge.
- D. the growing aggressiveness of her children.

At one point in the story, she declares her desire to turn off some of the machines that do the work for her. Her husband is not upset at her so "B" is not correct. The machines that do the work for her do not have minds of their own and are not angry with her either, so "C" is not correct. "D" is the distracter. While she is worried about the children's behavior, which is certainly tied to machines in the house, her reasoning given for wanting to do the chores more closely relates to "A".

6) Which instance of foreshadowing best shows the parents' general lack of awareness?

- A) Peter's threat.
- B) Mc Clean's diagnosis.
- C) George Hadley's bloody wallet.
- D) **the familiar screams coming from the nursery wall.**

A) Peter's threat is not typical literary foreshadowing as it is a bit too direct.

B) McClean's diagnosis is not really foreshadowing....he describes the nature of the parents' mistakes.

C) While this is an excellent example of foreshadowing, it does not have as many obvious hallmarks as answer D.

D) This is the correct answer. Because the question asks about the general lack of awareness, which is certainly a problem for the Hadleys, the fact that they cannot recognize the sounds of their own voices, best shows their general lack of awareness.

7) The fact that the Hadleys bought a "Happy Life Home" most effectively demonstrates which of the following literary elements:

- A) foreshadowing   B) symbol   C) Conflict   **D) irony**

"D" is the correct answer --- the home does not make give the family a happy life, therefore it is ironic

8) David McClean's general attitude toward the situation is one of

- A) panic and confusion  
B) condescension and disgust  
**C) confidence and judgement**  
D) light heartedness and forgiveness

A) This is the worst answer. He is neither panicked about the situation he describes and he exhibits total confidence in his diagnosis.

B) While he could be termed condescending, he does not seem disgusted by the parents. He seems to have seen it before.

C) This is the correct answer. He exhibits total confidence but is clearly judgmental regarding the parents' lazy parenting.

D) He does seem relaxed about it all, but does not forgive the parents' behavior. He thinks it needs to be corrected.

9) The fact that the virtual reality wall is placed in the "nursery" shows

- I) It has functioned as a surrogate parent      II) The children's innocent nature  
  
III) It is basically harmless

- A) I only**  
B) II and III  
C) I, II, and III  
D) none of the above

A) This is the correct answer, as the term "nursery" connotes parenting, and the children's personalities are being shaped by it. Choice II is not correct as the children are not innocent. They kill their parents. III is also wrong, as the virtual reality and its effect on the children are extremely harmful.

10) The children in the story are best termed as

- A) spoiled and whiny  
**B) conniving and violent**  
C) desperate and yielding  
D) victimized and powerless

A) This is the distracter. While they are both spoiled and whiny, answer "B" is a better characterization of the children.

- B) The children, while it is not explicitly detailed in the narrative of the story, must plan carefully the murder of their parents. This death is violent. To choose "A" over "B", a student must feel that the whining of the kids is more important than the fact they kill their parents.
- C) The children do not yield at all.
- D) While one could argue that they have been victimized by their parents' poor parenting skills, plainly they are not powerless.

- 11) Peter Hadley is best characterized as
- A) static and flat
  - B) static and round**
  - C) dynamic and flat
  - D) dynamic and round

Static characters are ones whose values and goals do not significantly change throughout the story.

Dynamic characters are ones whose values and goals significantly change throughout the story.

Flat characters are one-dimensional. Only one side of their personality/persona are shown.

Round characters are multi-dimensional --- they show more than one side their personalities.

The correct answer is B. Peter's basic goal/value never changes. He values the freedom to use the virtual reality in the nursery over all things. He is a rounded character, however. He shows an ability to placate his parents, but he is also ruthless. He shows a petulant, whining side, but also shows a cold, calculating, calm side as well.

*The Veldt (Classic Stories of Ray Bradbury)*  
by [Ray Bradbury](#)

Available on [Amazon](#)