

“The Veldt” by Ray Bradbury Discussion Questions

1. Explain what George and Lydia see in their first visit to the playroom; be specific (1-2). Why does it make him laugh when she almost cries? Give quotes as evidence.
2. Why is Lydia unhappy in her home (3)? Contrast this with the way George seems to feel. Give quotes as evidence.
3. What did the kids used to create in the playroom (4)? Why is it so important to the adults that the room has not changed lately?
4. Describe and explain the conversation George and Lydia have with their children (5).
5. How much control do these parents have over their children? Give quotes as evidence. Is this a good or a bad thing?
6. Maclean explains what's wrong and gives advice (8-10). Summarize and give your own opinion of his ideas.
7. Does George regret his decision to turn off the playroom (10-11)? Give quotes as evidence.
8. Why do George and Lydia go back in the playroom? Why can't they get out? What do they realize (11-12)?
9. What happened to George and Lydia in the room? How is this possible?
10. The story ends in violence and death. Would you call it an accident, or murder? Who is most responsible for what happened? Who is innocent? How could this ending have been avoided? Give quotes as evidence.
11. Is “The Veldt” still applicable today? Does this story have any application in our modern world?
12. What comment is the author, Ray Bradbury, making about future technology? Think about who really parents the children, how Lydia feels that she doesn't have enough to do, and the fact that Peter and Wendy think about death so often.
13. What current technologies create generation gaps? Do you feel like there is a generation gap between you and your parents?
14. What concerns do parents have today about their children? Are these concerns legitimate?

The Veldt questions

Comprehension check

1. What personal items of the parents are found in the nursery?
2. What happens to George and Lydia?
3. Why have the children done this?

Critical Thinking

4. The Hadley's live a life of complete comfort and leisure in their Happylife Home. Does this existence bring them true happiness? Why?
5. The Hadley's motto is, "Nothing's too good for the children." Is this a good attitude for parents to have? How does it affect Peter and Wendy?
6. It can be observed that the Hadleys have allowed the nursery to become a kind of substitute father and mother to their children. Does technology (iPods, iPads, Smartphones, Youtube, Netflix, video games...) play the same role in today's society? Why do parents permit such situations occur?
7. What would be your reaction if you discovered that your parents had decided that your family's use of technology had gotten out of hand, and they had rid your home of all its technologies?

Name: _____

"The Veldt" Questions



1. How does the author introduce the conflict on p. 89?
2. Based on p. 89, what is unique about the stove?
3. What does the line "The nursery was silent," exemplify? Why is that line significant?
4. Explain what the following line means as used on p. 90: "It was empty as a jungle glade at hot high noon." Why does the author include that particular example?
5. How does the paragraph starting with "Now the hidden odorophonics were beginning..." as stated on p. 90, contribute to the idea developed about the nursery?
6. How does the following line on p. 91 impact the text? "Are you sure?" his wife sounded particularly tense.
7. What does the last line on p. 91 represent?
8. Based on details on p. 92, what do you believe the nursery actually symbolizes? (Remember that this story was written in the 1950s)

9. How does the following quotation from p. 92 contribute to the story?

"You know how difficult Peter is about that. When I punished him a month ago by locking the nursery for even a few hours-the tantrum he threw! And Wendy too. They *live* for the nursery."

10. How does the paragraph beginning with "You look as if you don't know what to do with yourself in this house, either," on p. 93 contribute to the development of the plot?

11. How does the line "He looked at the door and saw it tremble as if something had jumped against it from the other side." On p. 93 contribute to the story?

12. How does the paragraph on p. 94 starting with "As for the nursery..." contribute to the development of the narrator?

13. How do the following sentences from p. 95 help develop the plot? "Perhaps Lydia was right. Perhaps they needed a little vacation from the fantasy which was growing a bit too real for ten-year-old children."

14. How does the section starting with "He knew the principle of the room exactly," on p. 95 help to develop the plot?

15. What idea does the following line develop about the children? "We're full of strawberry ice cream and hot dogs," said the children, holding hand. "But we'll sit and watch."

16. What is the idea developed about the children on the second half of p. 96? How is the idea developed?

17. Explain the importance of the following character interaction on p. 97 .

"George Hadley looked in at the changed scene. "Go to bed," he said to the children.

They opened their mouths.

"You heard me," he said.

18. How does the scene when George finds his wallet in the nursery on p. 97-98 contribute to the development of the plot

19. Explain how these sentences on p. 99 contribute to the plot:

"And although their beds tried very hard, the two adults couldn't be rocked to sleep for another hour.

A smell of cats was in the night air."

20. Re-read the following sentences from p. 100. How do the sentences contribute to the plot?

"All right, go play in Africa."

"Will you shut off the house sometime soon?"

"We're considering it."

"I don't think you'd better consider it anymore Father."

"I won't have any threats from my son!"

"Very well." And Peter strolled off to the nursery.

21. Describe the relationship between the children and parents at the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story.

22. Explain how George's attitude gradually changes over the course of the story. Then, cite textual evidence to support your answers.

23. What kind of character is George? Explain and support your answer with text evidence.



24. What line best represents the exposition of the story?

25. What line best represents the climax of the story?

26. What line best represents the falling action of the story?

27. What line best represents the resolution of the story?

28. Explain the ending of "The Veldt."

29. What point of view is the story told in and how does this impact the story?

30. What theme can best be learned from "The Veldt"? Explain and cite text evidence to support your answer.