

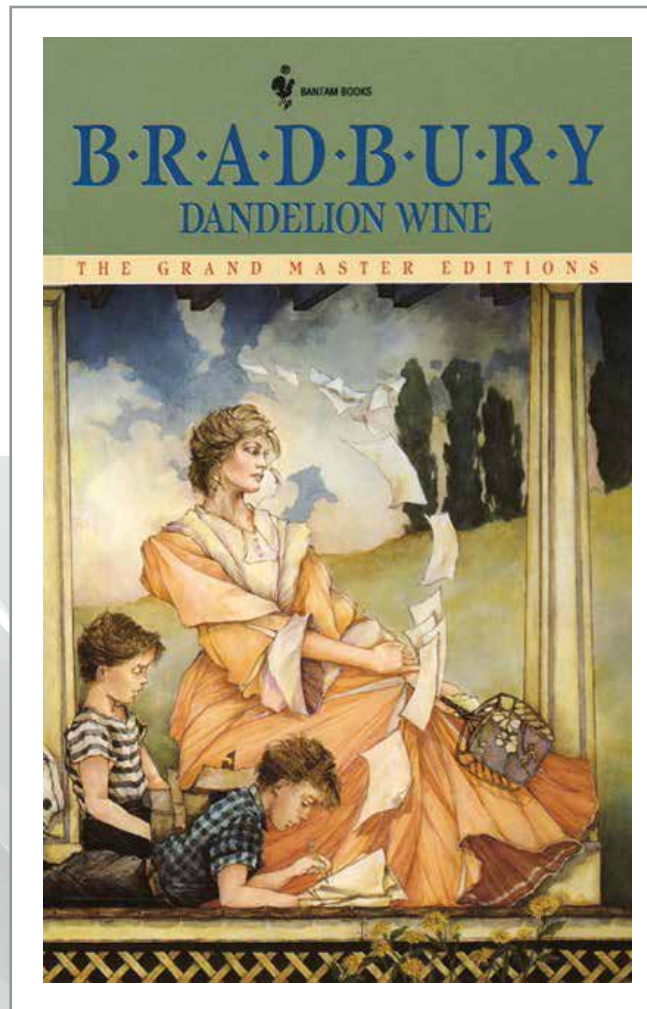


**STUDENT PACKET**

**GRADES 9-12**

# Dandelion Wine

Ray Bradbury



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

# Dandelion Wine

Ray Bradbury

## STUDENT PACKET

**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Technology

**Directions:** The author of *Dandelion Wine*, Ray Bradbury, has always had a fascination with machines. A theme of much of his fiction is to warn readers that although technology has helped humanity, it can also destroy it.

This story is set in 1928 in a midwestern town in America. Many of the appliances and electronics you take for granted did not yet exist. It will help you picture what the characters' lives were like if you know what kinds of "inventions" were commonplace—and which were unheard of or in the very early stages of development. In the space after each item, write a plus (+) if you think the item was commonly used by many Americans. Write a minus (–) if you think it was not.

- |       |                            |       |                        |
|-------|----------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| _____ | manual typewriter          | _____ | bicycle                |
| _____ | audio cassette player      | _____ | transistor radio       |
| _____ | blender                    | _____ | jet airplane           |
| _____ | telegraph                  | _____ | electric trolley       |
| _____ | VCR                        | _____ | safety pin             |
| _____ | black-and-white television | _____ | microphone             |
| _____ | phonograph                 | _____ | hand lawnmower         |
| _____ | electric fan               | _____ | magnetic tape recorder |
| _____ | telescope                  | _____ | electric stove         |
| _____ | locomotive                 | _____ | floppy disk            |
| _____ | sewing machine             | _____ | electric iron          |
| _____ | microwave oven             | _____ | power lawnmower        |
| _____ | electric clothes dryer     | _____ | black-and-white movies |
| _____ | personal computer          | _____ | zipper                 |
| _____ | air conditioning           | _____ | CAT scan machine       |
| _____ | push-button elevator       | _____ | Polaroid™ camera       |
| _____ | color television           | _____ | CDs                    |
| _____ | Technicolor™ movies        | _____ | pocket calculator      |
| _____ | stereo                     | _____ | electric typewriter    |
| _____ | records                    | _____ | Walkman™               |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Pages 113-157

1. What did Mrs. Brown mean when she said she needed the “equivalent of the blood of the Lamb” with her?
- \* 2. How do you imagine Mrs. Goodwater’s tone as she converses with Mrs. Brown?
3. What is the real source of animosity between Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Goodwater?
4. How did Mrs. Brown “do herself in” in her attempt to fight witchcraft?
5. What, in the end, “saves” Mrs. Brown from Mrs. Goodwater?
6. The first paragraph of page 129, Colonel Freeleigh’s dream, is an extended metaphor. What does it represent?
7. Why does Douglas feel depressed (pages 138-139)?
8. What does Helen Loomis have in common with Colonel Freeleigh?
9. How is the love shared by Bill and Helen on a higher plane than most relationships?
- \* 10. What kind of music would you play if you were filming the scene of the three boys at Summer’s Ice House?

## Pages 158-187

1. What do you see, hear, and feel as you read the first few paragraphs of page 158? How does the image of the ravine contrast with that of the town?
2. How did the news of the murder quickly change the atmosphere in the town?
- \* 3. Even after it seems possible that Lavinia is the Lonely One’s next victim, she doesn’t seem upset. Why do you think that is?
4. As the girls walk home from the movie, how has the town once more changed?
5. How does Great-grandma’s death contrast with that of Elizabeth Ramsell?
6. What revelation has come to Doug that he can’t write down (page 186)?
- \* 7. Why do you think Doug lets the fireflies go?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Time Line

**Directions:** This novel begins on the first day of summer, 1928, and ends on the last day of that summer. While many of the chapters—called vignettes—could stand alone as short stories, each one is somehow related to the main character, Douglas Spaulding, and the revelations he has about life during the course of the book.

Below is a time line chart for the summer. As you read about an important event, describe it briefly on the “Event” side of the time line. On the “Reactions” side, explain how the event affects Doug. The chart has been started for you.

First Day of Summer, 1928	<b>Event</b> While picking fox grapes, Doug feels the power of the natural world.	<b>Event</b>	<b>Event</b>
	<b>Reactions</b> Doug realizes he’s alive, begins keeping lists of Rites and Revelations.	<b>Reactions</b>	<b>Reactions</b>
Middle Part of Summer	<b>Event</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Event</b>
	<b>Reactions</b>	<b>Reactions</b>	<b>Reactions</b>
Last Part of Summer	<b>Event</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Event</b>
	<b>Reactions</b>	<b>Reactions</b>	<b>Reactions</b>

Last Day of Summer

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Plot Map

**Directions:** Bradbury has written literally hundreds of short stories. Some of the long chapters in *Dandelion Wine* were published as short stories in magazines before this novel was composed. The chapter about Helen Loomis and Bill Forrester (pages 140-154) originally appeared as a short story entitled "A Story About Love" in *McCall's Magazine*.

Besides having far fewer pages, a short story concentrates on a single event and usually has just a few characters. The actions taken by the characters concerning the central event (which concerns all of them in some way) are key parts of the plot. A short story must have a beginning, a middle and an end, and like the novel, the plot of a short story cannot exist without some kind of conflict. If you completed the spider map in Activity #12, you probably highlighted the major plot events because conflict is essential to plot.

Fill out the Plot Map below for the story about Helen Loomis and Bill Forrester.

**End: Final Events/Resolution of Conflict**

**Middle: Conflict/Major Plot Events/Characters' Actions**

**Beginning: Initiating Events**