



STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

The Martian Chronicles

Ray Bradbury

READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Martian Chronicles

Ray Bradbury

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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 _____

blasphemy (49)

pagan (66)

sarcophagus (72)

scintillas (82)

caper (49)

propagation (67)

horticultural (75)

plangent (89)

vamped (55)

naïve (67)

elixir (76)

bigots (64)

cynics (67)

promontory (80)

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the vocabulary word that best completes each sentence.

1. People engaged in the _____ of a philosophy work to spread their ideas to others.
2. Those who speak _____ show lack of respect for God or sacred things.
3. Someone employed in the _____ field works with plants.
4. Firework sparklers produce _____.
5. Children usually like to _____ in the park.
6. Archeologists sometimes unearth a _____ with its contents intact.
7. Standing on a _____ may enable a person to see things miles away.
8. _____ often delight in creating racial unrest.
9. _____ doubt the sincerity and goodness of human motives.
10. A _____ piece of equipment has been patched up.
11. Cymbals produce a _____ sound.
12. A person who has no religion is sometimes called a _____.
13. Finding a proven _____ would solve the nation's health problems.
14. A child is often _____ about the cost of living expenses.

Name _____

8. What happens to Hathaway? To his "family"?
9. *Activity: Write a limerick about Walter Gripp or Genevieve Selsor or draw a caricature of Genevieve.

"There Will Come Soft Rains" and "The Million-Year Picnic," pp. 166–181

1. What is unusual about the house in "There Will Come Soft Rains"?
2. *What happened to the inhabitants of the house? Explain how you drew this conclusion.
3. What eventually happens to the house?
4. Identify the family members in "The Million-Year Picnic."
5. *What reason have the parents given the children for the trip to Mars? What is the real reason they have come?
6. Which of the children senses something strange and terrifying about the trip?
7. *What are the family's future plans? Explain why you do or do not think their plans will succeed.
8. *Why do you think the dad burns all his personal papers?
9. Explain the final statement, "The Martians stared back up at them for a long, long silent time from the rippling water..." (p. 181).
10. *Activity: Write a brief sequel to "The Million-Year Picnic," set one year in the future.

Name _____

Herringbone Map

Directions: Choose one of the stories from the novel. Record the answers to the questions on the herringbone form below. (Who was involved? What did these persons do? When did it happen? Where did it happen? Why did it happen? How did it happen?) Add spaces if there are more than two answers to a question. Then write a newspaper article about the incident.

