

Science Fiction Project Final Document **(The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury)**

1.

In January 2030, the United States sent a spacecraft to Mars. Martians have lived on the planet for a long time and developed an advanced civilization and psychic powers. Ylla, a female Martian, dreams of meeting a man from the Earth. Her husband does not like Ylla's dream. He overhears the landing point of the Earthmen while she talks in her sleep and subsequently shoots them with his gun.

A second expedition lands on Mars. The explorers from Earth meet the Martians and announce that they are from Earth. However, the Martians regard them to be mental patients. Although the explorers show their spaceship, the Martians think that it was made through telepathy because this is something that crazy Martians usually do. So, the Martian doctor even kills the explorers to "cure" them. After about a year, the third expedition arrives on Mars. The Martians show the explorers their dead families and friends. However, those people are all Martians who were changed into Earthlings. The Martians kill the unarmed explorers so that they could join and enjoy time with their loved ones.

Despite the deaths of the early explorers, the United States continues to send people to Mars. During that time, most Martians died of chickenpox contracted from the Earthlings. The immigrants from Earth build their settlements on Mars, similar to their former villages in the US. They even name regions of Mars after their hometowns in the US.

In 2036, a massive war broke out on Earth. Many people die from nuclear attacks. Most immigrants worried about their families and loved ones who returned to Earth. The great war continues for almost 20 years.

In October 2057, a family arrived on Mars on a spaceship. A child named Timothy asks his dad where the Martians are. He tells Timothy to look in the water. Timothy looked at the water, but he only saw himself and his family reflected on the surface. They are the new Martians.

2.

First, there is a story about a Martian couple that I want to change. One day, the wife dreams of people from Earth landing in front of their house. She is very happy about meeting a man from Earth and talking with him in her dream. However, her husband killed the first expedition that actually arrives from Earth out of jealousy. It is difficult to understand why the husband felt so jealous of the man from Earth. Martians have psychic powers to make their dreams become real. Therefore, on Mars, dreaming about another man might be considered being unfaithful to her husband. Including more details and background information like this would make the story more believable and scarier.

Second, more details should be included about the great war on Earth. The book only mentions that the Earth people living on Mars return to Earth after the war broke out. This book was written in 1950, when people were worried about nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union. I think some stories about the Cold War should be included. Also, it would be more interesting to extend the conflict between Americans and Russians to Mars.

Finally, this story could be made more interesting by including a war between the explorers and Martians. In this book, Martians have a unique ability to create things by imagining them. Although Earthmen have more powerful weapons, Martians could easily replicate them with their telepathy. This book seems to be a little bit boring to the modern day readers because of its unusual story setting. I think that it could be re-written to be as exciting as the movie "The Avengers" by emphasizing this Martian's superpower.

3.

First, science fiction is often commentary about society during the time it was written. The Martian Chronicles criticizes colonialism through satire. In the book, it states, “The old Martian names were names of water and air and hills...but they were plunged with new names: Iron Town, Steel Town, Aluminum City..., all the mechanical names and the metal names from Earth.” This shows the author’s negative view of colonialism. Also, the nuclear war in this book reflects the nuclear threat of the Cold War during the 1950s.

Second, science fiction novels must contain advanced technologies in the story. The novel contains advanced technologies, such as telepathy and terraforming. The Martians use telepathy to communicate with each other and to create things with their imagination. The people who immigrated from Earth to Mars terraformed Mars to create a suitable environment for them to live in.

Third, science fiction novels contain conflicts such as man vs man and man vs society. In this novel, the original Martians and Earth settlers are constantly killing each other. There is also a war on Earth at the same time there are conflicts between immigrants on Mars.

4.

In the novel, Martians use telepathy to create things through their imagination. It is mentioned “Yes, yes, what a lovely insanity. Metal, rubber...Such concentration of will!”. This is the reaction of a Martian when the first expedition arrived on Mars. Although the Martian saw a physical spaceship, he thought that it was just created through telepathy, so he considered the explorers to be lunatics and killed them all.

This novel also contains terraforming technology. After a man named Benjamin Driscoll terraforms Mars by planting seeds, it is mentioned “the valley and the morning were green.” It is totally impossible for modern farming technology to afforest this kind of wide territory within a short time.

Lastly, this book includes the advanced technology of spaceships. Even today, we do not yet have spaceships to take people to Mars. However, in this story, there are many spaceships that can carry ordinary people from Earth to Mars. This is how the immigrants travel to Mars, and this is certainly an advanced technology.

5.

A current 9th grade student would use the telepathy described in the book to do his or her assignments. The telepathy in these books brings into being one’s imagination, which means students can create posters and take notes just by imagining them! Furthermore, students would use advanced spaceship technology to easily travel to other planets. 9th grade students can also use terraforming to change the environment of their school. Terraforming is changing a planet’s environment, including its land and atmosphere, but it might be possible for a 9th grade student to apply that on a much smaller scale to change the environment of KISJ.

6.

My science fiction book criticizes the world as it existed when it was written in 1950, five years after the end of World War 2. It also takes place five years after the nuclear bombs were used against Japan. With these historic events in mind, Ray Bradbury is critical of war, especially nuclear war. He is also critical of colonialism, which exploited and mistreated native populations. The topic of nuclear wars that Ray Bradbury criticizes is still applicable today. Nuclear

technology has advanced much more than when this book was written. If a nuclear war were to happen today, most people living on Earth would die.

7.

Readers would enjoy “Fahrenheit 451”, also written by Ray Bradbury, in 1953. This book is about a man named Guy Montag who works as a fireman in a dystopian future American city. In this world, firemen start fires rather than putting them out. People do not read books or enjoy nature. Instead, they watch television and live in an environment surrounded by electronic devices. A fireman's job is to burn books instead of putting out fires. However, one day, Montag starts to read some “books”, disobeying the law. I recommend this book because the topic of censorship is still relevant today. Also, the idea of firemen burning books was very odd and made me curious about the story. I think other people would feel the same way, so I strongly recommend this book.

8.

Discussion Question: Do you believe that humans will someday colonize other planets?

Why or why not?

Humans will eventually colonize other planets. It is because technology is constantly developing, including technology related to space travel. Also, the environment of Earth is being destroyed due to air, water and soil pollution. At some point, Earth will become overcrowded or inhabitable. Future generations will have no choice but to migrate to other planets. For example, Elon Musk already stated that he plans to build a Mars colony in the near future. I believe that scientists will work diligently to find ways to colonize other planets.