

# DANDELION WINE

RAY BRADBURY

# LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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## SYNOPSIS

*Dandelion Wine* is not a novel in the usual sense but rather a series of events, impressions, and stories within stories set in Green Town, Illinois, during the summer of 1928. It is based on Ray Bradbury's recollections of his own boyhood in Waukegan, Illinois.

At the beginning of summer, 1928, Douglas Spaulding is twelve years old and his brother Tom is ten. Symbolizing the summer is the gathering of dandelions which Grandfather turns into wine. Douglas thinks of the wine as bottled memories to be opened and savored at some later time.

In order to appreciate the summer properly Douglas needs a new pair of tennis shoes to replace the hard, rigid shoes of winter. They must be new because last year's tennis shoes are dead inside. Mr. Sanderson, owner of the shoe emporium, gives him a pair as payment for reminding him what it is like to be a boy again running through town and country in sneakers.

Douglas then buys a yellow nickel tablet and a yellow Ticonderoga pencil and records the RITES and CEREMONIES of summer "Like making dandelion wine, like buying these new tennis shoes, like shooting off the first firecracker of the year, like making lemonade, like getting slivers in our feet, like picking wild fox grapes. Every year the same things, same way, no change, no difference." In the second half of the tablet Douglas records DISCOVERIES and REVELATIONS. The balance of the novel reveals in rich detail the rites and ceremonies of the summer of 1928 as well as the discoveries and revelations of that same summer.

Early in the summer Douglas makes one of his most important discoveries—he is ALIVE. Near the end of the summer, as the result of the deaths of people he knows or loves, he makes the equally important but painful discovery that he, Douglas Spaulding, must someday die. In between are revelations that are sometimes joyous, sometimes terrifying, and sometimes almost unbearably sad.

Douglas learns that happiness is found in fleeting moments and that a "happiness machine" that would make such moments permanent is both a trap and an illusion. The joys of life are in everyday, ordinary things that, if properly perceived, take on the quality of magic. An old man who remembers the Civil War is a time machine that Douglas and his friends may use simply by listening to his stories. The ravine becomes the primeval wilderness in which lurks the Lonely One, symbol of death and strangler of women. A poignant romance between a young reporter and an old, old lady reveals that love is of the mind and soul, not of the body.

The bittersweet quality of *Dandelion Wine* is most evident when various characters are saddened by change. Smelly busses replace trolley cars because they are faster. Grandma's fantastically delicious meals are ruined when Aunt Rose convinces her to reorganize her chaotic kitchen along more scientific and efficient lines. Ray Bradbury's characteristic disenchantment with the hectic pace of modern life brought about by technological change is a dominant theme in his nostalgic novel of a bygone day.

Although *Dandelion Wine* is not science fiction, it does resemble thematically the author's work in that genre and raises questions that so many people are now asking: Is technological growth or "progress" destroying the quality of our lives? Have we traded happiness for a "happiness machine"? *Dandelion Wine* may very well be more appealing and relevant today than when it was published in 1957.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ray Douglas Bradbury (1920- ), dean of twentieth-century science fiction writers, who writes under his mother's maiden name and occasionally under Douglas Spaulding (his real name), is a faithful believer in his own advice: a writer should write every day, trust to intuition, and avoid destructive self-criticism while in the act of creating.

A Sunday painter and collector of Mexican artifacts, Bradbury is a well-adjusted, hardworking craftsman who has explored a wide range of creative endeavors—poetry; short stories; fantasy and science fiction novels; screen, radio, and TV plays; children's literature; film; and criticism.

Born in Waukegan, Illinois, he is married, has four children, and was educated in the Waukegan and Los Angeles public schools. After a three-year stint as newsboy, Bradbury launched his writing career in 1943. His first critical success, "Sun and Shadow" in *Reporter*, won the Benjamin Franklin gold medal for best story in 1953-54 in an American magazine.

Awards continued to bless his work: The Commonwealth Club of California gold medal in 1954 for *Fahrenheit 451*; a National Institute of Arts and Letters award that same year; the Boys' Club of America Junior Book Award in 1956 for *Switch in the Night*; an Academy Award in 1963 for best short film for "Icarus Montgolfier Wright"; a World Fantasy Award in 1977; and the Balrog Award in 1979 for best poet.

He is best known for *The Martian Chronicles* (1950), *The Illustrated Man* (1951), *Fahrenheit 451* (1953), *Dandelion Wine* (1957), *Something Wicked This Way Comes* (1962), *R Is for Rocket* (1962), and *I Sing the Body Electric!* (1969) and for two films, *It Came from Outer Space* (1953) and *The*

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*Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* (1953). In addition he has written BBC radio broadcasts and TV plays for *Alcoa Premiere* and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*.

### CRITIC'S CORNER

Critics are quick to point out that Bradbury is a mediocre creator of rocket ships, distant planets, alien beings, and the usual paraphernalia of science fiction. His power, according to Damon Knight, is in "luminous, penetrating imagery," social commentary, and nostalgic glimpses of better times. Knight terms Bradbury the "poet of twentieth-century neurosis," the "grown-up child who still remembers, still believes." Bradbury credits his success to frequent use of single lines of poetry as springboards for fiction.

Several of his works, including *Fahrenheit 451* (1966), *The Illustrated Man* (1969), and *The Martian Chronicles* (1980), have been successful films.

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the structure of an impressionistic novel
2. To analyze symbolism and imagery in literature
3. To trace character development in a novel
4. To explain how fictional characters reveal a novel's mood and theme
5. To note the interrelationship of fictional characters and the influence they have upon each other
6. To observe the nature of childhood, maturity and old age as it is revealed in fiction
7. To recognize a novelist's view of life and death
8. To compare the quality of modern life with that of the past

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize that *Dandelion Wine* consists of a series of impressions that occur during a very ordinary yet magical summer
2. To explain the symbolic significance of dandelion wine, tennis shoes, the Happiness Machine, the Green Machine, the Time Machine, the trolley, the Lonely One, Mme. Tarot, and other obvious symbols that Bradbury employs to convey his ideas
3. To find examples of figurative language in *Dandelion Wine*
4. To trace Douglas Spaulding's growing awareness during the summer of 1928
5. To list the many characters in *Dandelion Wine*, describe their personalities and outlooks, and explain their function or significance in the novel
6. To compare or contrast the children, the mature adults, and the old people in *Dandelion Wine*

7. To determine Ray Bradbury's view of life and death as it is revealed in his novel
8. To compare the quality of life in America today with that of Green Town, Illinois, during the summer of 1928

### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. The tarot card, (p. 192)  
(a set of early European picture cards or "tablets of fate," which were used to tell fortunes. The fifty-card pack, engraved by Mantegna in Lombardy in 1470, contains five groups of ten cards each. Drawings represent allegorical or mythological subjects, including the Muses, virtues, planets, liberal arts, and sciences.  
A later Venetian version evolved into a 78-card pack, featuring court figures, numbered cards, and trumps, symbolized by the sun, the pope, justice, and death, the thirteenth card. The 22nd card is the fool or joker.)
2. "ashes to ashes, dust to dust." (p. 33)  
(As old men stand around the cigar store, smoking and predicting doom, someone intones a traditional phrase from the Christian burial rite which commemorates the beginning of mankind and the return of human flesh to its original state.)
3. the empty philter glass, (p. 123)  
(Elmira concocts a love potion or charm to free herself of Mrs. Goodwater's supernatural powers and to assure her own election as president of the Honeysuckle Ladies Lodge.)
4. like Ahab surveying the mild mild day, (p. 29)  
(Bradbury compares Grandfather to Captain Ahab, the fierce captain of the Pequod in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*.)
5. this special vintage day, (p. 13)  
(Bradbury uses language that refers to wine-making in order to link Doug's notes on the summer of 1928 to Grandfather's bottling of dandelion wine, both of which preserve the joys of summertime.)
6. "Gazelles?" (p. 25)  
(Mr. Sanderson tries to capture in words the wonder and delight of Doug's new "Royal Crown Cream-Sponge Para Litefoot Tennis Shoes." For comparison he uses a small, graceful antelope found in Asia and Africa. The light-footed animal with great, luminous eyes is admired for its swift, fluid movement.)
7. electric runabout, (p. 31)  
(Miss Fern and Miss Roberta are the owners of a

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*new gadget—an electric car, similar to a golf cart, that is battery-powered. The beauty of the electric runabout is its silent operation.)*

8. remnants of last year's July Fourth squibs and punks, (p. 48)  
*(Grandfather's grass is littered with bits of firecrackers that hiss and spurt before exploding and the smoldering brown sticks used to light fireworks.)*
9. I remember the pterodactyl, (p. 70)  
*(To illustrate to Alice, Jane, and Tom that she is very old, Mrs. Helen Bentley exaggerates. She claims that she recalls the flying reptiles which became extinct 230,000,000 years ago at the beginning of the Mesozoid Era.)*
10. he's got a proprietary interest in [the Time Machine], (p. 80)  
*(Colonel Freeleigh, by virtue of his great age and varied experience, becomes a time machine to the boys, who pump information from him as a means of summer entertainment. The Colonel's stories of Ching Ling Soo, the Chinese magician; Pawnee Bill and the buffalo; and the Civil War end with Colonel Freeleigh's death, leaving an impression on the children that Ching Ling Soo, Pawnee Bill, and the participants in the Civil War have also died.)*

### COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

#### Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. What is Great-grandma's attitude toward death?  
*(Great-grandma Spaulding's family is appalled that she is preparing to die. "What you're doing is no better than breaking a lease. This house will fall down without you," they moan. In contrast to their consternation, Great-grandma looks forward to a peaceful rest. She comforts Douglas by giving him a hand mirror, in which he sees both himself and her. "No person ever died that had a family," she soothes, claiming immortality through her offspring and their children.  
As death approaches, Great-grandma faces it with curiosity—the "one last tart that I haven't bit on, one tune I haven't whistled." She snuggles into an old, interrupted dream, which fades into a "sea moving along an endless and self-refreshing shore." Her final whisper sums up her wisdom. "It's all right . . . Like everything else in this life, it's fitting.")*
2. How does ten-year-old Tom Spaulding envision death?  
*(Fearful that something has happened to Doug, Tom and his mother walk toward the dark ravine. When Tom's mother mentions the Lonely One, Tom recalls*

*his two personal encounters with death: the "waxen effigy in the coffin when he was six and Great-grandfather passed away"; his little sister "staring up at him with a blind, blue fixed and frozen stare until the men came with a small wicker basket to take her away" when he was seven.*

*His mind grapples with thoughts of three local women killed in the last three years and of the possibility that his brother, too, is dead. He stares into the ravine, trying to imagine "that intangible menace, that groping out of darkness, that crouching malignancy down below." Out of his experience comes a revelation: "that all men were like this; that each person was to himself one alone. One oneness, a unit in a society, but always afraid.")*

3. How does William Tara sell Miss Fern and Miss Roberta a Green Machine?

*(In retrospect, the two maiden ladies recall William Tara as "that terrible salesman from Gumport Falls." He glides up in the car "delicate as maple leaves, fresher than creekwater." Politely doffing his Panama hat from his vaselined hair, he introduces himself and glibly enumerates the features of the automobile.*

*Quick to flatter [Ladies, I know you're both vigorous"], he fixes "his bright, stuffed-fox, green-glass-eyed gaze" on the car and begins touting its virtues. He mentions its quiet ride, brags on how easily they can recharge the batteries, catalogs the social events the vehicle will take them to, and concludes with reverent tones, "twenty-five dollars down. Ten dollars a month, for two years." After a trial run, the ladies are sold.)*

4. How do the boys entertain themselves during the summer?

*(Twelve-year-old Douglas; his brother Tom, two years his junior; John Huff; and Charlie Woodman find plenty of activity in Green Town, Illinois, the summer of 1928. They roam the ravine, watch cowboy movies, climb to the cupola, play kick-the-can and statues, collect lightning bugs, visit elderly neighbors, eat Eskimo Pies, swim in the creek, swing on vines, help Grandfather prepare dandelion wine, sort through junk, make promises, tell secrets, take walks, read comics, and explore the neighborhood.*

*Douglas uses his solitary moments to observe and write about life—its pleasures, its revelations, its rites and ceremonies, and its passing. Although physical activity forms a major part of his summer enjoyment, he focuses on weighing and evaluating every aspect of being alive. At times he tries to discuss his conclusions with Tom, but finds his greatest satisfaction in his own musings.)*

5. Where does Leo Auffmann locate happiness?

*(After he nearly destroys his son, his marriage, and himself in the great orange Happiness Machine, Leo*

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contemplates his error. He concludes that happiness has been at his fingertips throughout his life. He takes Douglas and Grandfather with him from the remains of his gutted garage to the front window to observe his family.

Inside the Auffmann house are Saul and Marshall playing chess, Rebecca laying the table for dinner, Naomi cutting paper-doll dresses, Ruth painting water colors, and Joseph running his electric train. Lena, Leo's wife, prepares to serve a pot roast. The sounds, smells, sights, and flavors of family life reassure Leo: "Everything was there and it was working.")

### Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. Why does Helen Bentley empty her house of treasures?

(Helen Bentley has ignored her late husband's advice to "be what you are, bury what you are not." She stores up tidbits—her late husband's opera cane, phonograph records of Caruso, a kaleidoscope, jack stones, pink-flowered dresses, the costume she wore when she played the mandarin's daughter—as reminders of happy times in her younger years. When Jane, Alice, and Tom enter her life, they refuse to believe Mrs. Bentley was ever young. For the first time, she confronts her great flaw—her inability to live in the present.

Mrs. Bentley abandons the treasures by sharing some with the children, collecting trash to be burned, and sorting through memorabilia for the trashman. "It doesn't belong to me. Nothing ever belongs to anybody," she concludes. After treating the children to chocolate icicles, she declares that she has always been seventy-two years old, that she has no first name, and that she was never pretty "in a million trillion years.")

7. Why does Douglas find it so difficult to part with John Huff?

(To Douglas, John Huff is the "only god living in the whole of Green Town, Illinois, during the twentieth century." Even though John is the same age as Doug, he embodies all the talents, qualities, and skills that Doug admires in a person: he is athletic, surefooted, cheerful, relaxed, kind, knowledgeable, and attractive. He shares Doug's love of cowboy songs and knows the names of wild flowers and the movement of the tides.

When John casually announces that he is moving to Milwaukee, Doug's world crashes. He responds with disbelief, denial, argument, anger, and despair. To stretch the time, Doug sets his watch back, but John knows when it is time to meet the train. He begs Doug to "remember my face." Doug returns to his dark room and, in an attempt to fill the void left by his best friend, pleads with his brother Tom to "stick around and don't let nothing happen." Doug blames God for the haphazard way in which his friend

departs from his ordered life. Tom offers slim comfort, "He's all right, Doug, . . . He tries.")

8. What does Doug's deal with Mr. Sanderson suggest about the boy's future?

(Doug concocts a deal by which he can secure a new pair of sneakers from the local shoe store in exchange for his labors. With a single question he persuades Mr. Sanderson, the store owner, to try on a pair: "How you going to sell sneakers unless you can rave about them and how you going to rave about them unless you know them?" The store owner, Mr. Sanderson, is impressed with Doug's simple boy-logic and his enthusiasm for new sneakers.

As Mr. Sanderson "sponges around" in the shoes, Doug gets right to the point—"I give you my money, you give me the shoes, I owe you a dollar . . . I deliver your packages, pick up packages, bring you coffee, burn your trash, run to the post office, telegraph office, library! You'll see twelve of me in and out, in and out, every minute." With gatling-gun precision, Doug shoots down all possible opposition to his plan.

Mr. Sanderson responds with like enthusiasm. Not only does he agree to give Doug a dollar's credit, he offers him a job "in five years." In reply to Doug's indecision about what he wants to be, Mr. Sanderson guarantees, "Anything you want to be, son . . . you'll be. No one will ever stop you.")

### Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. Why does Bradbury choose an impressionistic style for this novel?

(The episodic quality of Doug's summer calls for numerous vignettes, snatches of overheard conversation, graphic imagery, sense impressions, and interspersed moments of reflection and introspection. The book dictates the style—without the flowing rhythms of impressionism, the novel would seem pedestrian, laden with nostalgia, and patronizing.

Through Bradbury's fast-paced narrative, the reader can fly through the summer with Doug and his friends, mull over the unexpected events, and muse on the meaning of it all. The magical beginning and ending, like Puck's whimsical comments in Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, sets the tone and prepares the reader for fantasy. The light touch prohibits ponderous philosophy. Bradbury, by identifying with his hero, convinces the reader that a youthful outlook is a wonderful adjunct to adult life. The colors and smells and sounds of summer never die for someone who encourages them to live again.)

10. How does Bradbury assert his belief in human worth?

(Bradbury sounds a chorus of huzzahs to the upbeat characters in his novel—to Colonel Freeleigh, who telephones Mexico for his last touch with throbbing

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city life; to Jonas the junkman, who bottles the essence of life as a restorative tonic for Doug; to Grandpa, who vetoes the planting of new-fangled grass that won't need mowing; to the trolley conductor, who takes one last joyous ride. Although the author mixes in the reality of a serial murder, a lonely old maid, an accident-prone malcontent, a lost friend, and a hit-and-run victim, his view of the world does not veer from the positive.

The most memorable symbols are the little events and experiences that make life worthwhile—lime-vanilla ice, new-mown grass, stories about the buffalo, a mechanical fortune teller, rug-beating, the view from the cupola, Charlie Chaplin movies, a ride in the Green Machine, and a sip of Grandfather's dandelion wine. Just like the amber liquid that ferments in the basement, Bradbury's tale distills the collective memories of all human activity. From trivial half-forgotten shards of the past come life-restoring drops of precious liquid, good for what ails you.)

### Question 11 Creative Level

11. Write a short dialogue from your own experience in which members of your family cook or bake something, friends discuss a problem and reach a solution, an older person shares memories of the past with a child, community members get together for a club meeting or outing, someone buys a new gadget and demonstrates it for his neighbors, a family bands together to clean a room, or friends visit a sick child and cheer him up.

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. At the end of the summer of 1928 Douglas says, "Next year's going to be even bigger, days will be brighter, nights longer and darker, more people dying, more babies born, and me in the middle of it all." Do you agree? Pretend that you are Douglas Spaulding and describe the summer of 1929.
2. Would you have enjoyed living in Green Town, Illinois, in 1928 or do you prefer the present? Choose one position or the other and debate with those who choose the opposite position.
3. Select any one of the many characters in the novel and in the role of that character present orally or in writing the character's philosophy of life.
4. Debate the following statement:  
Technological progress has improved the quality of our lives.

### ALTERNATIVES FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

1. If possible, talk to people who were growing up in America in the late 1920's. Have them compare life then with life today. Consult books or articles dealing with this period. Through discussion or role playing describe what

it was like to grow up in a small American town during the 1920's.

2. Write a descriptive essay on the summer you have enjoyed more than any other in your life. Try to use figurative language to describe your impressions of that summer.
3. Make a list of discoveries about life and death that you have made. Be prepared to defend the validity of each discovery.
4. Topics for discussion or composition:  
The Relationship between Children and Adults  
Happy Endings  
Progress and Change

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**COMPREHENSION TEST A**

Part I: Vocabulary (20 points)

Match each underlined word with its definition listed below. Write the letter of the definition in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The boys handed over the pails with quizzical smiles.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Douglas stopped at the edge of the softly blowing abyss.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Was there no fleshly citadel strong enough to withstand the scrabbling assault of midnights?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Mother could find nothing but uncontrollable repugnance and a will to fear.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Leo Auffmann loitered out through the streets, nervous and apprehensive.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Across that prairie as far as the eye could see this big ominous yellow-dark cloud full of black lightning somehow sunk to earth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The Colonel slipped his brittle ivory legs down from the bed, marveling at their desiccation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. "I shall probably be a meticulous old bachelor," Bill Forrester said.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. A serenity like a sea moved along an endless and self-refreshing shore.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The relatives and boarders looked as if they might laugh or cry at the cruel dilemma.

- |                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. threatening         | g. quality of being dried out |
| b. evil                | h. bottomless gulf            |
| c. peace               | i. aversion                   |
| d. odd                 | j. worried                    |
| e. financially careful | k. fortress                   |
| f. wilderness          | l. two undesirable choices    |

Part II: True or False (10 points)

In the space provided write **T** if the statement is completely true or write **F** if any part of the statement is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The first rite of summer is buying new tennis shoes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. According to Tom Spaulding, the ravine at night belongs in the Happiness Machine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Grandfather believes in progress and admires inventions that will save time and work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Mrs. Bentley burns her mementos and tells the children that she has always been seventy-two.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Miss Roberta and Miss Fern hide in their attic because they think that they have killed Mr. Quatermain.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The boys of Green Town are happy and excited when they learn that the old trolley cars are to be replaced by fast new buses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. When Colonel Freeleigh dies, Douglas realizes that the Civil War has ended in Green Town forever.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Helen Loomis asks Bill Forrester to promise that he will not live to be too old.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Great-grandma compares her dying with a snake shedding its skin.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Mr. Jonas earns his living by selling junk.

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### Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Complete each of the following statements with the best response. Indicate your choice by writing the letter of the appropriate response in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. All except one of the following are names that the author uses to refer to the town in *Dandelion Wine*:  
(a) Waukegan (b) Green Town (c) Byzantium (d) Babylon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Dandelion wine symbolizes (a) the future (b) intoxication with life (c) summer memories (d) progress.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. According to Lena Auffmann, the Happiness Machine is a failure because one (a) must eventually climb out of the machine (b) can never find real happiness (c) can only catch glimpses of happiness in the machine (d) should recognize the inherent evil in all machinery.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Old Mrs. Bentley learns (a) to find happiness in remembering her childhood (b) to enjoy living in the present (c) to hate children for their cruelty (d) to recapture her youth in her Green Machine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Colonel Freeleigh has taught Douglas (a) to build a Time Machine (b) to remember all the important facts about the Civil War (c) to realize that the past is better than the present (d) to remember every second of his life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Helen Loomis believes that the beginning of wisdom is (a) to have self confidence (b) to realize that the old are wiser than the young (c) to know that one knows nothing (d) to enjoy one's youth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Douglas concludes that he cannot depend on people for all except one of the following reasons: (a) they go away (b) people murder people (c) your own folks can die (d) they never listen.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. For Douglas, the Tarot Witch in the arcade represents (a) love (b) hatred (c) permanence (d) change.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. When the summer of 1928 ends, Douglas has a hunch that next year's summer will be (a) dull by comparison (b) even bigger than this year's (c) happier (d) sadder.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. As a novel *Dandelion Wine* may be best described as (a) realistic (b) adventurous (c) science fiction (d) nostalgic.

### Part IV: Identification (10 points)

In the space preceding the name of each of the following characters write the letter of the phrase that best fits that character.

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Bill Forrester        | a. the Green Machine         |
| _____ 2. Clara Goodwater       | b. the Happiness Machine     |
| _____ 3. Leo Auffmann          | c. a wax dummy               |
| _____ 4. Grandfather Spaulding | d. the Lonely One            |
| _____ 5. Madame Tarot          | e. in love with Helen Loomis |
|                                | f. makes dandelion wine      |
|                                | g. accused of being a witch  |

### Part V: Essay Questions (40 points)

1. Select three inanimate symbols in Ray Bradbury's novel other than dandelion wine and explain the significance of each.
  
2. In your opinion, what does *Dandelion Wine* have to say about progress and change? Support your opinion with evidence from the novel.

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### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Vocabulary (20 points)

Match each underlined word with its definition listed below. Write the letter of the definition in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Even Grandma might stand alone in secret conclave with her own soul and spirit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Still the man and boy stood there, the boy glowing, the man with revelation in his face.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Oh, the luxury of lying in the fern night and the grass night and the night of susurrant slumbrous voices weaving the dark together.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Mrs. Bentley's trunks and furniture crouched about her like the creatures of a primordial zoo.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. "Your motives are above reproach."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The old women moved in their silent Green Machine through the small, languorous town.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The nurse's fingers, hard and precise, searched for the sickness in Colonel Freeleigh's pulse like a pair of calipers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Some part of Lavinia's mind was dramatizing, borrowing from the turbulent musical score of some private drama.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The pinball machines lay dim and enigmatic as dust scribblings in a giant's cave.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Grandma stood in the kitchen, blinking at the chaos.

- a. happy
- b. mysterious
- c. private meeting
- d. great confusion
- e. whispering
- f. primitive

- g. criticism
- h. exact
- i. disclosure
- j. indolent
- k. agitated
- l. prayer

#### Part II: True or False (10 points)

In the space provided write **T** if the statement is completely true or write **F** if any part of the statement is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. One of Douglas's revelations is that grownups and kids fight because they belong to separate races.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Lena Auffmann is convinced that the Happiness Machine is really a Sadness Machine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The children refuse to accept the fact that Mrs. Bentley was ever young.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Colonel Freeleigh bores Douglas and his friends by telling them stories about the Civil War.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Miss Roberta and Miss Fern decide to disconnect the batteries of their electric car because they are too old and dangerous to be driving it on the streets of Green Town.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Elmira Brown accuses Mrs. Goodwater of being a witch.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Bill Forrester and Helen Loomis cannot love each other because of the vast difference in their ages.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The Lonely One ceases to be frightening when the boys discover that he was only a man.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Douglas believes that the living spirit of Mme. Tarot lives inside her wax dummy in the penny arcade.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Grandma's delicious meals are the result of careful and efficient planning.



## DANDELION WINE

### Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Complete each of the following statements with the best response. Indicate your choice by writing the letter of the appropriate response in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The first rite of summer is (a) buying tennis shoes (b) picking dandelions (c) drinking dandelion wine (d) exploring the ravine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Douglas sees the ravine as (a) a place of grief (b) a place of happiness (c) symbolic of civilization (d) symbolic of the wilderness.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. After the Happiness Machine burns in a fire, Leo Auffmann says that the first thing a person learns in life is that he a fool and the last thing he learns in life is that (a) he is the same fool (b) there is no such thing as happiness (c) progress is a illusion (d) death makes everything meaningless.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. One of Douglas's revelations is that old people (a) were once children (b) never were children (c) have more fun than children (d) resent children.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. According to Mr. Tridden, the motorman, trolleys are being replaced by buses because trolleys are (a) too noisy (b) too smelly (c) too fast (d) too slow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Helen Loomis compares life to (a) sailing on a ship (b) going to school (c) being in a play (d) fighting a battle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The Lonely One symbolizes (a) universal loneliness (b) childhood (c) old age (d) death.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Douglas is upset by the deaths of Colonel Freeleigh and Great-grandma primarily because (a) they did not deserve to die (b) they wanted to die (c) he realizes that he too must die (d) he cannot bear to live on without them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Mr. Jonas's one rule for allowing children to take something from the back of his wagon is that they must (a) pay something for what they take (b) agree to pass it on (c) really want it with all their hearts (d) be good and mindful of their parents.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The plot of *Dandelion Wine* is (a) tightly structured (b) loosely structured (c) non-existent (d) fast-paced.

### Part IV: Identification (10 points)

In the space preceding each of the following characters write the letter of the phrase that best fits that character.

- |                            |                                                                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. John Huff         | a. the Time Machine                                                 |
| _____ 2. Helen Bentley     | b. the Happiness Machine                                            |
| _____ 3. Colonel Freeleigh | c. a mysterious junkman                                             |
| _____ 4. Elmira Brown      | d. the only god living in Green Town                                |
| _____ 5. Mr. Jonas         | e. the owner of the penny arcade                                    |
|                            | f. obsessed with becoming president of the Honeysuckle Ladies Lodge |
|                            | g. has always been seventy-two                                      |

### Part V: Essay Questions (40 points)

1. Douglas Spaulding titles the second part of his tablet DISCOVERIES and REVELATIONS. What are the major discoveries or revelations that Douglas perceives during the summer of 1928?
2. Dandelion wine is the dominant symbol in Ray Bradbury's novel. What does it symbolize? Is it an appropriate central symbol? Why or why not?

**DANDELION WINE**

**COMPREHENSION TEST A ANSWER KEY**

Part I: Vocabulary (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. A  |
| 2. H | 7. G  |
| 3. K | 8. E  |
| 4. I | 9. C  |
| 5. J | 10. L |

Part II: True or False (10 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F  |
| 2. F | 7. T  |
| 3. F | 8. T  |
| 4. T | 9. T  |
| 5. T | 10. F |

Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. C  |
| 2. C | 7. D  |
| 3. A | 8. C  |
| 4. B | 9. B  |
| 5. D | 10. D |

Part IV: Identification (10 points)

1. E
2. G
3. B
4. F
5. C

**COMPREHENSION TEST B ANSWER KEY**

Part I: Vocabulary (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. J  |
| 2. I | 7. H  |
| 3. E | 8. K  |
| 4. F | 9. B  |
| 5. G | 10. D |

Part II: True or False (10 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T  |
| 2. T | 7. F  |
| 3. T | 8. T  |
| 4. F | 9. T  |
| 5. T | 10. F |

Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. C  |
| 2. D | 7. D  |
| 3. A | 8. C  |
| 4. B | 9. C  |
| 5. D | 10. B |

Part IV: Identification (10 points)

1. D
2. G
3. A
4. F
5. C

**DANDELION WINE**

**TEACHING NOTES**

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