

SYNOPSIS

The Martian Chronicles is essentially a collection of short stories and transitional vignettes that are unified thematically; therefore, a detailed synopsis is not possible. An examination of the table of contents will show that the stories are arranged chronologically from January, 1999, to October, 2026. Although each story can be read and enjoyed separately, taken together they tell the story of the exploration and colonization of the planet Mars. It is not the planet known to modern science but, except for its thinner atmosphere, a virtual twin to Earth. Astute readers may recognize certain parallels between the colonization of Mars and that of the Western Hemisphere.

Three early stories in *The Martian Chronicles* deal with the first three unsuccessful expeditions to Mars: ("Ylla," "The Earth Men," and "The Third Expedition".) The expeditions fail because of the intervention of the Martians, a telepathic race who have achieved a beautifully balanced civilization which the crude and boisterous Earthmen would destroy. The fourth expedition ("—And the Moon Be Still as Bright") is successful because the Martians have been almost totally annihilated by chicken pox.

Most of the colonists who follow show little regard for the beauty of the deserted Martian cities. They seem determined to transplant the civilization of Earth with all its flaws and ugliness to the soil of Mars. Before the colonies on Mars can take root, however, atomic war breaks out on Earth, and nearly all the colonists leave Mars to participate in the war. "The Million-Year Picnic," which is the last story in *The Martian Chronicles*, ends on a note of hope. A few families have escaped the devastation on Earth and are determined to build a new civilization on Mars which would avoid the destructive impulses that wiped out the technological civilization on Earth.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze a collection of short stories that are thematically unified
2. To recognize science fiction and fantasy as a vehicle for satire
3. To examine a short story writer's use of imagery and symbolism
4. To evaluate the effects of science and technology upon contemporary life as they are revealed in literature
5. To speculate on the future of man and his society

6. To compare the individual and societal problems that may confront future generations with the problems of today

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To determine how each short story and vignette contributes to the theme and purpose of *The Martian Chronicles*
2. To identify the satirical elements in *The Martian Chronicles* and to note how Ray Bradbury uses science fiction and fantasy to achieve his satire
3. To locate and analyze examples of imagery and symbolism in *The Martian Chronicles*
4. To realize that, although *The Martian Chronicles* is set in the near future, many of the stories show the negative effects of science and technology upon contemporary American life
5. To speculate and project alternative futures for America in the twenty-first century
6. To identify the problems that may face Americans in the twenty-first century and to compare these problems with those of today

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences or thought units that have 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. telepathy (p. 4, 17, 21, 26, 46)
[direct communication between minds. Mind reading is one aspect of telepathy. In several stories the Martians demonstrate their ability to read the minds of human beings. Using the language and the images taken from men's minds, the Martians are able to communicate illusions. There has been some scientific investigation of telepathic phenomenon, and many scientists accept the possibility that rudimentary telepathic ability may exist among human beings.]
2. cynics (p. 67)
[those who believe that all human behavior is motivated by self-interest. A cynic sees no goodness in any-

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one or anything. Spender considers the other members of the crew professional cynics unable to appreciate the goodness and beauty of the Martian civilization. He believes the men will spoil and destroy the beautiful Martian cities and towns.]

3. Johnny Appleseed (p. 74)

[If students have difficulty finding information for this allusion to one of America's legendary and historical characters, they should be directed to an encyclopedia. First they should look up Johnny Appleseed in the index. The index will probably instruct them to see John Chapman, which was Johnny Appleseed's real name. John Chapman (1774-1845) was a frontier nurseryman and folk character, who, according to legend, planted a chain of seedling apple trees from the Allegheny to Central Ohio. This is an appropriate allusion for the story, "The Green Morning," since Benjamin Driscoll has a dream similar to Johnny Appleseed's. Mars is treeless. Driscoll dreams of a green Mars with vast forests enriching the thin Martian air with oxygen.]

4. Like a child staring at an empty Christmas tree. (p. 19)

[This simile describing the captain suggests more than one idea. He is absolutely bewildered by the reactions of the Martians who do not seem to comprehend the magnificent achievement of space travel between Earth and Mars. The Martians simply go about their daily routine and are even annoyed by the interruption. The captain is bewildered much in the same way a child is bewildered by the world he does not yet understand. In addition to bewilderment, the image suggests terrible disappointment. Perhaps nothing is more exciting to a child than Christmas morning with the tree decorated and surrounded by presents. To wake up and see the tree empty would be a crushing disappointment. The captain expects the obviously intelligent Martians to be impressed by the Earthmen's accomplishment. Their total indifference to the captain and his men is crushingly disappointing.]

5. Anybody with any sense wanted to get away from Earth. (p. 31)

[The statement sums up the disillusionment many people feel about the quality of modern life. A recurring theme in The Martian Chronicles is that technological man is heading for destruction. The book, first published in 1950, frequently alludes to the threat of atomic devastation—a threat that still hangs over us more than twenty years later. Other factors contributing to the disillusionment are "censorship and statism and conscription and government control of this and that." (p. 31) There seems to be no place in the world safe from these threats and pressures. Therefore, men dream of a new world—a new beginning on Mars.

Some readers may suggest that disillusionment and dissatisfaction have intensified since The Martian Chronicles was first published. A series of brush wars, social upheaval, violence, and a growing awareness of the poisoning of our environment support Bradbury's point of view. If there really were a new world to colonize, many volunteers might step forward.]

6. "We Earth Men have a talent for ruining big, beautiful things." (p. 54)

[Spender is condemning modern man for his inability to appreciate that which is grand and beautiful. Because of his materialism, he can see little value in anything unless it shows a profit. He will tear down a historic building and replace it with a parking lot. Spender fears that, when more men come to Mars, they will start fouling up and despoiling the remains of the ancient Martian civilization. Earth's own history provides ample evidence that the spoilers may very well destroy the Martian cities through commercialism or wanton destruction. The story ends with Parkhill shooting out the crystal windows and shooting the tops off the fragile towers for target practice.]

7. "Anything that's strange is no good to the average American." (p. 64)

[Spender is again condemning his countrymen and giving another reason for sabotaging the fourth expedition. The typical American, he contends, is too provincial to respect a divergent culture. He is so convinced that the American way of life is superior that he is blind to the values of other cultures. Because the remains of the Martian civilization are strange beyond the comprehension of the average American, he will destroy them out of ignorance never considering that the ancient cities may have a beauty and value greater than anything that modern industry has produced.

Some readers may recognize the parallel between the destruction of the Martian civilization by the Earthmen and the near annihilation of the Indian culture by the Americans. For this reason, Spender thinks Cherokee will understand what he is trying to preserve. The death of most of the Martians from chicken pox sharpens the comparison when one remembers that countless Indians died from another childhood disease, measles.]

8. "Mr. Teece, Mr. Teece, what you goin' to do nights from now on? What you goin' to do nights, Mr. Teece?" (p. 99)

[In the story, "Way in the Middle of the Air," all black people are emigrating to Mars in rocket ships they secretly built. These are Silly's final words to Teece as he leaves to catch the rocket. He is alluding to the persecution of Negroes by Teece and men like him. For years Teece has found meaning in his inadequate life through

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violence against black people whom he considers inferior beings. He remembers with pleasure the many nights when he rode off with other men to terrorize and lynch Negroes. Like many small and mean-minded men, Teece must feel superior to someone; he has a deep-rooted need to prove his superiority in the only way he knows—striking fear into the hearts of those weaker than he. Now that all Negroes have escaped beyond his reach, the purpose has gone out of his life. There is no one to persecute any longer.]

9. "I'm burning a way of life, just like that way of life is being burned clean of Earth right now." (p. 179) [Dad is burning such things as government bonds, business graphs, pamphlets on military science, stock reports, and *The War Digest*. These are symbols representing the society that ended with the atomic devastation of Earth. As Dad says, "Science ran too far ahead of us too quickly, and the people got lost in a mechanical wilderness, like children making over pretty things, gadgets, helicopters, rockets; emphasizing the wrong items, emphasizing machines instead of how to run the machines. Wars got bigger and bigger and finally killed Earth." (180) Nuclear weapons have destroyed Earth—burned it clean. By burning the papers, Dad is symbolically cleansing himself and his family of the mistakes of the past. They will be able to start fresh without any of the problems of a technological civilization.]

10. Reread Sara Teasdale's poem on page 169. Why do you think Ray Bradbury has the robot voice select these lines?

[This poem had been a favorite of the mistress of the house who is now dead. With the rest of her family she was incinerated by an atomic blast. Five silhouettes in paint on the side of the house are all that remain of her, her husband, and two children. Ironically the house continues to function automatically providing food and comforts for a family that no longer exists. The robot brain cannot realize how appropriate Sara Teasdale's poem is, for it tells of a world from which Man has disappeared. Nature had her unthinking creatures will once more gain dominion over the earth:

And not one will know of the war, not one
Will care at last when it is done.

Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree,
If mankind perished utterly;

Mankind and all his work will be forgotten. The story ends significantly with the artificial life of the house extinguished by fire. Now nature can obliterate this last reminder of Man's presence.]

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 happens to the first three expeditions to Mars? [The following stories describe the fate of the first three expeditions:

"Ylla," pp. 2-14. Nathaniel York is killed by Ylla's jealous husband.

"The Earth Men," pp. 16-30. The second expedition, commanded by Captain Williams, is destroyed by Mr. Xxx, a Martian psychologist, who thinks the captain and his men are the captain's telepathically projected hallucinations. Believing the captain to be a Martian too insane to be cured, Mr. Xxx kills him and his crew. (pp. 29-30)

"The Third Expedition," pp. 32-48. John Black and his crew of sixteen men land on Mars to discover a town that resembles a typical American small town. Every member of the crew finds loved ones that died on Earth years before. That night the entire crew is murdered by Martians who hate and fear the Earthmen. (p. 46) With telepathy and hypnosis they delude Captain Black and his crew into believing they are in an Earth town and among Earth people.]

2. How do nearly all of the people on Mars react when atomic war breaks out on Earth?

[The Martian colonists have not been there long enough to consider Mars their home. When war breaks out on Earth, they all rush back to the mother planet to be with loved ones. (pp. 144-145) Not even a handful of colonists remain on Mars.]

3. People emigrate to Mars for a variety of reasons. Choose four characters and explain their motives for becoming Martian colonists.

[A variety of reasons are listed in the vignette, "The Settlers." (pp. 72-73)

Benjamin Driscoll ("The Green Morning," pp. 73-77) dreams of being a Martian Johnny Appleseed and making Mars green with trees.

Silly, a young black man ("Way in the Middle of the Air," pp. 89-102), emigrates to Mars to escape white persecution.

William Stendahl ("Usher II," pp. 103-118) leaves Earth because he hates the government censorship of imaginative literature.

Mr. and Mrs. LaFarge ("The Martian," pp. 119-131) come to Mars to retire and find peace in their old age.

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Sam Parkhill ("The Off-season," pp. 132-143) opens the first hot-dog stand on Mars hoping to make a financial killing.

Dad ("The Million-Year Picnic," pp. 172-181) has escaped with his family from a devastated Earth and hopes to build a new world that will not repeat the mistakes of the past.]

4. How does the life style of the Martians differ from that of Earthmen?

[The early stories give us some insight into Martian life, but it is Spender ("--And the Moon Be Still as Bright," pp. 48-72) who discovers the basic difference between Martians and Earthmen.

"The Martians discovered the secret of life among animals. The animal does not question life. It lives. Its very reason for living is life; it enjoys and relishes life." (p. 66)

"... the men of Mars realized that in order to survive they would have to forgo asking that one question any longer: Why live? Life was its own answer. Life was the propagation of more life and the living of as good a life as possible. (p. 67)

"They blended religion and art and science because, at base, science is no more than an investigation of a miracle we can never explain, and art is an interpretation of that miracle." (p. 67)]

5. Walter Gripp and Hathaway both face the problem of loneliness. Describe how each man comes to grips with his problem.

[Walter Gripp ("The Silent Towns," pp. 145-155), isolated at his mine, does not know everyone has returned to Earth until he comes to town and finds it deserted. The only other person on the planet is apparently Genevieve Selsor, whose beautiful telephone voice sends him off in a desperate search to find her. Finally locating her, Walter Gripp is nauseated by the fat, ugly lump of vanity that is Genevieve. He realizes there are worse things than loneliness and escapes to a town ten thousand miles away where he lives alone refusing even to answer the telephone.

Hathaway ("The Long Years," pp. 155-165), his wife, two daughters, and son have also been left behind when everyone else returns to Earth. Unlike Gripp, Hathaway cannot bear the loneliness when his wife and children die. Being a brilliant scientist, he constructs perfect robot replicas of his dead family. The robots' companionship make it possible for Hathaway to survive the long years with some degree of sanity.]

Questions 6 - 8 Interpretive Level

6. Why does William Stendahl build his version of the House of Usher?

[William Stendahl, an immensely wealthy man, loathes

the censorship of imaginative literature that has developed on Earth. The emphasis is on reality; anything controversial or fanciful is banned by the government because of the psychological harm it might do. The prohibition not only includes literature but films and any entertainment that departs from reality. "Every man, they said, must face reality." (p. 105) Years before all the tales of terror, fantasy, and horror were burned. Stendahl particularly deplores the burning of Edgar Allan Poe's stories. He builds Usher II on Mars for revenge. Robots are built to recreate characters and situations found in some of the tales. Inviting eminent people, all members of the Society for the Prevention of Fantasy, Stendahl has them horribly murdered by the robot imitations of Poe's literary inventions. Stendahl himself walls up the investigator from Moral Climates in the same manner that Montessoro walled up Fortunato in Poe's "Cask of Amontillado." (pp. 116-117)]

7. Analyze the structure of *The Martian Chronicles*. How is it different from other science fiction stories you have read?

[Structurally *The Martian Chronicles* is not a novel but a collection of short stories arranged chronologically from January, 1999, to October, 2026. Each story could stand alone complete in itself. In fact some of them, as footnotes indicate, were copyrighted earlier when they first appeared in science fiction magazines. However, they are unified through setting and theme. Nearly all of them take place on Mars, and Ray Bradbury is consistent in his description of the Martians, their unusual abilities, their cities, and the planetary conditions. Some selections will casually mention people or events from earlier stories. Nearly all the stories convey the theme that modern, technological man's ethical and artistic values are questionable and that he is heading for destruction.

Some readers may note that eleven of the selections are not even stories but vignettes that the author inserts for structural or thematic purposes. The vignettes may describe a scene or situation that reinforces Ray Bradbury's theme, or they may generalize events that have occurred preparing the reader for the next story.]

8. Why does Spender attempt to murder all the other members of the fourth expedition? Is there any justification for his action?

[After disappearing for a time, Spender returns to the spaceship and kills five men. "I'm the last Martian," he tells Biggs just before he shoots him. (p. 58) Spender has been exploring the Martian cities and has learned to read their books. Impressed with the beauty and grandeur of their civilization, he tries to be a Martian and destroy the crew of the fourth expedition. If the crew returns to

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Earth, he believes the spoilers will soon come to Mars to commercialize and destroy the remains of a great civilization. He explains his motives to Captain Wilder on pages 64-67. Two of his most compelling reasons for murder are analyzed in items 6 and 7 in the meaning study section of this guide.

To justify the killings some readers may refer to the tendency of many Americans to have little regard for beauty which is well illustrated by their careless destruction of both natural and man-made wonders in our own country. One need only tour our cities and even our parks to find examples of ugliness replacing beauty. Spender's one excuse is that he does not want this to happen to Mars. The fact that Captain Wilder understands Spender and is even tempted to join him points up that there are people, unfortunately in the minority, who do want to preserve the grand and the beautiful. In a later story, "The Off-Season" (pp. 132-143), Ray Bradbury reinforces the idea that many Americans are spoilers by having Sam Parkhill, one of the crewmen of the fourth expedition, destroy Martian relics to build the first hot-dog stand on Mars.

Those who say there is no justification for murder may contend that human life is too precious. One man does not have the right to murder however noble the principle. The fact that Spender is so sickened by the killing that he cannot continue and the fact that Captain Wilder refuses to join him may support this point of view.]

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. Does *The Martian Chronicles* end on a note of optimism or despair? Is the conclusion believable? Explain. [One must examine the last two stories to determine if this book ends optimistically or pessimistically. If *The Martian Chronicles* had ended, as it might have, with "There Will Come Soft Rains," then the only conclusion possible is that Man is doomed. At this point in the chronology, Earth is in ruins, most of the people are dead, and Mars is deserted. The story ends with a robot voice repeating the date over and over again, and there is no one to hear it. The feeling conveyed is one of utter hopelessness. But *The Martian Chronicles* does not end here; it closes with "The Million-Year Picnic." A man, his wife, and three young sons have escaped the holocaust of Earth and have landed on Mars to begin anew. They are abandoning a way of life in which gadgets and technology are gods. The story holds out a ray of hope, for if they can find the other family who may have escaped Earth and if they can avoid the mistakes of the past, then the human race has at least a slim chance at survival. The ending is neither despairing nor brightly optimistic. Man is simply given a second chance. Perhaps

Ray Bradbury is trying to say that the future of Man is terribly dark unless a majority of people redirect their lives and cease being slaves to gadgets.

Opinions will probably vary on the credibility of the book's conclusion. Readers must judge for themselves whether or not Man is heading for destruction. Not all may agree with Ray Bradbury when he condemns the modern American for worshipping technology.]

10. Cite at least three criticisms of modern American life that are stated or implied in *The Martian Chronicles*? Do you agree with these criticisms? Why or why not? [Readers may identify several criticisms of American life. The American glorification of technological accomplishment is both ridiculed and condemned in several stories. American commercialism and the desire to make a financial killing are satirized in "The Off-Season." (p. 132) The inability to appreciate any culture or art that is strange is brought out sharply in "—And the Moon Be Still as Bright." (p. 48) Dissatisfaction and frustration over the complexities and pressures of modern life are evident in the reasons many have for going to Mars. The vignette, "The Taxpayer," (p. 31) points this up effectively. Bigotry and prejudice are other aspects of American life that are satirized in "Way in the Middle of the Air." (p. 89) Censorship and the right of the individual to make his own choices are pointed up in "Usher II." (p. 108) Agreement or disagreement will depend upon the reader's acceptance or rejection of these criticisms. For example, some may feel that real progress has been made towards social justice. Perhaps some may contend that censorship has decreased rather than increased as Ray Bradbury predicted in 1950.]

Question 11 - Creative Level

11. Assume that Earth is suddenly destroyed, and you are one of the few survivors who escape to an unspoiled world capable of supporting human life. Your job is to teach the children the ethical values for building an ideal society. What three values would you consider most important? Why do you choose these three?

ALTERNATIVES FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

1. After consulting articles in popular scientific magazines dealing with space exploration, defend or condemn the use of tax money to support the American space program. Consider the following questions:

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- What is the value of space exploration?
 - Could the money spent on the space program be better used to solve problems on our own planet?
 - Does the space program pay for itself through technological spinoff?
 - Will space exploration ultimately provide mankind with more living space?
2. Imagine that you have been put into suspended animation and are awakened fifty years from now. Orally or in writing describe the American life style that you think you might find. How would life be the same? How would it be different?
 3. Assume that another planet has been discovered capable of sustaining human life. Assume further that a practical method has been developed for sending colonists to this planet. Would you be one of the colonists or would you stay at home? The class could divide itself into two groups, one group arguing for emigration and the other giving reasons for remaining on Earth.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Using the most recent books or articles on the Solar System, research the conditions that are now known to exist on the planet Mars. Prepare a class report on these conditions. If illustrations depicting the surface of Mars are available, post them on the bulletin board. Contrast these known conditions with those described in *The Martian Chronicles*. Why do you think Ray Bradbury described a Martian environment which he knows is not consistent with reality?
2. Ray Bradbury suggests that Earthmen could learn a great deal from the ancient Martian civilization. Clearly he believes that Western Civilization generally and American culture specifically contain self-destructive elements. Granted that our civilization and culture are not ideal, how would you change them? Describe what you believe would be an ideal human society.
3. Compare *The Martian Chronicles* with Ray Bradbury's novel of the near future, *Fahrenheit 451*. Note in particular the themes and satirical elements in both works.

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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. "Suddenly you're so solicitous," Ylla said.
- ___ 2. "Do we have to go through all this rigmarole?"
- ___ 3. "You have balanced the whole conglomeration! Your insanity is beautifully complete!"
- ___ 4. "It may be, sir, that we're looking upon a phenomenon that would absolutely prove the existence of God."
- ___ 5. "It sounds as if the Martians were quite naive."
- ___ 6. It was inevitable that some of these people pushed back.
- ___ 7. "The tarn, is it 'black and lurid' enough?"
- ___ 8. The masks were coruscating, turning, firing the shadows.
- ___ 9. The house had shut up its windows and drawn shades in an old-maidenly preoccupation with self-protection which bordered on a mechanical paranoia.
- ___ 10. The dead city was a futile spread of pink rocks sleeping on a rise of sand.

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|--------------------|---|
| a. glittering | g. complex procedure |
| b. small lake | h. cannot be avoided |
| c. swamp | i. useless |
| d. mixture | j. raving |
| e. full of concern | k. fact or event |
| f. innocent | l. delusions of persecution
or of grandeur |

Part II: True or False (10 points)

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

- ___ 1. When the first expedition from Earth reaches Mars, the Earthmen discover that all the Martians are gone.
- ___ 2. The Earth men discover that their loved ones who have died on Earth get a second chance on Mars.
- ___ 3. Spender believes that Martians learned how to combine science, religion and art into an ideal balance.
- ___ 4. Benjamin Driscoll plants trees that reach their full growth overnight after a rain.
- ___ 5. Mr. Stendahl builds a house filled with mechanical horrors inspired by the stories of Edgar Allan Poe.
- ___ 6. Sam Parkhill's hot dog stand fascinates the surviving Martians who come in from the hills to try the delicacies that Sam and his wife prepare.
- ___ 7. Thousands of people try to escape to Mars when atomic war breaks out on Earth.
- ___ 8. When Hathaway dies of a heart attack, Captain Wilder decides to turn off the robot duplicates of Hathaway's wife and children because they no longer have any purpose.
- ___ 9. After an atomic war destroys the Earth men, the surviving Martians reclaim their planet.
- ___ 10. *The Martian Chronicles* glorifies those future American explorers and colonists who will conquer the Solar System.

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. Nathaniel York, commander of the first expedition to Mars, fails to return because (a) his ship crashes (b) the Martians put him into an insane asylum (c) a jealous husband shoots him (d) he commits suicide.

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Test A continued

- _____ 2. Jeff Spender resolves to murder all the other men on the fourth expedition so that he can (a) claim all the wealth of Mars for himself (b) save Mars from being destroyed by Earthmen (c) build a new civilization on Mars (d) be alone to enjoy the Martian villa he has discovered.
- _____ 3. When the black people of the South decide to emigrate to Mars, white Southerners like Samuel Teece (a) are happy to see them go (b) realize how wrong they have been in persecuting the black race (c) bitterly resent the departure of their black servants and employees (d) plan to follow the black people to Mars and reassert white supremacy.
- _____ 4. Mr. William Standahl builds Usher II as (a) an amusement center for Earth's rich sophisticates (b) a memorial to Earth's realistic writers (c) an act of rebellion against the censors from Earth (d) a personal refuge from the atomic war about to break out on Earth.
- _____ 5. Sam Parkhill returns to Mars (a) to visit Spender's tomb (b) to study the ancient Martian civilization (c) to kill the surviving Martians (d) to build a hot dog stand.
- _____ 6. When atomic war breaks out on Earth, most of the Martian colonists (a) are trapped on Mars (b) starve because supplies from Earth are cut off (c) go about their business thankful that they have escaped the nuclear holocaust on Earth (d) return to Earth.
- _____ 7. Genevieve Selsor chooses to remain on Mars so that she can (a) marry Walter Gripp (b) indulge her vices without interference (c) be safe from the holocaust destroying Earth (d) be alone.
- _____ 8. The last rockets that come to Mars contain (a) nuclear warheads (b) politicians determined to preserve the civilization of Earth (c) scientists who will perpetuate mankind's technological achievements (d) families hoping to build a new civilization.
- _____ 9. All except one of the following labels could be applied to *The Martian Chronicles*: (a) realistic fiction (b) satire (c) science fiction (d) fantasy.
- _____ 10. Judging from *The Martian Chronicles*, a reader might reasonably conclude that Ray Bradbury views the future with (a) deep concern (b) absolute despair (c) bright optimism (d) scientific objectivity.

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. Ylla
- _____ 2. Mrs. LaFarge
- _____ 3. Mr. Xxx
- _____ 4. Captain Wilder
- _____ 5. Captain John Black

- a. mistaken for a Martian psychotic
- b. promises to try to prevent the destruction of Mars by Earthmen
- c. a lonely Martian housewife
- d. a Martian jealous of his wife
- e. a Martian psychologist who commits suicide
- f. discovers what appears to be Green Bluff, Illinois, on Mars
- g. an old woman who accepts a Martian as her son

Part V: Essay Questions (40 points)

1. To a certain degree the exploration and colonization of the planet Mars in *The Martian Chronicles* parallels the exploration and colonization of America. Point out the similarities and differences between the fictional development of Mars and the historical development of the New World.
2. What do you think was Ray Bradbury's purpose in writing *The Martian Chronicles*? Support your answer with evidence from the book.

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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. The man looked in dismay at his muddy boots.
- ___ 2. Mr. Xxx was a jovial, smiling man, if one could believe the mask he wore.
- ___ 3. Biological metamorphosis through psychological imbalance!
- ___ 4. A silly bright thing like a stove would be a kind of imported blasphemy.
- ___ 5. Tomas walked to a little promontory where he could look back at the dusty city.
- ___ 6. Then, luminous with sweat, the children gnashed at their last sandwiches.
- ___ 7. The comparison was odious!
- ___ 8. Genevieve Selsor's fingers were plump and pallid.
- ___ 9. Immediately there was a tumult and a shouting.
- ___ 10. Michael considered the lethal revelation and began to sob little dry sobs.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. hateful | g. shining |
| b. commotion | h. deficient in color |
| c. impaled | i. paralyzing dread |
| d. merry | j. irreverence |
| e. dangerous | k. transformation |
| f. deadly | l. projecting piece of land or rock |

Part II: True or False (10 points)

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

- ___ 1. The Martians believe that the captain of the second expedition to Mars is psychotic.
- ___ 2. After lulling the crew of the third expedition into a false sense of security, the Martians murder them.
- ___ 3. Captain Wilder kills Spender for desecrating the ancient Martian cities.
- ___ 4. Benjamin Driscoll plants trees on Mars to enrich the oxygen content of the thin Martian atmosphere.
- ___ 5. Mr. Stendahl builds Usher II to entertain and amuse the idle rich who have come to Mars to escape the boredom of Earth.
- ___ 6. The surviving Martians give Sam Parkhill deeds to half the land on Mars.
- ___ 7. Since Walter Gripp and Genevieve Selsor are the only two people left in Marlin Village, they finally marry each other.
- ___ 8. No human beings are left alive anywhere in the Solar System after an atomic war destroys Earth.
- ___ 9. The last story in *The Martian Chronicles* shows a single human family hoping to build a new and better civilization on Mars.
- ___ 10. *The Martian Chronicles* is a realistic speculation on the future exploration and colonization of Mars.

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 fourth expedition to Mars succeeds only because (a) the crew is too large to be destroyed (b) the spaceship is armed with atomic weapons (c) Captain Wilder is prepared for a Martian telepathic attack (d) nearly all the Martians have died of chicken pox.

THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES

Test B continued

- ___ 2. According to Jeff Spender, the Martians discovered that the purpose of life is (a) to enjoy life (b) to prepare for eternity (c) to acquire knowledge (d) to dominate the environment.
- ___ 3. The bureaucrats follow the colonists to Mars (a) so that they can regulate the colonists' lives (b) because the colonists have asked them to come (c) in order to preserve the Martian cities (d) for the purpose of establishing a government that is less restrictive than any government on Earth.
- ___ 4. The Martian comes to LaFarge and his wife seeking (a) revenge (b) food (c) its own kind (d) love.
- ___ 5. Sam Parkhill's dream of a financial killing is thwarted by (a) the intervention of the Martian survivors (b) his wife's lack of enthusiasm (c) the outbreak of war on Earth (d) his own guilty conscience.
- ___ 6. Walter Gripp remains on Mars because (a) there is no way of getting back to Earth (b) he loves Genevieve Selsor (c) he prefers to be alone (d) there is no reason to return to Earth.
- ___ 7. After the rockets are called home from Mars, Hathaway maintains his sanity by (a) doing archaeological research (b) building robot duplicates of his family (c) living in one of the ancient Martian cities (d) staying drunk on wine.
- ___ 8. When Dad takes the family on a picnic to Mars, he tells his children that Earth was destroyed for all except one of the following reasons: (a) Science ran too far ahead. (b) Society emphasized machines instead of how to run machines. (c) Wars became too big. (d) Human beings failed to recognize the inherent evil of technology.
- ___ 9. In *The Martian Chronicles* Ray Bradbury satirizes all except one of the following: (a) racial bigotry (b) religion (c) science and technology (d) commercialism.
- ___ 10. Taken in its entirety, *The Martian Chronicles* can be interpreted as (a) a glorification of man's scientific progress (b) a realistic future projection of space exploration and human colonization of another planet (c) a critical commentary on contemporary trends in American life (d) pure fantasy with no other purpose beyond entertainment.

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. Tomas
- ___ 2. Garret
- ___ 3. Sam Parkhill
- ___ 4. Jeff Spender
- ___ 5. Captain Jonathan Williams

- a. Investigator of Moral Climates
- b. discovers what appears to be Green Bluff, Illinois, on Mars
- c. mistaken for a Martian psychotic
- d. has a night meeting with an ancient Martian
- e. believes that Earthmen will spoil Mars in the same way as they have spoiled their own planet
- f. has no appreciation or respect for the ancient Martian civilization
- g. plants trees on Mars

Part V: Essay Questions (40 points)

1. Describe the Martian civilization as it is revealed in several stories in *The Martian Chronicles*. Is this civilization superior or inferior to that of Earth? Give reasons for your opinion.
2. Identify at least one theme in *The Martian Chronicles* and explain how this theme is developed in one or more stories in the collection.

THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES

ANSWER KEY

TEST A ANSWERS

Part I: Vocabulary

1. e
2. g
3. d
4. k
5. f
6. h
7. b
8. a
9. l
10. i

Part II: True or False

1. false
2. false
3. true
4. true
5. true
6. false
7. false
8. false
9. false
10. false

Part III: Multiple Choice

1. c
2. b
3. c
4. c
5. d
6. d
7. b
8. d
9. a
10. a

Part IV: Identification

1. c
2. g
3. e
4. b
5. f

TEST B ANSWERS

Part I: Vocabulary

1. i
2. d
3. k
4. j
5. l
6. g
7. a
8. h
9. b
10. f

Part II: True or False

1. true
2. true
3. false
4. true
5. false
6. true
7. false
8. false
9. true
10. false

Part III Multiple Choice

1. d
2. a
3. a
4. d
5. c
6. a
7. b
8. d
9. b
10. c

Part IV: Identification

1. d
2. a
3. f
4. e
5. c



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