“A Sound of Thunder”

Imagine being able to travel back in time. Today, we are going to read one of the most popular and thought-provoking stories about time travel ever written. When we are reading today, we want to watch for how Bradbury uses various **literary techniques** to define his style of writing.

* *Diction- or word choice.* A story that is written with simple sentences is vastly different from that of a story written with complex sentences.
* *Imagery and figurative language.* Bradbury uses imagery and figurative language to create a style of writing that is similar to that of its prehistoric setting.
* *Mood-or atmosphere.* Can be described with vivid adjectives. While reading, think about words that you could use to describe the mood that Bradbury describes.

In addition to Bradbury’s use of literary techniques, it is also important to examine how Bradbury uses **reading techniques** within his writing.

* Events in a story are connected to one another through a chain of *causes and effects.* A *CAUSE* is a reason why something happens and an *EFFECT* is the result.
  + Words that can help in identifying a cause and effect relationship: because, consequently, for, so, since and therefore.
  + As you read “A Sound of Thunder” make a list of cause and effect relationships as there will be plenty to identify.

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Literary Skill Practice

**Page 361**

After reading the sign, underline the information that seems unusual. Make an inference about when you think the story takes place?

Make an inference about why there is such a stiff penalty for disobeying the instructions.

Identify and record one simile.

**Page 364**

Why is the term “Path” capitalized?

After you read the paragraph that begins, “They sat in the ancient wilderness”, identify Bradbury’s use of imagery and explain to what senses these images appeal to and why Bradbury would use them at this point in the story.

**Page 365**

After reading the paragraph that begins, “So what”, make a list of causes and effects and explain the relationships.

**Page 366**

Clarify the meaning of the following statement made by Travis: “But until we do know for certain whether our messing around in Time can make a big roar or a little rustle in history, we’re being damned careful.”

**Page 367**

In the paragraph that begins, “The jungle was high and the jungle was broad…”

-make a list of repeated words

-identify the words Bradbury uses to describe the pterodactyls

-describe Bradbury’s style of writing

**Page 368**

Using the paragraph that begins, “It came on great oiled, resilient, striding legs…”

-identify and explain four examples of either metaphors and/or similes that Bradbury incorporated to help his readers visualize the fearsome dinosaur

**Page 370**

In the paragraph that begins, “Like a stone idol…”

-identify the words that Bradbury uses to help his readers to visualize the violent death of the giant dinosaur

**Page 373**

What clues did Bradbury give to his readers that would indicate that Eckel’s actions have had an effect on life in his present?

**Page 374**

Use the first paragraph to identify Bradbury’s use of sensory images. Identify examples of sensory images that describe Eckel’s feeling that something is not right. Why does Eckel compare people to chess pieces?

Compare/Contrast the sign on this page to that of the sign at the beginning of the story. How are the two signs alike and how are they different?

**Page 375**

What is the “sound of thunder”?