

## WS 1

Seventy years ago, Ray Bradbury predicted the appearance of various devices, which have now become commonplace. Read the predicting quotes and join them with the icons of real equivalents.

### Bradbury's predictions

#### SHORT STORY "THE VELDT"



"The walls were blank and two dimensional. Now, as George and Lydia Hadley stood in the center of the room, the walls began to purr and recede into crystalline distance, it seemed, and presently an African veldt appeared, in three dimensions, on all sides, in color reproduced to the final pebble and bit of straw ..."

Source: <https://www.bradburypredictions.com/works/1948-the-veldt/>



SPY SATELLITES, STREET VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

**1960s**

Beginning of common use, date

#### SHORT STORY "THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS" AND OTHER WORKS



The technically impeccable home continues to care for its owners even after they have been killed in a nuclear war



VIRTUAL REALITY ROOM

**1992**

#### SHORT STORY "THE MURDERER"



"When it wasn't music, it was inter-office communications, and my horror chambers of a radio wrist watch on which my friends and my wife phoned every five minutes."



"SMART HOME" CONCEPT

**1990s**

#### NOVEL "FAHRENHEIT 451"



"And in her ears the little Seashells, the thimble radios tamped tight ..."



AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINES

**1980s**



"It'll be even more fun when we can afford to have the fourth wall installed. How long you figure before we save up and get the fourth wall torn out and a wall-TV put in?"

APPLE WATCH 2015



"Montag walked from the subway with the money in his pocket (he had visited the bank, which was open all night every night with robot tellers in attendance) ..."



EAR-BUD  
EARPHONES  
1990



"Tonight, this network is proud to have the opportunity to follow the Hound by camera helicopter as it starts on its way to the target ..."



LARGE FLAT-SCREEN  
TVS  
1997

Now you are going to be listening to a short story mentioned in the first description in the previous activity.

## The Veldt

### CLIP 1

Pre-listening. Join the words with their meanings

the veldt	a large bird of prey
a nursery	to go or move back or further away from a previous position
to recede	to move suddenly and quickly
to flick	a room in a house for the special use of young children
a vulture	open, uncultivated country or grassland in southern Africa

Listen to the clip. \_\_\_\_\_

What is the nursery?

Listen to the clip again and choose the correct set of options for the gaps in the description

They stood on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the nursery. It was \_\_\_\_\_ by forty feet long and \_\_\_\_\_; it had cost half again as much as the rest of the house.

a) hatched floor/ thirty feet across/ thirty feet high

b) thatched floor/ forty feet across/ thirty feet high



**c) thatched floor/ thirty feet across/forty feet high**

"But nothing's too good for our children," George had said. The nursery was \_\_\_\_\_. It was empty as a jungle \_\_\_\_\_ at hot high noon. The walls were \_\_\_\_\_ and two dimensional.

**a) silent/blade/blank**

**b) serpent/blade/drunken**

**c) silent/glade/blank**

Now, as George and Lydia Hadley stood in the center of the room, the walls began to \_\_\_\_\_ and recede into crystalline distance, it seemed, and presently an African veldt appeared, in three dimensions, on all sides, in color reproduced to the final \_\_\_\_\_ and bit of \_\_\_\_\_. The ceiling above them became a deep sky with a hot yellow sun. George Hadley felt the \_\_\_\_\_ start on his brow.

**a) fur/rebel/straw/perspiration**

**b) purr/pebble/straw/respiration**

**c) purr/pebble/straw/perspiration**

**d) purr/pebble/stroll/respiration**

"Let's get out of this sun," he said. "This is a little too real. But I don't see anything wrong."

"Wait a moment, you'll see," said his wife.

Now the hidden odorophones were beginning to blow a wind of odor at the two people in the middle of the \_\_\_\_\_. The hot straw smell of \_\_\_\_\_, the cool green smell of the hidden \_\_\_\_\_, the great rusty smell of animals, the smell of dust like a \_\_\_\_\_ in the hot air.

Lion grass



**a) baked veldtland/lion grass/water hole/red paprika**

**b) baked veldtland/tiger grass/water whole/red paprika**

**c) fake veldtland/lion grass/water hole/green paprika**

**d) naked veldtland/lion grass/water hole/red paprika**

**Choose all the words that mean sounds:**

flicked

humming

purr

odorophones

thump

rustling

CLIP 2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Listen to the clip and match the collocations from the description of lions:**

feverishly and

upholstery smell

prickling

French tapestry

dusty

pelts

heated

dripping mouths

exquisite

startlingly real

matted

fur

panting,

lion lungs

**CLIP 3** \_\_\_\_\_

**Listen to this part of the story. Select all true statements?**

1. The lions are just crystal walls, they are just supersensitive color film and mental tape film behind glass screens.
2. Lydia wants George to tell Wendy and Peter to read more on Africa.
3. When George locked the nursery a month ago for a few hours, Peter threw a tantrum.
4. Lydia suggests shutting the whole house off for a few days and taking a vacation.
5. Lydia doesn't agree to fry eggs or darn socks for her husband, nor to sweep the house.
6. Lydia thinks she can't compete with an African veldt and the automatic scrub bath.

**CLIP 4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Listen to this part of the story and answer the questions:**

- 1) Why do George and Lydia have dinner alone?
- 2) Why does George think that it won't hurt for the children to be locked out for a while?
- 3) Does he think that the children are too young for death thoughts?

**CLIP 5** \_\_\_\_\_

**Select all the things and characters NOT mentioned in the snippet. Why are the others mentioned?**

Wonderland

Looking-Glass

Alice

the Mock Turtle

Aladdin

Winnie the Pooh

Magical Lamp

Magic Wand

Jack Pumpkinhead of Oz

Mary Poppins

Harry Potter

Dr. Doolittle

Pegasus

red fireworks

**What does Lydia think has happened to the nursery?**