

Ray Bradbury, in full Ray Douglas Bradbury, (born August 22, 1920, Waukegan, Illinois, U.S.—died June 5, 2012, Los Angeles, California), American author best known for his highly imaginative short stories and novels that blend a poetic style, nostalgia for childhood, social criticism, and an awareness of the hazards of runaway technology.

Have you read any novel or short story by Ray Bradbury? Did you like it? Can you come across a prologue at the beginning or at the end of a story?



1. You are going to be listening to the very beginning of the book “The Illustrated Man” by Ray Bradbury, the part called Prologue. Listen to the first clip and answer the questions:

- a) Where is the scene set? What time of day is it?
- b) What did the author eat?

**Clip 1** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Listen to Clip 1 again and tick all the features the author used describing the Illustrated man (some words differ from those in the original, still count):

- a) he wasn't tall, although muscled
- b) he was tall, once well muscled
- c) going to fat
- d) long hands
- e) long arms
- f) thick hands
- g) thick arms
- h) his face was like child's
- i) massive head
- j) massive body
- k) wool shirt buttoned tight about his neck
- l) sleeves were rolled up and buttoned down
- m) sleeves were rolled and buttoned down
- n) thick wrists
- o) sweat was streaming from his face

3. Listen to Clip 2 and choose correct meaning for the idioms in this excerpt.

Clip 2 \_\_\_\_\_

the end of the Labor Day

***the cream of the Labor Day***

the best part of the Labor Day

getting money very quickly

***making money hand over fist***

earning money by manual labor

illegal celebration

***sideshow celebration***

a minor or diverting celebration

will refuse to go near or become involved with

***won't touch me with a ten-foot pole***

they won't be able to reach because of the distance

4. Listen to Clip 2 again and choose the correct statements.

- 1) Illustrated Man's shoes are very big.
- 2) He usually keeps a job about twenty days. Then he gets bored and quits.
- 3) He has heavily tattooed arms, but apart from that his body is clean.
- 4) He isn't happy with his tattoos.
- 5) He hides his tattoos from everyone.
- 6) Everyone wants to see the pictures, and yet nobody wants to see them.

5. Listen to Clip 3 and click all parts of the body mentioned in this snippet. \_\_\_\_\_

hand      mouths      eyes      fingers      palm      chest      elbow

arms      head      shoulders      knees      toes      back

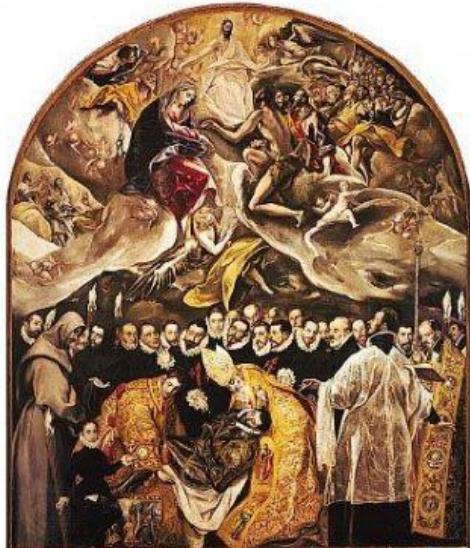
sides      wrists      heel      armpit      collarbone      stomach

6. Clip 4 \_\_\_\_\_ . Listen and fill the gaps with prepositions:

How can I explain \_\_\_\_\_ his Illustrations? If El Greco had painted miniatures \_\_\_\_\_ his prime, no bigger than your hand, infinitely detailed, \_\_\_\_\_ all his sulphurous color, elongation, and anatomy,

perhaps he might have used this man's body \_\_\_\_ his art. The colors burned \_\_\_\_ three dimensions. They were windows looking \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ fiery reality. Here, gathered \_\_\_\_ one wall, were all the finest scenes \_\_\_\_ the universe; the man was a walking treasure gallery. This wasn't the work \_\_\_\_ a cheap carnival tattoo man with three colors and whisky \_\_\_\_ his breath. This was the accomplishment \_\_\_\_ a living genius, vibrant, clear, and beautiful.

**Does these El Greco paintings look like the description of “illustrations”?**



**7. Listen to clip 5, then listen again and finish the lines of the Illustrated Man (\*contractions count as one word):**

- 1) "I'm so proud of my Illustrations that I'd like to burn them off. I've tried \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ ..."
- 2) "For, you see, these Illustrations \_\_\_\_\_. " (3)
- 3) "It's all right in sunlight. I could keep a \_\_\_\_\_. " (3)
- 4) "But at night - the pictures move. \_\_\_\_\_. " (3)
- 5) "In 1900, when I was twenty years old and working a carnival, \_\_\_\_\_. " (4)
- 6) "It laid me up; I had to do something to keep my hand in, \_\_\_\_\_. " (6)
- 7) "She went back to the future. She was an old woman in a little house in the middle of Wisconsin here somewhere \_\_\_\_\_. " (5)
- 8) "A little old witch who looked a thousand years old one moment and \_\_\_\_\_. " (5)
- 9) "She said she could travel in time. I laughed. Now, \_\_\_\_\_. " (3)
- 10) "I've hunted every summer for fifty years. When I find that witch \_\_\_\_\_. " (5)

**8. Listen to clip 6 and put the paragraphs in order (type in the correct number into the box):**

**A.** \_\_\_\_\_

If I'm with a woman, her picture comes there on my back, in an hour, and shows her whole life - how she'll live, how she'll die, what she'll look like when she's sixty. And if it's a man, an hour later his picture's here on my back. It shows him falling off a cliff, or dying under a train. So I'm fired again."

**B.** \_\_\_\_\_

In three hours of looking you could see eighteen or twenty stories acted right on my body, you could hear voices and think thoughts. It's all here, just waiting for you to look. But most of all, there's a special spot on my body."

**C.** \_\_\_\_\_

The sun was gone. Now the first stars were shining and the moon had brightened the fields of grass and wheat. Still the Illustrated Man's pictures glowed like charcoals in the half light, like scattered rubies and emeralds, with Rouault colors and Picasso colors and the long, pressed - out El Greco bodies.

**D.** \_\_\_\_\_

"So people fire me when my pictures move. They don't like it when violent things happen in my Illustrations. Each Illustration is a little story. If you watch them, in a few minutes they tell you a tale.

**E.** \_\_\_\_\_

He bared his back.

"See? There's no special design on my right shoulder blade, just a jumble."

"Yes."

"When I've been around a person long enough, that spot clouds over and fills in.

## **9. Clip 7** \_\_\_\_\_

**Listen and choose the correct options for missing sets of words:**

All the time he had been talking his hands had \_\_\_\_\_ over the Illustrations, as if to adjust their frames, to brush away dust - the motions of a \_\_\_\_\_, an art patron. Now he lay back, long and full in the moonlight. It was a warm night. There was no breeze and the air was \_\_\_\_\_. We both had our shirts off.

a) wondered/connoisseur/stifling

- b) wandered/ connoisseur/ stifling
- c) wandered/connoisseur/stabbing

"And you've never \_\_\_\_\_ the old woman?"

"Never."

"And you think she came from the future?"

"How else could she know these stories she painted on me?"

He \_\_\_\_\_ his eyes tiredly. His voice \_\_\_\_\_ fainter.

- a) found/shot/grew
- b) find/shut/grew
- c) found/shot/grow
- d) found/shut/grew

"Sometimes at night I can feel them, the pictures, like ants, \_\_\_\_\_ on my skin. Then I know they're doing what they have to do. I never look at them any more. I just try to \_\_\_\_\_. I don't sleep much. Don't you look at them either, I \_\_\_\_\_ you. Turn the other way when you sleep."

- a) crawling/best/warn
- b) crawling/rest/warn
- c) crawling/rest/worn
- d) frowning/rest/worn

I lay back a few feet from him. He didn't seem \_\_\_\_\_ and the pictures were beautiful. \_\_\_\_\_ I might have been \_\_\_\_\_ to get out and away from such babbling. But the Illustrations... I let my eyes fill up on them. Any person would go a little mad with such things upon his body.

- a) violent/Otherwise/printed
- b) violet/Otherwise/tempted
- c) violet/Other guys/tempted
- d) violent/Otherwise/tempted

The night was serene. I could hear the Illustrated Man's breathing in the moonlight.

Crickets were \_\_\_\_\_ gently in the distant ravines. I \_\_\_\_\_ with my body \_\_\_\_\_ so I could watch the Illustrations. Perhaps half an hour passed.

Whether the Illustrated Man slept I could not tell, but suddenly I heard him \_\_\_\_\_, "They're moving, aren't they?"

I waited a minute.

Then I said, "Yes."

- a) staring/laid/sideways/shout

- b) stirring/lay/sidewise/whisper
- c) stirring/lay/sideways/whisper
- d) staring/lay/sideways/whisper

**10 . Watch a scene from The Illustrated Man movie. Is that how you imagine the characters? Can you see any discrepancies between the two plots (the novel and the movie)?**

**11. Just enjoy the last part of Prologue** \_\_\_\_\_

The pictures were moving, each in its turn, each for a brief minute or two. There in the moonlight, with the tiny tinkling thoughts and the distant sea voices, it seemed, each little drama was enacted. Whether it took an hour or three hours for the dramas to finish, it would be hard to say. I only know that I lay fascinated and did not move while the stars wheeled in the sky.

Eighteen Illustrations, eighteen tales. I counted them one by one. Primarily my eyes focused upon a scene, a large house with two people in it. I saw a flight of vultures on a blazing flesh sky, I saw yellow lions, and I heard voices.

The first Illustration quivered and came to life....

**12. Click the link and work on some vocabulary from the story**