

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?