

Name:

Date:

Before Reading "The Pedestrian" by Ray Bradbury

1. How has technology changed in your lifetime since you can remember?

PREVIEW

2. What is your favorite piece of technology you own? Why?

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

3. Which social networking services do you use? What do you like or dislike about them?

PREVIEW

4. Do you play video games? How often do you play video games? What about watching TV?

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

5. How many hours a day do you spend outside if the weather permits?

PREVIEW

6. Why do people take walks? Do you ever go for a walk or a bike ride?

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

7. Do you consider yourself a social person? How about one-of-a-kind? Why or why not?

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

8. What is your absolute favorite thing to do? (Something that always brings you happiness.)

Name:

Date:

Vocabulary "The Pedestrian" by Ray Bradbury

Vocabulary Word	Part of Speech	Definition in my own words
intermittent	Adjective	
manifest	Verb	
illumination	Noun	
ebbing	Verb	
antiseptic	Noun	
regressive	Adjective	
revue	Noun	
ceaseless	Adjective	

Name:

Date:

Vocabulary "The Pedestrian" by Ray Bradbury

Vocabulary Word	Part of Speech	Definition in my own words
intermittent	Adjective	Appearing from time to time
manifest	Verb	To appear or display
illumination	Noun	Light
ebbing	Verb	To lessen, reduce or move away
antiseptic	Noun	Chemical smelling substance used to kill germs
regressive	Adjective	Describes someone or something that is becoming less advanced; returning to a former or less developed state
revue	Noun	a variety show with topical sketches and songs
ceaseless	Adjective	Describes something unending

Name:

Date:

During Reading Questions
"The Pedestrian" by Ray Bradbury

1. Who is the protagonist in "The Pedestrian?" What does he love to do?

2. What year is it? What month is it?

3. Walking by people in their homes at night is like walking through what? Why?

4. Why did Mr. Mead start wearing sneakers at night?

5. Why do you think Mr. Mead talks to the houses?

6. How long has Mr. Mead been walking outside without ever running into another person?

7. Why was there only one police car for a city of three million people?

8. Why is the police car so suspicious of Mr. Mead?

9. Is it a surprise that a robotic police car found Mr. Mead in a city of 3 million people? Why or why not?

10. Where does the police car take Mr. Mead? Why is it ironic?

After Reading Questions
"The Pedestrian" by Ray Bradbury

1. What is the mood of this story?

PREVIEW

2. What is the theme of this story? What is Bradbury trying to suggest?

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

3. What parallels can you draw from this dystopia Bradbury has created to society today?

PREVIEW

4. What is the main conflict of "The Pedestrian"?

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

5. What is symbolized by the contrast of light and dark between Leonard's home and the other homes?

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

ANSWER KEY

During Reading Questions “The Pedestrian”

1. Who is the protagonist in “The Pedestrian?” What does he love to do?

Mr. Leonard Mead—Take a walk at night, hands in pockets, in silence.

2. What year is it? What month is it?

November 2053

3. Walking by people in their homes at night is like walking through what? Why?

It was like walking through a graveyard because everyone is dead inside, so he can't interact with anyone he's passing.

4. Why did Mr. Mead start wearing sneakers at night?

If he wore other louder, shoes, dogs would bark and follow him.

5. Why do you think Mr. Mead talks to the houses?

He has no one to talk to and he is lonely. There is no human interaction outside of people's homes.

6. How long has Mr. Mead been walking outside without ever running into another person?

10 years

7. Why was there only one police car for a city of three million people?

There were no crimes being committed because people didn't leave their homes.

8. Why is the police car so suspicious of Mr. Mead?

Mr. Mead is walking alone for air. He has no wife, no television set, and no “alibi.”

9. Is it a surprise that a robotic police car found Mr. Mead in a city of 3 million people? Why or why not?

No, the car was probably seeking out human beings who are breaking social norms because they are considered “suspicious” and possibly criminal. Since Mead was the only one out of 3 million people walking outside, it probably found him easily. It's the year 2053, so technology was most likely advanced enough to do so. It is a little surprising that in 10 years, he's never been stopped before.

10. Where does the police car take Mr. Mead? Why is it ironic?

The Psychiatric Center for Research on Regressive Tendencies. Mead is “regressing” because he won't watch television and stay indoors which is ironic because he is not regressing at all. All the people who are inside, avoiding socialization and nature are more likely regressing.

After Reading Questions
"The Pedestrian" by Ray Bradbury

1. What is the mood of this story?

Isolated, empty, peculiar, creepy, lonely, and subdued.

2. What is the theme of this story? What is Bradbury trying to suggest?

- Technology destroys human thought and individuality.
- People conform to the majority and judge others who do not.
- Just because society views something as abnormal doesn't make it wrong.
- Technology has damaging effects on human's social interaction.
- Non-conformity is risky because it is threatening to others.

3. What parallels can you draw from this dystopia Bradbury has created to society today?

Answers will vary.

4. What is the main conflict of "The Pedestrian"?

Leonard Mead vs. Society. Mead prefers the natural world to technological advancements, and this makes him an object of suspicion.

5. What is symbolized by the contrast of light and dark between Leonard's home and the other homes?

Mead is enlightened. He is alive. Others are dead inside.

Name:

Date:

Figurative Language
“The Pedestrian” by Ray Bradbury

Directions: complete the chart by filling in all of the empty boxes.

Quote from Text	Figurative Language	Meaning/Significance
To enter out into that silence that was the city at eight o'clock of a misty evening in November, to put your feet upon that buckling concrete walk, to step over grassy seams and make your way, hands in pockets, through the silences, that was what Mr. Leonard Mead most dearly loved to do.	irony	
... he would stride off, sending patterns of frosty air before him like the smoke of a cigar.		It's so cold outside that he can see his own breath, similar to smoke from a cigar.
And on his way he would see the cottages and homes with their dark windows, and it was not unequal to walking through a graveyard where only the faintest glimmers of firefly light appeared in flickers behind the windows.	metaphor	
Sudden gray phantoms seemed to manifest upon inner room walls where a curtain was still undrawn against the night, or there were whisperings and murmurs where a window in a tomblike building was still open.	imagery	
There was a good crystal frost in the air; it cut the nose and made the lungs blaze like a Christmas tree inside; you could feel the cold light going on and off, all the branches filled with invisible snow.		
He listened to the faint push of his soft shoes through autumn leaves with satisfaction, and whistled a cold quiet whistle between his teeth, occasionally picking up a leaf as he passed, examining its skeletal pattern in the infrequent lamplights as he went on, smelling its rusty smell.		You can hear the sound of Mead's shoes shuffling through the leaves and the sound of him whistling. He picks up a leaf and smells it. This passage appeals to many senses to show Mead is one with nature and it help readers feel like they are outside on a chilly November night.
The street was silent and long and empty, with only his shadow moving like the shadow of a hawk in mid-country.		

He stumbled over a particularly uneven section of sidewalk. The cement was vanishing under flowers and grass.	imagery	
During the day it was a thunderous surge of cars, the gas stations open, a great insect rustling and a ceaseless jockeying for position as the scarab beetles.		The cars are scurrying through life like beetles. People are rushing here and there not absorbing the life around them.
He stood entranced, not unlike a night moth, stunned by the illumination, and then drawn toward it.		
"Your name?" Said the police car in a metallic whisper.	personification	
The light held him fixed like a museum specimen.		
He put his hand to the door and peered into the back seat, which was a little cell, a little black jail with bars. It smelled of riveted steel. It smelled of harsh antiseptic; it smelled too clean and hard and metallic. There was nothing soft there.		The car feels sterile and uncomfortable. It is a mini-prison. You can smell steel and antiseptic. The car represents the coldness of humanity and reinforces the theme of dehumanization in the story.
They passed one house on one street a moment later, one house in an entire city of houses that were dark, but this one particular house had all of its electric lights brightly lit, every window a loud yellow illumination, square and warm in the cool darkness.	symbolism	
The car moved down the empty river-bed streets and off away, leaving the empty streets with the empty side-walks, and no sound and no motion all the rest of the chill November night.	repetition	

Answer Key
Figurative Language
"The Pedestrian" by Ray Bradbury

Directions: complete the chart by filling in all of the empty boxes.

Quote from Text	Figurative Language	Meaning/Significance
To enter out into that silence that was the city at eight o'clock of a misty evening in November, to put your feet upon that buckling concrete walk, to step over grassy seams and make your way, hands in pockets, through the silences, that was what Mr. Leonard Mead most dearly loved to do.	irony	It's the opposite of what you would expect. Usually the nightlife in a city is high energy, busy, and loud—filled with people. In this setting, no one is out.
... he would stride off, sending patterns of frosty air before him like the smoke of a cigar.	simile	It's so cold outside that he can see his own breath, similar to smoke from a cigar.
And on his way he would see the cottages and homes with their dark windows, and it was not unequal to walking through a graveyard where only the faintest glimmers of firefly light appeared in flickers behind the windows.	metaphor	Bradbury compares walking down the street by the houses to walking through a graveyard. Everyone is basically dead inside their homes (tombs) sedated by their screens. The only thing you could see are the flickering lights of the television just like a firefly.
Sudden gray phantoms seemed to manifest upon inner room walls where a curtain was still undrawn against the night, or there were whisperings and murmurs where a window in a tomblike building was still open.	imagery	By calling people "phantoms," it shows how lifeless they are and creates an eerie atmosphere.
There was a good crystal frost in the air; it cut the nose and made the lungs blaze like a Christmas tree inside; you could feel the cold light going on and off, all the branches filled with invisible snow.	simile	The comparison of Mead's lungs to a Christmas tree shows that the act of walking through nature is a spiritual celebration. Breathing in and out cold air was satisfying to him. He is not taking a mindless walk; it's an invigorating experience for him.
He listened to the faint push of his soft shoes through autumn leaves with satisfaction, and whistled a cold quiet whistle between his teeth, occasionally picking up a leaf as he passed, examining its skeletal pattern in the infrequent lamplights as he went on, smelling its rusty smell.	imagery	You can hear the sound of Mead's shoes shuffling through the leaves and the sound of him whistling. He picks up a leaf and smells it. This passage appeals to many senses to show Mead is one with nature and it help readers feel like they are outside on a chilly November night.
The street was silent and long and empty, with only his shadow moving like the shadow of a hawk in mid-country.	simile	The comparison is between Mead's shadow and a hawk in mid-country. A hawk would be gliding freely showing that Mr. Mead has all his freedom in this moment and he desires to stay wild, free-spirited, and in power of his own life.

He stumbled over a particularly uneven section of sidewalk. The cement was vanishing under flowers and grass.	imagery	The pavements are in poor condition because no one walks outside anymore, so the city doesn't see a need to take care of it.
During the day it was a thunderous surge of cars, the gas stations open, a great insect rustling and a ceaseless jockeying for position as the scarab beetles.	simile	The cars are scurrying through life like beetles. People are rushing here and there not absorbing the life around them.
He stood entranced, not unlike a night moth, stunned by the illumination, and then drawn toward it.	simile	He is curious and startled. He hasn't seen anyone in 10 years, so he wants to know who is there and who he is talking to.
"Your name?" Said the police car in a metallic whisper.	personification	A metallic voice shows the car is cold and emotionless. The car is a robot and there's no person inside.
The light held him fixed like a museum specimen.	simile	Mead is unusual. It is odd that he is outside taking a walk and that bizarre behavior needs to be studied or questioned like an unknown specimen. Mead is uncomfortable, on display, and powerless.
He put his hand to the door and peered into the back seat, which was a little cell, a little black jail with bars. It smelled of riveted steel. It smelled of harsh antiseptic; it smelled too clean and hard and metallic. There was nothing soft there.	imagery, symbolism	The car feels sterile and uncomfortable. It is a mini-prison. You can smell steel and antiseptic. The car represents the coldness of humanity and reinforces the theme of dehumanization in the story.
They passed one house on one street a moment later, one house in an entire city of houses that were dark, but this one particular house had all of its electric lights brightly lit, every window a loud yellow illumination, square and warm in the cool darkness.	symbolism	This passage describes Mead's home. The loud yellow lights convey Mead's individuality and shows his humanity and warmth juxtaposed next to the other cool, dark houses. Mead has not conformed to everyone else's way of living. Light can represent hope in society.
The car moved down the empty river-bed streets and off away, leaving the empty streets with the empty side-walks, and no sound and no motion all the rest of the chill November night.	repetition	The repetition of the word "empty" creates an ominous, apocalyptic mood. There was only one man left on the street and now he has been arrested. There is no one left. Everything is empty.

Fishbowl Discussion Teacher Guide

A fishbowl discussion is when a small group of students (as many as half the class) are arranged in a circle in the center of the room to discuss a topic or text based on open-ended questions, while the remainder of the students observe and take notes; then both groups switch roles after a specific amount of time. As the teacher, you can bounce back from inner and outer circle, but this should be a student-led discussion. Fishbowl discussions teach communication skills, observation skills, listening skills, community-building skills, and will enhance your students' comprehension on the topic or text.

Grouping: (Tip: Make the groups ahead of time.)

- You can break students into 2 groups (split the class in half).
- You can break the students into 3 groups, and have 6-8 students in the fishbowl (inner circle) at a time.
- You can break students into 4 groups and have 2 fishbowl discussion take place at once. (Two groups on one half of the room, and two groups on the other half of the room.)

How to implement:

1. Inform students what a fishbowl discussion is.
2. Tell students the expectations, rules, how you'll be grading etc.
3. Give students the discussion questions ahead of time so that they can prepare. Have them write some notes, so they don't forget questions they want to ask! You can assign this as homework or classwork.
4. Begin with the first group! Have your students arrange their desks in the middle of the room. The outer circle will physically stand around the inner circle who will be sitting. To begin the discussion, the teacher or a student within the fishbowl will read an open-ended question, and the fishbowl group discusses it. You do not have to read through every question and you can read the questions in any order. You can even come up with new questions on the spot... improvise! It's all about facilitating great conversations between students, so let them lead you. (I recommend at least 20 minutes each group)
5. After a set amount of time, stop the discussion. Ask anyone from the outer circle if they have any feedback, praise, or questions for the inner group (without starting a new, lengthy conversation). Then have the groups switch. The next group can continue a conversation based on what they observed, or the teacher can start by posing new questions. Once the second group is done; give the outer group a chance to ask questions.
6. All students debrief by filling out the reflection form.

Grading:

- You can give everyone a participation grade or you can keep track of each student's individual contribution.
- I grade my students on a scale of 1-5 of engagement. Expectations to earn a 5:
 - Contributed to the group at least once
 - Responded to another student at least once
 - Actively listened to others
 - Backed up opinion with evidence
 - Showed respect to everyone
- You could also simply grade students out of these three categories: did not participate, moderately participated, fully participated.
- Alternatively, you can use this as a learning opportunity and not grade students at all.

Name:

Date:

Fishbowl Discussion

In a fishbowl discussion, people seated inside the circle actively participate by asking questions and sharing their opinions, while those standing outside listen carefully to the ideas presented.

Rules for the outer circle: You are only observing. Listen to what the group is saying without interrupting or speaking at all. You can take notes then ask questions or give comments at the end.

Rules for the inner circle:

Do not interrupt others and don't mock the ideas of another student.

Everyone must speak once and respond to someone once.

Talk to each other, not to the teacher.

Not sure how to jump in? Read some of the following prompts for ideas.

- Where does that idea come from in the text?
- I disagree, and here is why...
- Can you say that in another way?
- Is this what you mean...?
- What do you think the author is trying to say?
- I agree, and to add to that...

Before we dive into the Fishbowl, read the following questions to prepare yourself for the discussion. Write down your thoughts/ideas so you will be ready to share when it's time to discuss.

According to a Nielsen Company audience report from 2019, the average person in the United States spends approximately 10 hours and 39 minutes each day looking at a screen or using technology. The Nielsen Company also revealed that there has been a one-hour increase over the last year in how often an average American spends their time staring at the screen.

1. Will the average screen time continue to increase through the years? Is the dystopian society from "The Pedestrian" possible for the year 2053?

2. Why do you think Mead hasn't conformed even though he is obviously lonely?

3. How do you think television could be used to suppress people's thoughts and ideas? Does TV sedate and numb people? Why or why not?

4. Are there any examples of technology today that have made society worse? Explain.

5. How many hours a day would you guess you spend looking at a screen? What do you think is appropriate?

6. If you were Mr. Mead, would you have gotten inside the robotic car, why or why not? What would you have done in his situation? What would have happened if he didn't comply?

7. Do you have a cell phone? How do you feel if you forget your mobile phone and leave it somewhere?

8. Have you ever heard of a digital detox? Have you done one? Would you ever do one? What would it look like?

9. Does technology save time? How so? Is it worth it?

10. Has communication and socialization worsened or improved with the advancements in technology? Explain.

11. How does technology decrease the likelihood of individualism?

12. Can technology impact our mental and physical health? How so?

13. Are people often tagged as insane for doing things that are unpopular? What is an example?

14. What are the benefits of nature? How can we incorporate more nature into our lives? What other "simpler" past times do you think society should popularize/normalize again?

15. Do you think crime rates would really go down if no one ever left their home?

16. What did you think about how "The Pedestrian" ended? Was it realistic?

Name:

Date:

Fishbowl Reflection

Notes:

PREVIEW
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Outer circle:

1. What parts of the discussion did you find most interesting?

PREVIEW
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

2. In what parts were you least engaged?

3. What is something that someone said that surprised you?

PREVIEW
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Inner Circle:

1. What is something you learned from your discussion?

2. What is something you shared inside the circle?

PREVIEW
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

3. What will you do better next time?