

NAME:

DATE:

“There Will Come Soft Rains” LITERARY ANALYSIS: SETTING, INFERENCE, & PERSONIFICATION

PART I. SETTING

All stories have a **setting**—the time and the place of the story’s events. Settings shape stories by helping to determine plot as well as characters’ concerns and values.

DIRECTIONS: In the chart below, cite a piece of textual evidence that informs the reader about what has happened to the city and then provide analysis explaining what the specific details reveal.

Evidence of Specific Setting <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Analysis <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

PART II. INFERENCE

DIRECTIONS: On the lines following the passage from the story, write an inference you can draw from it. Then, cite a piece of textual evidence from later in the plot that either proves or disproves your inference.

1. “In the kitchen the breakfast stove gave a hissing sigh and ejected from its warm interior eight pieces of perfectly browned toast, eight eggs sunnyside up, sixteen slices of bacon, two coffees, and two cool glasses of milk.”

Inference: _____

Evidence that proves or disproves the inference: _____

PART III. CONNECTING LITERATURE

Ray Bradbury's "There Will Come Soft Rains," graphically dramatizes ways in which technology can seem miraculous in some situations, but incredibly dangerous in others. Although we do not have all the labor-saving devices in the story, we are getting closer all the time. But these advances are not without cost. Economists, anthropologists, and ecologists call these costs "tradeoffs."

DIRECTIONS: For each device or technology in the left column, list some benefits in the center column. In the right column, list some potential tradeoffs.

DEVICE/TECHNOLOGY	BENEFITS	TRADEOFFS
ONLINE SHOPPING		
ONLINE BANKING		
TEXTING/SMART PHONE		
SOCIAL MEDIA		

PART IV. PERSONIFICATION is a figure of speech that attributes or gives human characteristics to non-human things.

DIRECTIONS: Provide three (3) pieces of textual evidence from the excerpt showing how Bradbury personifies the fire in the chart below. Each piece of evidence should be a complete sentence. (See Example)

The fire crackled up the stairs. It fed upon Picassos and Matisse's in the upper halls, like delicacies, baking off the oily flesh, tenderly crisping the canvases into black shavings.
Now the fire lay in beds, stood in windows, changed the colors of drapes!
And then, reinforcements.
From attic trapdoors, blind robot faces peered down with faucet mouths gushing green chemical.
The fire backed off, as even an elephant must at the sight of a dead snake. Now there were twenty snakes whipping over the floor, killing the fire with a clear cold venom of green froth.
But the fire was clever. It had sent flame outside the house, up through the attic to the pumps there. An explosion! The attic brain which directed the pumps was shattered into bronze shrapnel on the beams.

Ex. "It fed upon Picassos and Matisse's in the upper halls"

1.

2.

3.

