

**UNIT 6 Journeys / Visions of the Future**  
**Independent Reading**



A STEM school

**FROEBEL**  
BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Home of the Space Generation



**Jim Soto**



**A SOUND OF THUNDER**

# SPEAK YOUR MIND

React to the following in your notebook:

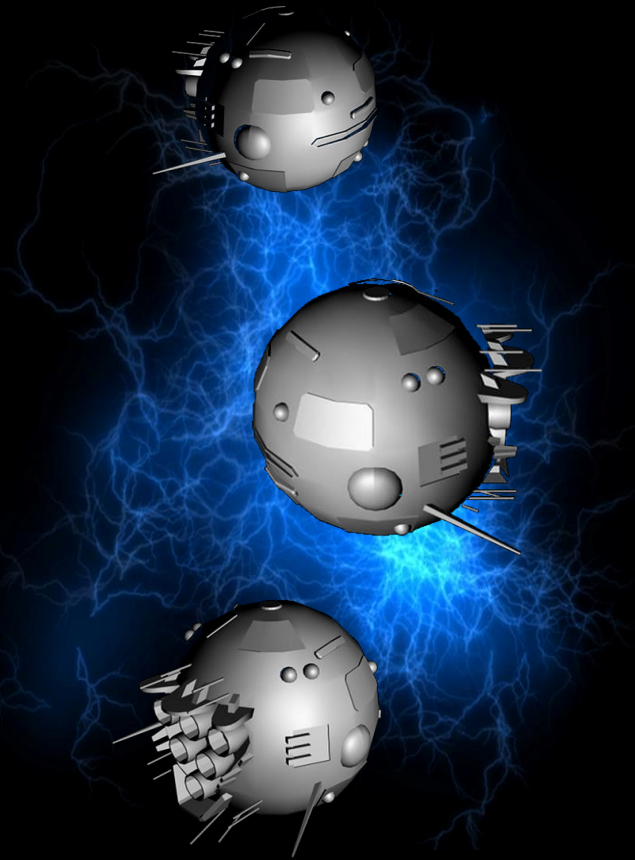
1. Describe how you would escape from an animal that wants to kill you.
2. If you know about any anecdote involving escaping from a dangerous animal, share it in a brief summary.
3. What type of setting and of creature makes a plot more interesting and the mood more effective?



# ANALYZING PLOT & SETTING

The objective of the next readings will be analyzing plot and setting in a work of fiction.

Today you'll be reading *A Sound of Thunder*, a classic time travel sci-fi short story by Ray Bradbury. Pay close attention to the way plot and setting work to create a gripping tale of technology gone wrong.



# RAY BRADBURY

Born in Waukegan, Illinois, Ray Bradbury began writing in 1943. Bradbury published more than thirty books, including novels, children's books, and collections of short stories, poetry, and plays. Bradbury's science fiction stories offer social criticism and warnings against the dangers of uncontrolled technological development.



# THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

This story deal with the concept of the Butterfly Effect which states that "small causes can have larger effects". The best illustration comes from the poem "The Nail".

It has been said that something as small as the flutter of a butterfly's wing can ultimately cause a typhoon halfway around the world.



the butterfly effect

change one thing, change everything.

- Chaos Theory

# THE NAIL

*For want of a nail the shoe was lost,  
for want of a shoe the horse was lost,  
for want of a horse the knight was lost,  
for want of a knight the battle was lost,  
for want of a battle the kingdom was lost.  
So a kingdom was lost—all for want of a nail.*



What's the message?

# LITERARY CONCEPTS



**Plot** is the sequence of events which involves the characters in conflict.

**Setting** includes the historical moment in time and geographic location in which a story takes place, and provides the main backdrop for a story.

**Suspense** feeling of excitement or anxiety about what may happen.

# ASSESSMENT



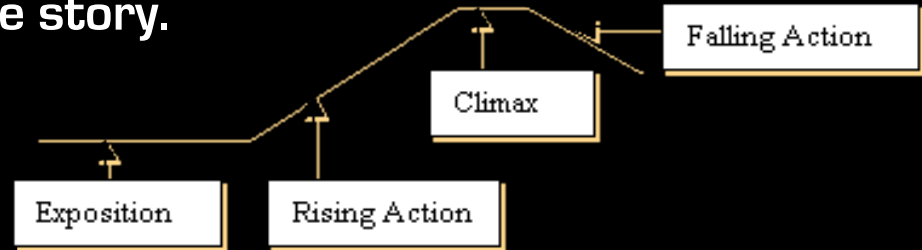
After reading the story in pgs. 572-581, complete the following exercises:

1. Do you agree with the idea that killing a single butterfly could affect the course of history as portrayed in this story? Could altering the past ever be justified? Explain.
2. What causes Eckels to step off the Path?
3. Identify the differences in the setting before and after the expedition.
4. Imagine that Eckels had been left behind on the safari. Explain how his inhabiting the ancient world might have affected the other living things of that time and, in turn, the course of history.





5. Imagine you are Mr. Travis and you have to write an incident report to your employer. Write a cause-and-effect analysis explaining what led to the changes in the Present at the end of the story.
6. If you submitted this report to your superiors in this “new world”, what do you imagine will be their reaction towards you? Why?
7. Complete a plot map for the story.



**SURPRISE!**

Now click below and enjoy an adaptation of this short story, broadcasted in the USA Network's *The Ray Bradbury Theater* series back in 1985.





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