

MARTIAN CHRONICLES

Task 1. Choose the correct item (A, B or C) to complete the text.

Bradbury's Mars is (1) ... of hope, dreams and metaphor of crystal pillars and fossil seas — (2) ... a fine dust settles on the great, empty cities of a (3) ... destroyed civilization. It is (4) ... the invaders have come to despoil and commercialize, (5) ... and to learn first a trickle, then a torrent, rushing from a world with no future toward a promise of tomorrow. The Earthman conquers Mars ... and then (6) ... by it, lulled by dangerous lies of comfort and familiarity, and enchanted by the lingering glamour of an ancient, mysterious native race. Ray Bradbury's THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES is a classic work of (7) ... literature (8) ... extraordinary power and imagination (9) ... undimmed by time's passage. In connected, chronological stories, a true grandmaster once again (10) ... delights and challenges us with his vision and (11) ... heart starkly and stunningly exposing in brilliant space light our strength, our weakness, our folly, and our poignant humanity on a strange and breathtaking world (12) ... humanity does not belong.

1	A place	B a place	C placed
2	A where	B when	C there
3	A tacit	B silently	C silent
4	A where	B there	C here
5	A grow	B to grow	C grew
6	A conquered	B is conquered	C has conquered
7	A twentieth century	B twenty century	C twenty century
8	A who	B whose	C where
9	A remained	B remains	C remain
10	A enthralls	B enthralled	C is enthralled
11	A he	B him	C his
12	A when	B where	C were

Task 2. Read some facts about Ray Bradbury, choose one that has interested you the most and comment on it.

Fun Facts about Ray Bradbury

1. The first girl Bradbury asked out was a bookstore clerk who became his wife.
2. Mrs. Bradbury worked full time while Mr. Bradbury stayed at home and wrote full time, an unheard of arrangement during the 1940s.
3. Ray Bradbury never had a driver's license, he was scared of cars since witnessing a horrific accident with 6 fatalities when he was 16 years old.
4. Even though he is associated with the science-fiction genre, Ray Bradbury considered himself a fantasy writer. He said that science-fiction describes the "real" while fantasy describes the "unreal".
5. Bradbury considered *Fahrenheit 451* his only true science-fiction novel.
6. Ray Bradbury didn't like computers or eBooks, believing that the Internet was "distracting". However his stance softened when his agent explained to him that "a new contract wouldn't be possible without ebook rights".