

LW #3 Theme Take 1

One problem I see in the short story "All Summer in a Day" by Ray Bradbury is that Margot is not treated nicely by her peers. She is shoved into the closet and harassed by William and the other kids. As I investigate this problem and the way Bradbury deals with it, I notice the kids seem to be treating her badly because they are jealous. She has seen the sun and can remember it because she once lived on Earth. They have never seen the sun and they are jealous of her and her memories. This leads me to believe that Bradbury wants me to learn that jealousy can sometimes make people mean. Because the kids are jealous of Margot, they keep her away from the sun. This is particularly mean because she has been waiting to see the sun; it seems to be the only thing that brings her any sort of joy on this rainy planet. Margot as the victim gets hurt. I am also noticing that because the kids were mean, they feel bad at the end of the story so this leads me to believe jealousy hurts anyone involved. Is the lesson then, that we should avoid acting mean when we are jealous because everyone involved can be hurt by it.

LW Theme take 2

Another problem I see in the story is that Margot is really struggling to survive on Venus. It seems that she has no energy and dislikes everything about Venus. The only time she ever seems to get excited is when she is able to talk about the sun. Her face is pale and she seems very washed out, sort of like the planet. This makes me think that Bradbury wants us to recognize that we all need something to live for. For Margot that was the thought of seeing the sun again. That seemed to be the one thing that kept her alive. Bradbury shows her eyes brighten with the mention of the sun. She has hope that she will one day return to Earth and that makes it bearable to live in this place she doesn't like. Now when I am thinking, I see that what

the kids did to her is even more horrible than I first thought, they recognized that this was her one true desire-to see the sun and they denied her that experience. It makes me think that what they did was more than mean, it was cruel and there is no way to take it back. It makes me think that unless Margot's parents bring her back to Earth, she is going to have to wait another 7 years and that will be devastating. I wonder how the kids will deal with the guilt of knowing they hurt her so badly. So maybe the theme is to recognize that jealousy leads us to do cruel things and that it doesn't make anyone feel better. Maybe Bradbury wants us to realize we should respect others' desires and resist the urge to steal their hopes and dreams just because we don't have them. I was so sad for Margot while the kids were playing and really expected them to remember her at least halfway through their time in the sun but they didn't and that made me so sad. Seeing their reactions at the end, their hanging heads and reluctance to admit what they did, makes me think that they really should have thought twice about locking her in that closet. I am disappointed that no one stood up for her.

LW theme take 3

Another problem I see in the story is that the kids are super mean while the teacher is away. Where was she? Why didn't she notice that Margot was missing? This problem makes me think that Bradbury wants us to learn that kids do actually need some type of supervision and without it, they can cause damage to one another. William is very mean to Margot. He tells her he doesn't believe her, he makes fun of her and ultimately leads the class into physically harassing her. He locks her in a closet and takes the jealousy way too far. I feel like because Bradbury made the setting be a classroom and I know quite a bit about that setting, I am invited to apply what I know to the scene. I know that if the teacher had been in there, the kids might still have

had the opportunity to be mean to Margot but would not have taken it to the extreme of locking her in a closet. the fact that I want to blame the teacher is a little disturbing to me because, ultimately it was the kids who made the awful decision but I think the teacher does share some of the repsonsibility for the terrible thing that happened to Margot.