

The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury Reading Guide

Answer the following questions with as much detail as possible. When possible, include direct quotes and references to the text (with page numbers). You can put these answers in a Google Doc, paper, or some other method, but be ready to share and discuss at the start of the school year.

1. How does Bradbury use satire in *The Martian Chronicles*? What does he achieve through his use of satire?
2. How does *The Martian Chronicles*, which was first published in 1950, fit into the broader genre of science fiction?
3. How does Bradbury use the Midwest and nostalgia in *The Martian Chronicles*?
4. *The Martian Chronicles* was written during the Cold War. How did the geopolitical tension of the time influence the novel? Use specific stories to support your claim.
5. How is *The Martian Chronicles* relevant today? Include references from specific stories and references to current events, social media, pop culture, scientific advancements, etc.
6. Why use Mars as the setting for this novel? What does it offer, in terms of world creation, that other planets don't?
7. In "Ylla," how is race discussed? How well does the story approach the topic of race? What is left out of the conversation/topic of race in this story?
8. Though the novel is structured as a series of interconnected stories, what are the overall themes in *The Martian Chronicles*?
9. What happens to the tone as we progress through the stories in *The Martian Chronicles*?
10. How are characters influenced by their ethical beliefs in making decisions in *The Martian Chronicles*?