

# *The Martian Chronicles: Literary Analysis Paper*

**Rough Draft due (4 grades):**

**January 5<sup>th</sup> ODD/ January 6<sup>th</sup> EVEN**

**Final Draft Due:**

**January 13<sup>th</sup> ODD/ January 14<sup>th</sup> EVEN**

**THE FINAL DRAFT WILL COUNT AS YOUR MIDTERM  
ESSAY EXAM GRADE!**

Directions: Choose ONE (1) of the following prompts for your paper. Answers should be between 1,000-2,000 words (2-4 pages typed) in MLA Formatting:

- Doubled spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font
- 1 inch margins, Original Title, Word Count
- Heading on each page with last name and page number
- Essay (Introduction, 3-6 Body Paragraphs, Conclusion)

## **Prompts:**

1. Select ONE (1) of the following passages: the opening of the novel, the description of Yll's return home from murdering Captain York, or *The Musicians*. Explain how the *figurative language* shapes the tone and meaning of each passage.
2. Compare and Contrast and THREE (3) settlers' view of Mars. Explore what their views are, why they have those views, and how those views impact the story.
3. Contrast the Chicken Pox and Atomic War as types of apocalypse. Note that in the novel, both are the fault of Earthlings. Does Bradbury have a political message? What is he saying about politics and science?
4. Select ONE (1) story from the novel. Explain how the story fits into the novel as a whole and what Ray Bradbury's purpose for the story is. Additionally, analyze the story in terms of theme. What theme(s) does this story convey? How does it compare to other stories in the novel about the same theme?
5. Select ONE (1) of the following themes:
  - Nostalgia for the simplicity of wholesome, early twentieth-century, small-town life.
  - The danger of nostalgia/wanting things to be the way they used to.
  - The dividing line between reality and illusion.
  - Humanity's inability to escape the past or to overcome preconceptions.
  - The danger of rampant colonization.
  - The reliance on technology.

Analyze this theme in terms of the novel. Which stories fit into your chosen theme? How do they represent it? Why has Bradbury chosen to represent this theme/ what is he trying to teach us? Why is this theme important?

\*\*\* Note: The grading of this paper will be based on the way in which you **support your opinion with evidence from the novel**. You must use **quotations** in your analysis. **No first person may be used.**

Smith 1

Robert Smith

Ms. Betances

English I Honors

9 January 2009

Word Count: 1500

The Locusts of Mars

Begin writing your paper here. Make sure to double space, have 1 inch margins, and Times New Roman size 12 font.