

There Will Come Soft Rains - poem

Sara Teasdale Sara Teasdale poem - not the Ray Bradbury short story of the same title.

Why is the poem's peaceful future more unsettling than reassuring?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Poem - complete poem

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
END	Would scarcely know that we were gone.
PASSAGE ID	sec-soft-rains-01

THE MOVE

Analyze how pleasant imagery can carry a disturbing implication

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The poem begins with soft rain, birds, blossoms, and song - imagery that normally signals renewal. The turn is that none of these natural processes depend on human survival. Beauty therefore becomes unsettling because it reveals nature's indifference to war and even to human disappearance.

MARK

Underline peaceful sensory images. Circle every reference to war or human absence. Box the line where nature's indifference becomes explicit. Star the final personification of Spring.

NOTICE

- What kind of world do the first three couplets create?
- When does the human perspective enter the poem?
- Why does personifying Spring make the final indifference stronger?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why is the poem's peaceful future more unsettling than reassuring? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The future is unsettling because its beauty continues without humans. Teasdale uses peaceful natural imagery not to promise comfort but to show that birds, trees, and Spring would remain largely indifferent to war and even to human extinction.

EVIDENCE

Use one peaceful image from the opening and one statement about nature not noticing or caring about humanity.

WATCH FOR

Do not read the poem as simple optimism about nature recovering. The recovery matters because it exposes human fragility and nature's indifference.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 8 · LESSON 288

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WORK	There Will Come Soft Rains - poem
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Poem - complete poem

PASSAGE ID	sec-soft-rains-01
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Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,

END

Would scarcely know that we were gone.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** Underline peaceful sensory images. Circle every reference to war or human absence. Box the line where nature's indifference becomes explicit. Star the final personification of Spring.
2. **NOTICE** What kind of world do the first three couplets create? When does the human perspective enter the poem? Why does personifying Spring make the final indifference stronger?
3. **THINK** Answer provisionally: Why is the poem's peaceful future more unsettling than reassuring?
4. **WRITE** Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. **CLOSE** Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.