Authors: Ray Bradbury

By Biography.com Editors and A+E Networks, adapted by Newsela staff on 08.11.16

Word Count 467
Level 530L

Synopsis: Ray Bradbury was a popular American writer. He has been called the master of science fiction. His most famous book is "Fahrenheit 451." Bradbury won many awards and received honors for being a great author. He died in June 2012. He was 91 years old.

Early Life

Ray Douglas Bradbury was born Aug. 22, 1920, in Illinois. As a boy, Bradbury said he was happy. He later wrote about his life. He liked to watch magic shows. He also loved to read adventure stories. He had some favorite writers.

When he was about 12 years old, Bradbury decided that he wanted to be a writer. He said he wanted to be like the writers he loved. He also wanted people to remember him for his writing.

Bradbury's family moved to California in 1934. He met many Hollywood stars. He was happy when he got paid to write a joke for a TV show. After high school, Bradbury did not have money to go to college, so he went to the library. He wanted to keep reading and learning.

"Libraries raised me," he said. "I went to the library three days a week for 10 years."
Literary Works And Honors

His first short story was printed in 1938. That was also the year he finished high school. The next year, he printed his own magazine. He wrote every story in it.

Writing became his main job by early 1943.

In 1947, he married Marguerite McClure. He met her while she was working at a bookstore. They had four daughters.

His book "The Martian Chronicles" was printed in 1950. It was his first big book. It is a collection of short stories that tell of a fight on the planet Mars.

Bradbury's book "Fahrenheit 451" was published in 1953 and became very popular. He said it is a story about how television keeps people from reading. People still read it today. Yet he later had his own television show that used his short stories. The TV show was on from 1986 to 1992.

He wrote for several hours a day, every day. More than 30 books and about 600 of his short stories have been printed. People around the world like to read his books, which have been printed in 36 different languages.

Death And Legacy

Bradbury kept writing as he got older. He also helped to raise money for his library.

In 2007, Bradbury received a special Pulitzer award for his work. It is a very important award for authors. In his last years, he said he felt good about reaching his dreams in writing.

Bradbury died in Los Angeles on June 5, 2012. He was 91 years old. Ray Bradbury's many books and writings will be remembered for years, just as he wanted.
Quiz

1. Select the paragraph from the section "Early Life" that BEST shows why Ray wanted to be a writer.

2. Read the section "Literary Works And Honors." Based on this section, what is the main reason Ray started his own magazine?
   (A) to print lots of his stories
   (B) to have a job after high school
   (C) to make money
   (D) to learn about writing

3. Which sentence from the section "Death And Legacy" BEST shows how Ray helped others as he got older?
   (A) He also helped to raise money for his library.
   (B) It is a very important award for authors.
   (C) In his last years, he said he felt good about reaching his dreams in writing.
   (D) Ray Bradbury's many books and writings will be remembered for years, just as he wanted.

4. Read the section "Death And Legacy." What happened because Bradbury wrote so many important books?
   (A) He started a library.
   (B) He won a special award.
   (C) He felt good about writing.
   (D) He kept writing when he got older.