

“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed”

Materials

1. Composition book open to a blank page.
2. Textbook open to page 462.



“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed”
by Ray Bradbury

“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed”

Can your location change who you are as a person?

Freewrite: Take 2 minutes and journal about this idea, either stating that you agree or disagree. Then, justify your stance on the argument.

“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed” Prediction

Formulate a prediction concerning the events of the story. Who are they? What does “dark they were, and golden-eyed” mean? Complete the following model.

Model:

After analyzing the title and the image located on page 462, one can infer that the title of “Dark They Were, Golden Eyed” by Ray Bradbury means _____ because _____.

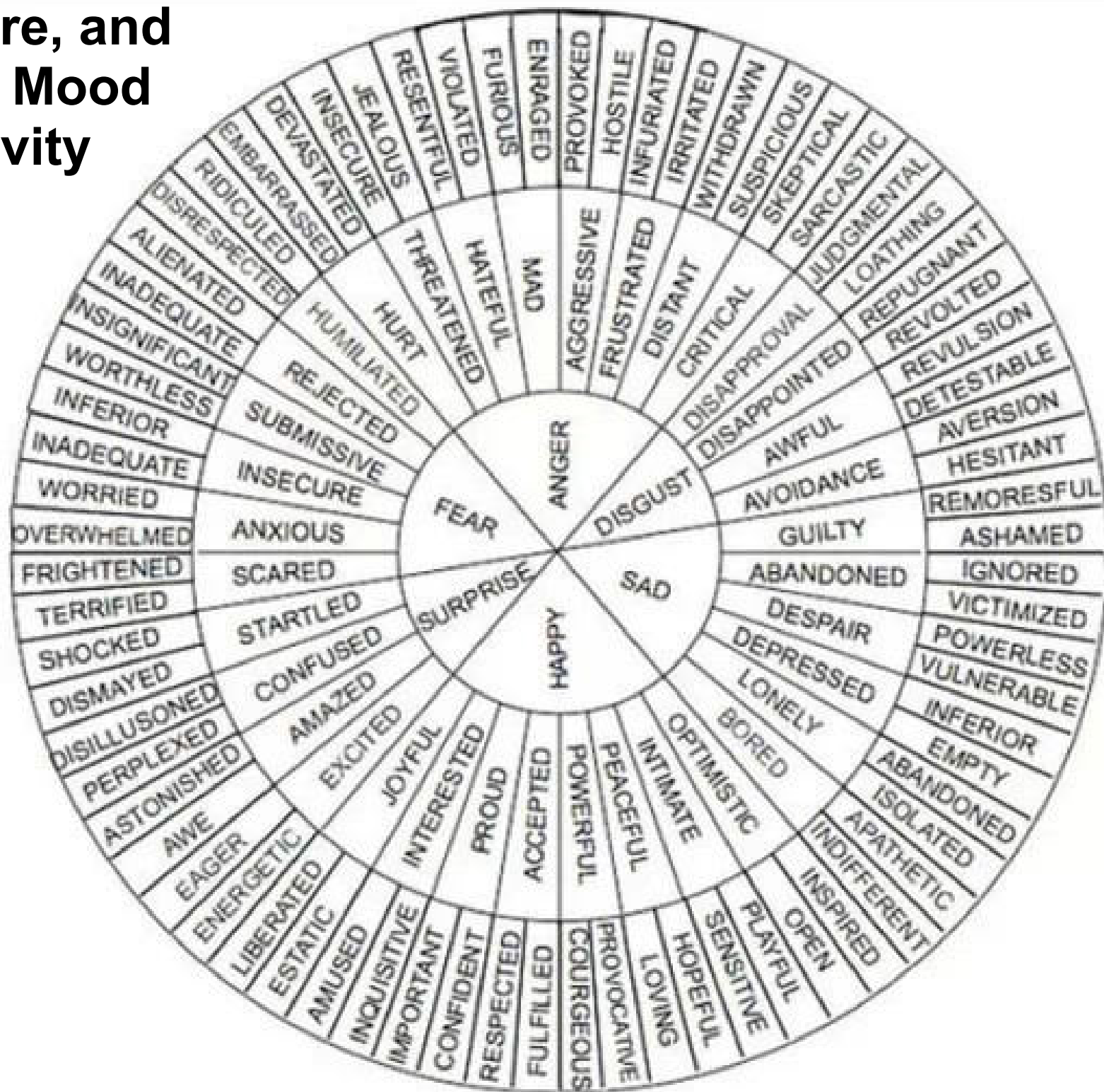
“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed”

Create the following t-chart in your notes. As we read the story, assess how the following categories affect the text's mood. Cite line numbers with your evidence.

Plot Elements	Setting	Characters	Dialogue

“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed” Mood Writing Activity

Select a word from the following chart that best indicates the story's mood. Your word should reside in the outer ring. Begin in the center, the work your way out to select the most vivid mood word.



“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed” Mood Writing Activity

Using the word you selected from the chart, compose a well-developed response that justifies your reasoning. Prove the story contains the mood you selected. Cite evidence to support your answer. Use the following model:

Model

Clearly, in “Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed” by Ray Bradbury, the author provides a _____ mood for the audience as evident when _____. Moreover, this mood occurs when _____.

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Discussion Questions

Respond to the following questions in complete sentences. For each number, provide the author and title, restate the question, and cite evidence with line numbers.

1. Why do the Bitterings settle on Mars?
2. Why do the rockets from Earth stop coming to Mars?
3. Identify the mood of the story. Why is this mood created?
4. Determine the theme of the story. Why does the author portray this theme in the story?
5. Why does Mr. Bittering's tie hanging on the peach tree symbolize his transformation?

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Discussion Questions

Respond to the following questions in complete sentences. For each number, provide the author and title, restate the question, and cite evidence with line numbers.

6. Why are the villas better suited for Martian life?
7. Compare how the Bitterings interact in the Earth settlement with how they interact in the Martian ruins. How do their interactions contribute to the mood?
8. Why does the author utilize imagery to affect the story's mood?
9. Why does the author use the simile comparing the children to seeds?

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Discussion Questions

Respond to the following questions in complete sentences. For each number, provide the author and title, restate the question, and cite evidence with line numbers.

10. Why does Mrs. Bittering want to stay on Mars?
11. Why does the author incorporate the simile in which Mr. Bittering compares himself to a salt crystal?

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Discussion Questions II

Respond to the following questions in complete sentences. For each number, provide the author and title, restate the question, and cite evidence with line numbers.

1. Note an example of foreshadowing within the text. Why does the author include this foreshadowing?
2. Record a simile in the text. Why does the author employ this simile?
3. Distinguish an internal conflict found in the story.
4. Why is this conflict paramount?
5. Determine an external conflict in the story. Why does the author include this conflict?

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Discussion Questions II

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Discussion Questions II

Respond to the following questions in complete sentences. For each number, provide the author and title, restate the question, and cite evidence with line numbers.

6. Note a metaphor within the story. Why is this metaphor significant?

“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed” Name Activity

In Romeo and Juliet, by Shakespeare, one of the most famous lines is, “A rose, by any other name, would smell just as sweet.” Here, Romeo is stating that Juliet, no matter her name, would remain as lovely as ever. Names are important in the play because Romeo's family (the Montagues) feud with Juliet's family (the Capulets) and forbid their children from dating. Thus, the barrier between the two lovers is their differing names.

In “Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed,” Dan, Mr. Bittering's son, desires to change his name to “*Linnl*.” Does his name change affect him? Does Bradbury's opinions of names align with Shakespeare's? Why is Dan's choice to alter his name significant? Support your answer with at least 4 pieces of evidence.

“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed” Name Activity

Example:

After an analysis of “Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed,” Dan's choice to alter his name to “Linnl” is significant for several reasons. For example, this renaming signifies a loss of Dan's human identity and foreshadows the moment when David and Laura changed their names to “Ttil” and “Werr” (407-408) as well. Creepily, Dan even remarks at one point that when his mother calls his Earth name, he thinks, “That's not my name” (343).

“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed” Email Writing Activity

What if the Bittering children had been able to send e-mail messages back to their friends on Earth? Have students write two e-mail messages describing life on Mars to a friend on Earth. The first one should be from Laura, Dan, or David on the day the family arrives on Mars, and the second one should be from the same character after becoming Ttil, Linnl, or Werr. Evaluate the imagery, including sensory details, that creates the story's mood. Each email should contain at least five sentences and three pieces of evidence.

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Email Writing Activity

Example:

Email 1

Steve,

Mars is truly an eery environment. Roses, formerly a crimson red, grow emerald green (155). Earthen grass seeds sprout purple under the intense Martian sun (161). Standing in the open, it feels as if you have been inserted into a vacuum, pressure drawing on your bones (6). Even the wind seems to flake away our identity (15) . . .

Email 2

Steve,

Mars is a fantastic planet. My golden eyes shine in the glistening Martian sun (227-226). I've grown taller, and my skin has developed a deep, mahogany tan (250-251). Earth men recently landed here, and they are outlandish people, funny looking, short with technicolored eyes and pale, pearly skin (470). . .

“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed” Email Writing Activity

Formulate an illustration for a futuristic science textbook. Exhibit the changes humans undergo when subjected to the Martian environment. Below your illustration, provide well-written analysis of the human transformation, utilizing evidence at least 5 pieces of evidence in your response.

Example

When exposed to supernatural Martian climates, human deoxyribonucleic acid undergoes remarkable shifts in structure, resulting in astonishing adaptations. For instance, the irises begin to mutate, shifting from their original color into a glinty gold (226-227). Additionally, . . .