

Name _____ Period ____ Date _____

“A Sound of Thunder” by Ray Bradbury



Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Pages 1-2:

1. What service does Time Safari, Inc. provide?
2. What does Eckles hope to achieve during his safari?
3. Who is Mr. Travis?
4. What do both Keith and Deutscher strive to become? What is the outcome?

Pages 3-5:

5. What is the most important rule for the men to obey during their safari? Why is this rule so important?
6. How will the men know which animal to shoot? Why have these animals been chosen?

Page 7:

7. What is the “sound of thunder” which is referenced on page 7?

8. How does Eckles' behavior and mindset begin to change on page 7? (Be sure to compare and contrast his present state of mind to his state of mind at the beginning of the story.)

Pages 8-10:

9. What significant mistake does Eckles make on page 8?

10. Why is a photograph the only trophy the hunters can take back with them?

Pages 11-13:

11. What job does Travis assign to Eckles?

12. When the men are traveling forward in time, back to the present day, Bradbury highlights the following years to show their forward progress: 1492. 1776. 1812. What happened during these years to make them significant to world and American history?

1492:

1776:

1812:

13. What are the main differences between the society portrayed at the beginning of the story and the society at the end? In other words, what changes are caused by the death of the butterfly?

14. What is the "sound of thunder" which is referenced in the last line of the story?

15. Is Travis justified in his actions toward Eckles at the end of the story? Why or why not?

After reading:

16. Foreshadowing is an author's use of hints or clues early in a story to set up events that will occur later on. Identify two hints Bradbury introduces early in the story, and then explain what events those hints foreshadow.

17. A theme is a complete statement broad enough to explain the central idea or message of a literary work. Identify one theme that Bradbury conveys with this story, and explain three places in the story in which this theme is developed.