There Will Come Soft Rains

Post Reading
There Will Come Soft Rains

– Sara Teasdale

There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;

And frogs in the pools singing at night,
And wild plum trees in tremulous white;

Robins will wear their feathery fire,
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;

And not one will know of the war, not one
Will care at last when it is done.

Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree,
If mankind perished utterly;

And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn
Would scarcely know that we were gone.
What does the poem mean?

There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;

And frogs in the pools singing at night,
And wild plum trees in tremulous white;

Robins will wear their feathery fire,
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;

And not one will know of the war, not one
Will care at last when it is done.

Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree,
If mankind perished utterly;

And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn
Would scarcely know that we were gone.

There will always be rain and the way that the ground smells
There will always be birds chirping

There will always be frogs who sing at night in the water
And plum trees will continue to grow
Robins will always look the same
And they will sing on low fences

They will not know about war and none
Will care when the wars are over

No birds or trees will care
If mankind died or was gone completely
And even Spring, when it comes
Will not know (or care) that we are gone
• So….. Nature does not care about whether we live or die or are here. The “soft rains” in the poem are the rains of spring- life giving while the “soft rains” in the story are the deadly radioactive fallout from an atomic bomb. The poem is about the destruction of civilization, which is parallel to the story. In both cases, only nature is left to witness the destruction.
VOCABULARY

Titanic

Fluttered

Tremulous

• Mary and Sue gazed in awe at the ______________ painting of their favorite singer.

• All of Mr. Smith’s papers ______________ in the breeze as he walked toward his car.

• Jake’s ______________ hands kept him from completing his homework.
Making an Inference

What chore does Ben hate doing?

What makes you think that you are correct?

• Of all the chores Ben had around the house, it was his least favorite. Folding the laundry was fine, doing the dishes, that was alright. But he couldn’t stand hauling the large bags over to the giant silver canisters. He hated the smell and the possibility of rats. It was disgusting.
Theme???

• What do you think is the theme of There Will Come Soft Rains?
  – Technology, though a great convenience, has its disadvantages
Characters?

• Protagonist
  – The house
• Antagonist
  – The fire
  – The nuclear war
Point of View
• 3rd person limited

Setting
• August 4-5, 2026
• Allendale, CA
• McClellan Household
Conflict

• Internal
  – ??
• External
  – The fire
  – The nuclear war