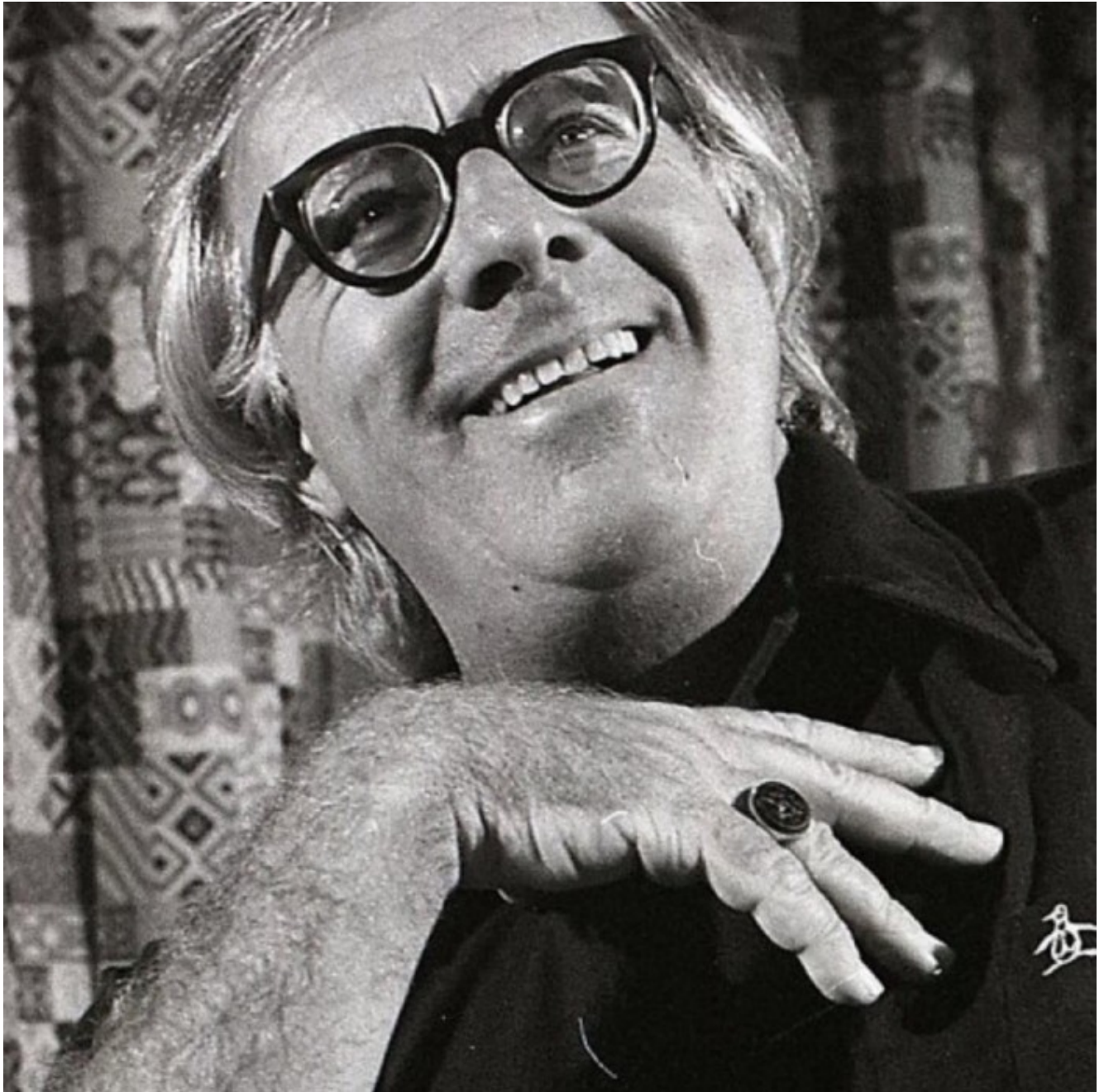


Sundays with Ray Bradbury

[Scott Myers](#)

The entire series of articles featuring the writing wisdom of one of the truly great authors of our time.



Ray Bradbury

"I can imagine all kinds of worlds and places, but I cannot imagine a world without Bradbury." — Neil Gaiman

Ray Bradbury (1920–2012) had a remarkable writing career. Author and screenwriter, here is a partial list of his writing projects:

Novels

- **1950** The Martian Chronicles
- **1953** Fahrenheit 451
- **1957** Dandelion Wine
- **1962** Something Wicked This Way Comes
- **1972** The Halloween Tree
- **1985** Death Is a Lonely Business
- **1990** A Graveyard for Lunatics
- **1992** Green Shadows, White Whale
- **2001** From the Dust Returned
- **2003** Let's All Kill Constance
- **2006** Farewell Summer

Collections

- **1947** Dark Carnival
- **1951** The Illustrated Man
- **1953** The Golden Apples of the Sun
- **1955** The October Country
- **1959** A Medicine for Melancholy
- **1959** The Day It Rained Forever
- **1962** The Small Assassin
- **1964** The Machineries of Joy
- **1965** The Vintage Bradbury

- **1966** Twice 22
- **1969** I Sing The Body Electric!
- **1975** Ray Bradbury
- **1976** Long After Midnight
- **1980** The Last Circus and the Electrocutation
- **1980** The Stories of Ray Bradbury
- **1983** Dinosaur Tales
- **1984** A Memory of Murder
- **1988** The Toynbee Convector
- **1990** Classic Stories 1
- **1990** Classic Stories 2
- **1996** Quicker Than The Eye
- **1997** Driving Blind
- **1997** The Golden Apples of the Sun and Other Stories
- **1998** A Medicine For Melancholy And Other Stories
- **1998** I Sing The Body Electric! And Other Stories
- **2002** One More for the Road
- **2003** Bradbury Stories
- **2004** The Cat's Pajamas: Stories
- **2005** A Sound of Thunder and Other Stories
- **2007** Now and Forever: Somewhere a Band is Playing & Leviathan '99
- **2007** Summer Morning, Summer Night
- **2009** We'll Always Have Paris: Stories
- **2010** A Pleasure To Burn

There are a couple of Bradbury quotes I want to include in my book *The Protagonist's Journey: Character Driven*

Screenwriting and Storytelling:

"Plot is no more than footprints left in the snow after your characters have run by on their way to incredible destinations."

"Stand aside, forget targets, let the characters, your fingers, body, blood, and heart do."

You can see why I like those quotes!

Like many Bradbury observations, they float around online without attribution to the original source.

Therefore, I recently picked up *Zen in the Art of Writing* written by Bradbury and am reading through it to see if I can find those two observations on the craft..

As I began with the book, it occurred to me: Why not share Bradbury's wisdom with Go Into The Story readers? Hence, a weekly series: **Sundays with Ray Bradbury**. Here are links to each article.

[Part 1: "So while our art cannot, as we wish it could, save us from wars, privation, envy greed, old age, or death it can revitalize us amidst it all."](#)

[Part 2: "If you are writing without zest, without gusto, without love, without fun, you are only half a writer."](#)

[Part 3: "Find a character, like yourself, who will want something or not want something, with all his heart. Give him running orders. Shoot him off. Then follow as fast as](#)

you can go."

Part 4: "Through those years I began to make lists of titles, to put down long lines of nouns. These lists were the provocations, finally, that caused my better stuff to surface. I was feeling my way towards something honest, hidden under the trapdoor on the top of my skull."

Part 5: "These are the stuffs, the foods, on which The Muse grows. This is the storehouse, the file, to which we must return every waking hour to check reality against memory, and in sleep to check memory against memory, which means ghost against ghost, in order to exorcise them, if necessary."

Part 6: "Everything I've ever done was done with excitement, because I wanted to do it, because I loved doing it."

Part 7: "That is the kind of life I've had. Drunk, and in charge of a bicycle, as an Irish police report once put it. Drunk with life, that is, and not knowing where off to next. But you're on your way before dawn. And the trip? Exactly one half terror, exactly one half exhilaration."

Part 8: "If all this sounds mechanical, it wasn't. My ideas drove me to it, you see. The more I did, the more I wanted to do. You grow ravenous. You run fevers. You know exhilarations. You can't sleep at night, because your beast-creature ideas want out and turn you in your bed."

Part 9: "No tension, it follows, aesthetically as well as practically, must be built which remains unreleased. Without this, any art ends incomplete, halfway to its goal. And in real life, as we know, the failure to relax a particular tension can lead to madness."

Part 10: "All my stories are cinematic. I may be the most cinematic novelist in the country today. All of my short stories can be shot right off the page. Each paragraph is a shot."

Part 11: "So, stand aside, forget targets, let the characters, your fingers, body, blood, and heart *do*."

To learn more about Ray Bradbury, check out this website: raybradbury.com.