



ELEMENTS OF: A SOUND OF THUNDER

RAY BRADBURY

FORESHADOWING

- "A Sound of Thunder" falls within the speculative fiction genre, exploring hypothetical scenarios and futuristic concepts, such as time travel and alternate realities.
- Bradbury prompts readers to contemplate the implications of scientific advancements on society while also addressing complex themes such as the consequences of human actions and the fragility of existence.
- Foreshadowing is skillfully employed throughout the story, providing subtle hints about the consequences of the protagonist Eckels' actions and building suspense for readers as they navigate the futuristic landscapes and scenarios envisioned by Bradbury.
- The story reflected concerns about authoritarian rule, a sentiment influenced by the post-World War II and Cold War era.

THEMES

- In "A Sound of Thunder," Bradbury illustrates the concept of cause and effect through Eckels' inadvertent alteration of the past, leading to drastic changes in the present timeline.
- Reflecting concerns of the 1950s, Bradbury explores themes of anti-American authoritarianism, portraying a futuristic America as imperialist and nostalgic for past colonial endeavors.
- The story delves into Eckels' preoccupation with mortality, highlighting his pursuit of power over life and death through trophy hunting and his eventual confrontation with genuine mortality when faced with a dinosaur.
- Bradbury examines humanity's relationship with the environment, using time travel to demonstrate the potential impact of human interference on seemingly unrelated events and emphasizing the need for environmental stewardship.

CHARACTERS

- Mr. Eckels, the Protagonist, seeks adventure and chooses to travel back in time to hunt dinosaurs, leading to unforeseen consequences.
- Mr. Travis is the safari guide employed by Time Safari, Inc., aware of the dangers of time travel and primarily concerned with expedition safety.
- Lesperance is another guide at Time Safari, Inc., responsible for finding dinosaurs for safaris and is integral to the company's operation.
- Company Agent is the unnamed official representing Time Safari, Inc., who greets clients and emphasizes the risks of time travel adventures, ensuring they understand the dangers involved.



SYMBOLISM

- Thunder in the story represents the inescapability of mortality and the dangers of human hubris. It underscores that death is part of the natural order and reminds humanity of vulnerability.
- The butterfly symbolizes the delicate ecological balance of the natural world. Despite its small size.
- The time machine represents humanity's desire to control and manipulate time, highlighting the consequences of tampering with the natural order.
- The dinosaur symbolizes the power and majesty of nature, reminding humanity of its place in the world and the dangers of overconfidence.