Comprehension

1. **Recall** When and where does the story take place?

2. **Recall** List three functions the house performs.

3. **Summarize** Describe the changes the house undergoes during the story.

Literary Analysis

4. **Draw Conclusions** Review the chart you filled in as you read. What has happened to the McClellan family and the town? Use details to support your conclusion.

5. **Interpret Theme** What do you think is the theme, or main message, of the story? Cite evidence from the story to support your answer.

6. **Examine Point of View** In the third-person point of view, a narrator outside the action describes events and characters. How does the third-person narrator of "There Will Come Soft Rains" maintain the reader's interest in a story where there are no human characters? Explain.

7. **Analyze Chronological Order** Consider how the story would have been different if it had included numerous **flashbacks,** or scenes that recall earlier experiences. Why might Bradbury have chosen to follow chronological order? Cite evidence from the story to support your opinion.

8. **Evaluate Personification** The giving of human qualities to an object, animal, or idea is called personification. Find three examples of personification in the story. Why do you think Bradbury chose to use this technique?

9. **Compare Literary Works**
Review Stephen Vincent Benét's "By the Waters of Babylon," pages 290–301. Use a chart to compare the characters, events, and setting of the Benét story with those in Bradbury's "There Will Come Soft Rains." Which author presents the most disturbing view of society and its **technology?**

	"By the Waters of Babylon"	"There Will Come Soft Rains"
Characters		
Events		
Setting		

Literary Criticism

10. **Author's Style** Many critics admire Bradbury for his use of **imagery,** or words and phrases that appeal to the five senses. Find three examples of imagery in "There Will Come Soft Rains," and discuss how they contribute to your experience of the story.