

From Page to Screen

Extracts from All Summer in a Day by Ray Bradbury

"All Summer in a Day" is a science fiction short story by American writer Ray Bradbury, first published in the March 1954 issue of The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction.

The story is about a class of students on Venus, which, in this story, is a world of constant rainstorms, where the Sun is only visible for one hour every seven years.

One of the children, Margot, moved to Venus from Earth five years earlier, and she is the only one who remembers sunshine, since the sun shines regularly on Earth.

She describes the Sun as "penny", or "like fire in the stove". The other children, being too young ever to have seen it themselves, do not believe her. Led by a boy named William, they bully and antagonize her, and just before the sun comes out, William rallies the other children, and they lock her in a closet down a tunnel.

As the sun is about to appear, their teacher arrives to take the class outside to enjoy their hour of sunshine and, in their astonishment and joy, they all forget about Margot.

Introduction adapted from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Summer_in_a_Day

Read the first extract, paying special attention to what it makes you see and hear.

Using the spaces provided jot down how you think filmmakers would use colour, sound, music, costume and set to tell the story.

Read the second extract, again paying attention to what you see and hear.

How would the filmmakers use colour, sound, music, costume and setting to show the changes that have taken place?

Some of the words below may be of use.

loud gentle soft harsh dark light bright gloomy serious fun yellow green black brown blue dull natural artificial happy depressing

Then watch the film -  All Summer in a Day

Did the filmmakers make the choices you expected?

Extract 1

It rained.

It had been raining for seven years; thousands upon thousands of days compounded and filled from one end to the other with rain, with the drum and gush of water, with the sweet crystal fall of showers and the concussion of storms so heavy they were tidal waves come over the islands. A thousand forests had been crushed under the rain and grown up a thousand

times to be crushed again. And this was the way life was forever on the planet Venus, and this was the schoolroom of the children of the rocket men and women who had come to a raining world to set up civilization and live out their lives.

“It’s stopping, it’s stopping!”

“Yes, yes!”

Margot stood apart from them, from these children who could never remember a time when there wasn’t rain and rain and rain. They were all nine years old, and if there had been a day, seven years ago, when the sun came out for an hour and showed its face to the stunned world, they could not recall. Sometimes, at night, she heard them stir, in remembrance, and she knew they were dreaming and remembering gold or a yellow crayon or a coin large enough to buy the world with. She knew they thought they remembered a warmth, like a blushing in the face, in the body, in the arms and legs and trembling hands. But then they always awoke to the tatting drum, the endless shaking down of clear bead necklaces upon the roof, the walk, the gardens, the forests, and their dreams were gone.

Extract 1

Colour

Sound

Music

Costume

Set

Other

Extract 2

The rain stopped.

It was as if, in the midst of a film concerning an avalanche, a tornado, a hurricane, a volcanic eruption, something had, first, gone wrong with the sound apparatus, thus muffling and finally cutting off all noise, all of the blasts and repercussions and thunders, and then, second, ripped the film from the projector and inserted in its place a peaceful tropical slide which did not move or tremor. The world ground to a standstill. The silence was so immense and unbelievable that you felt your ears had been stuffed or you had lost your hearing altogether. The children put their hands to their ears. They stood apart. The door slid back and the smell of the silent, waiting world came in to them.

The sun came out.

It was the color of flaming bronze and it was very large. And the sky around it was a blazing blue tile color. And the jungle burned with sunlight as the children, released from their spell, rushed out, yelling, into the springtime.

"Now, don't go too far," called the teacher after them.

"You've only two hours, you know. You wouldn't want to get caught out!"

But they were running and turning their faces up to the sky and feeling the sun on their cheeks like a warm iron; they were taking off their jackets and letting the sun burn their arms.

"Oh, it's better than the sun lamps, isn't it?"

"Much, much better!"

They stopped running and stood in the great jungle that covered Venus, that grew and never stopped growing, tumultuously, even as you watched it. It was a nest of octopuses, clustering up great arms of flesh-like weed, wavering, flowering in this brief spring. It was the colour of rubber and ash, this jungle, from the many years without sun. It was the colour of stones and white cheeses and ink, and it was the colour of the moon.

The children lay out, laughing, on the jungle mattress and heard it sigh and squeak under them, resilient and alive. They ran among the trees, they slipped and fell, they pushed each other, they played hide-and-seek and tag, but most of all they squinted at the sun until tears ran down their faces; they put their hands up to that yellowness and that amazing blueness and they breathed of the fresh, fresh air and listened and listened to the silence which suspended them in a blessed sea of no sound and no motion. They looked at everything and

savoured everything. Then, wildly, like animals escaped from their caves, they ran and ran in shouting circles. They ran for an hour and did not stop running.
And then...

Extract 2

Colour

Sound

Music

Costume

Set

Other

Short Story Adaptations

All Summer in a Day

Audiobook	All Summer in a Day by Ray Bradbury (Audiobook)
TV/Film adaptation	All Summer in a Day
Short film	All Summer In a Day on Vimeo
Sample storyboard	All Summer in a Day Storyboard by tsgethan1

Full text of the story Flip Book Comprehension Quiz Audiobook Abridged version Link to two adaptations	All Summer in a Day by Ray Bradbury shortsonline
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Janey Mary by James Punkett	Janey Mary - Short Film (2007)
Guests of the Nation by Frank O'Connor Full text of the story Abridged version Comprehension Quiz	Guests of the Nation by Frank O'Connor shortsonline
New Boy by Roddy Doyle	New Boy — Oscar® Nominated Short Film
First Confession by Frank O'Connor	First Confession - short film adaptation Audiobook - First Confession by Frank O'Connor

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