English 10

Is the theme of Bradbury’s story that without humans, life has no meaning, or that the world will be just fine without us?

In Bradbury’s story, “there will come soft rains”, bradbury’s main theme is that without humans to make meaning, the world has no meaning. In the story, we see a house in the year 2026 (we think) that has survived nuclear war. He goes through the entire day, hour by hour, and although breakfast is made, dishes are done, and the machines seem alive, there is no meaning to it. Bradbury says, “The house stood alone in a city of rubble and ashes” (615). This quote suggests that the world has no meaning without humans, and it shows us loneliness, that even though the house is busy, we are meant to feel lonely. The rest of the city is gone, or maybe just rubble. Even though the robots are busy and active, Bradbury makes us realize that we are alone. There are no people left, and it’s depressing. Therefore/for this reason, in Bradbury’s short story “there will come soft rains” the main theme is that without humans, there is no meaning.

In Bradbury’s story, “there will come soft rains”, bradbury’s main theme is that without humans, the world will be able to continue on just fine. In the story, we see a house in the year 2026 (we think) that has survived a nuclear war. Even though the people are gone, the clocks are still ticking, the robots are still cleaning, and the kitchen is still cooking food. In the evening, a bath is even drawn for the dead children, and a robotic voice automatically recites evening poetry for the long-dead mother. The robot chooses a very dark poem called ‘there will come soft rains’, and it says, “not one would mind, neither bird nor tree, if mankind perished utterly.” (pg. 618). This line of poetry shows that without humans the world can continue just fine. Bradbury uses a robot reciting this poem as symbolism. It shows us that the robot doesn’t need a human to program it every day. Humans aren’t needed to remember the poems. Even though a human WROTE it, we don’t need humans for it to continue. Even at the end, when a fire seems to destroy the house, the last lines of the story show us that this robotic voice continues. For this reason/therefore, Bradbury’s story “There will come soft rains” has a main theme that without humans, the world will continue.

English 9

In the Richard Connell story “Most Dangerous Game”, the main character, Rainsford, changes, and learns that hunting is wrong. In the story, Rainsford washes up on Zaroff’s private island, where he hunts people. Although Rainsford is considered a great hunter, he draws the line at hunting men. But Zaroff hunts him anyway, and the story ends with Rainsford being cornered and hiding up a tree. The narrator states, “then it was that Rainsford knew the full meaning of terror.” (pg. 32) This quote shows that Rainsford has learned hunting is wrong. The statement suggests that he not only feels the same way as the animals he’s once hunted, but he also KNOWS it. At the beginning of the story, he showed no mercy at the thought of torturing a jaguar for sport. The writer uses foreshadowing at the beginning to show us how Rainsford feels, and to illustrate that he’s realized hunting is wrong. The jaguar felt terror, and now so does Rainsford. Therefore, Rainsford has learned hunting is wrong, and will likely quit.

In the Richard Connell story “Most Dangerous Game”, the main character, Rainsford, does not change, and continues his life as a hunter. In the story, Rainsford washes overboard from his yacht, and ends up on Zaroff’s private island, where Zaroff hunts people. Rainsford ends up being Zaroff’s latest target. While Zaroff hunts him, Rainsford sets up a trap to kill Zaroff. Rainsford hides, and hears the trap go off. The narrator says, “He felt an impulse to cry aloud with joy as he heard the spikes find their mark.” (pg. 34) This feeling of joy shows that he will always be a hunter. His feelings suggest that he loves hunting, even when he’s being hunted himself. The fact that he gets so excited at the very sound of Zaroff possibly getting killed in the trap shows us that he doesn’t care how the animals he hunts may feel. He will always be a hunter, no matter what happens, and he might even end up like Zaroff some day. Therefore, Rainsford has not changed, and will continue hunting.