**‘THE PEDESTRIAN’ BY RAY BRADBURY**

**Questions for Analysis**

1. How does Leonard Mead spend his evenings? (Paragraphs 1-3)

1. What do you think everyone else does in the evenings? (The first three paragraphs don’t really tell us directly, but there are clues). (Paragraphs 1-3)

1. What is symbolic about the idea of Leonard Mead standing at an “intersection”? (Paragraph 1) Have a think about this one. What is the British word for ‘intersection’?

1. What kind of atmosphere is created by the writer in the first three paragraphs?

1. Find and make a note of the word choice, imagery and/or figurative language (similes/metaphors) used by Bradbury to create this atmosphere. (Paragraphs 1-3) Quote and **really** explain what your quotes suggest.

1. Why has Bradbury described Leonard Mead’s walk at night as “not unequal to walking through a graveyard”? (Paragraph 2)

1. Light and dark imagery has been used extensively in the opening three paragraphs. What are the connotations of light/dark and why have they been used to help portray the reality of 2053AD?   (Hint, if you have studied Psycho, think about the black and white imagery used).

1. Why has Leonard Mead changed his footwear for walking at night? What does this suggest about 2053AD? (Paragraph 3) Go into detail here.

1. “…occasionally picking up a leaf as he passed, examining its skeletal pattern in the infrequent lamplights he went on, smelling its rusty smell.” (Paragraph 4).  Comment fully on the significance of the **imagery** used by Bradbury in the above extract.

1. What is significance about the “moon-white house”? (Paragraph 8) Think about the laughter coming from there, as well as the connotations of light associated with it.
2. How does the writer emphasise Mead’s isolation in paragraphs 6-8? Think about the idea of isolation. What does it actually mean, how is this shown?

1. Describe the contrast between the roads at day and at night in paragraph 9. Why is the imagery used here effective?

1. In paragraph 9, Bradbury describes the surge of cars metaphorically as “scarab beetles.” In today’s society, scarab beetles are also known as “dung beetles” as they survive on faeces.  However, in ancient Egypt, the scarab beetle was a symbol of re-birth. It was considered to be the most important amulet (object considered to bring good luck and protection),and was as sacred to Egyptians as the cross is to Christians today.

Explain fully why you think Bradbury has used this comparison, and comment on the way in which it highlights the prestige of cars/machines in 2053AD.

1. Comment on the role of the police car in the story. How does it help create a chilling picture of the future?

1. Why is being a writer not considered to be a profession in 2053 AD, and in what ways is this idea frighteningly ominous (menacing, threatening)?

1. “The light held him fixed, like a museum specimen, needle thrust through chest.”  Explain why this is a particularly effective image to use here.

1. Comment on the way Bradbury develops the imagery of death in these sections.

18. According to society’s laws in 2053AD, what have Leonard Mead’s crimes been so far?

19. Why, when ordered to get into the police car, did Leonard walk “like a man suddenly drunk”?

20. Describe the car Mead gets into. Which of the senses is focused on here and why?

21. What do you think “The Psychiatric Centre for Research on Regressive Tendencies” means? What do you think might happen to Mead here?

22. Why is Mead’s house different to all those around it and what does this suggest about Mead?