

# The Pedestrian

by Ray Bradbury

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## Questions

1. Merriam-Webster defines the digital divide as "the economic, educational, and social inequalities between those who have computers and online access and those who do not." In Bradbury's story, the digital technology prevalent is television. How does that society view those that don't engage in television? How is that similar or different to attitudes about digital technologies today?
2. What is the message about those who don't engage in watching TV in "The Pedestrian"? How is this similar to or different from ideas today about those who don't engage in technology?
3. What is Mr. Mead's punishment for not engaging in society? Is that something we see informally in our society in terms of our digital culture, and how does it hurt or harm someone socially?
4. What social trends does Ray Bradbury observe and see as potential problems for the society in "The Pedestrian"?
5. In the short story "The Pedestrian" when the author says the television touched the faces of the people but never really touched them. What does he mean by this? How is this similar to or different from those who engage in technology today?
6. Find the sentences and phrases that at first suggest that Leonard Mead is the only person living in this setting in A.D. 2053. What is Bradbury saying about what it means to actually live?
7. What is Mr. Leonard Mead's attitude toward the shows on the television? What does this show about who he is? **OR** What does this insinuate about this society?
8. How does Bradbury suggest that television could be used to suppress people's thoughts and ideas in the story "The Pedestrian"? How does that happen with current technologies, or how do we resist that with current technologies?

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## More Reading

- An article on how this story comments on cities built for cars and not walking:  
<https://www.citylab.com/design/2012/06/ray-bradburys-vision-dystopian-city/2199/>
- An article on the simple value of walking through looking at "The Pedestrian."  
<http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/2012/08/walking-to-see-ray-bradburys-pedestrian.html>

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## Work Cited

Merriam-Webster. "Digital Divide." *Merriam-Webster*. Accessed 4 Jan. 2018, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/digital%20divide>.