

# TEACHER GUIDE

## Historical and Cultural Perspectives

For each video, make an inference about how you think Americans in the 1950s viewed technology, the future, and nature. Include a detail from the video for each topic that to support your inference.

| Topic      | Westinghouse Total Electric Home                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Duck and Cover                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Technology | <p>Inference: Technology is a positive thing that will change people's lives for the better.</p> <p>Support: The lady at the beginning of the video says that this is the most amazing thing that she has had the chance to talk about.</p>                                      | <p>Inference: Technology is frightening due to its potential to cause mass destruction.</p> <p>Support: Students are having to learn how to prepare for the devastating effects of an atomic bomb.</p>                            |
| The Future | <p>Inference: The future is very exciting because of all the incredible inventions and scientific advancement.</p> <p>Support: The reactions of the people to the new features in the house show that they are impressed and excited by all the new things the house can do.</p> | <p>Inference: The future is frightening and uncertain due to the possibility of nuclear annihilation.</p> <p>Support: The students in the video live in constant fear of an atomic bomb being dropped near them.</p>              |
| Nature     | <p>Inference: Nature is inconvenient and a thing of the past that should be kept away from people.</p> <p>Support: Many of the features of the house are meant to keep people separated from the natural world (no dirt, controlled air, etc.).</p>                              | <p>Inference: All life, both humans and the rest of the natural world, are threatened by nuclear weapons.</p> <p>Support: The video shows the destructive blast of an atomic bomb that could wipe out everything in its path.</p> |

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### Text Analysis

For each row, select a topic and a style element to focus on. Find a quote from the text about your chosen topic that is also an example of your chosen style element. Write the quote in the “Text Examples” column. In the “Style Purpose” column, explain the purpose of the style element in that quote. In the “Perspective” column, how the style element in the quote shows what ideas, fears, or general perspectives of the time period. The first row contains an example.

| Characteristics                    |                                              | Text Examples                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Style Purpose                                                                                    | Perspective                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Topic                              | Style Element                                | Example from “There Will Come Soft Rains”                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | What is the purpose of the style element in this example?                                        | How does this reflect a cultural/historical perspective about the topic?                                                      |
| Technology<br>The Future<br>Nature | Diction<br>Figurative<br>Language<br>Imagery | <i>“If a sparrow brushed a window, the shade snapped up. The bird, startled, flew off! No, not even a bird must touch the house!”</i>                                                                                                                                     | <i>This use of imagery shows that the house is hostile toward the natural world.</i>             | <i>This reflects the cultural perspective that nature is unwanted and should be kept out of people’s living environments.</i> |
| Technology<br>The Future<br>Nature | Diction<br>Figurative<br>Language<br>Imagery | <i>“How carefully it had inquired, ‘Who goes there? What’s the password?’ and, getting no answer from lonely foxes and whining cats, it had shut up its windows and drawn shades in an old-maidenly preoccupation with self-protection which bordered on a mechanical</i> | <i>This use of figurative language shows that the house is hostile toward the natural world.</i> | <i>This reflects the cultural perspective that nature is unwanted and should be kept out of peoples’ living environments.</i> |

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| Characteristics                    |                                              | Text Examples                                                                                                            | Style Purpose                                                                                                            | Perspective                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Topic                              | Style Element                                | Example from “There Will Come Soft Rains”                                                                                | What is the purpose of the style element in this example?                                                                | How does this reflect a cultural/historical perspective about the topic?                                      |
|                                    |                                              | paranoia.”                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                               |
| Technology<br>The Future<br>Nature | Diction<br>Figurative<br>Language<br>Imagery | “The five spots of paint — the man, the woman, the children, the ball — remained. The rest was a thin charcoaled layer.” | This use of imagery shows the devastating effects of a nuclear blast on the family that lived in the house.              | This reflects the cultural perspective that technology is frightening and can unleash incredible devastation. |
| Technology<br>The Future<br>Nature | Diction<br>Figurative<br>Language<br>Imagery | “At night the ruined city gave off a radioactive glow which could be seen for miles.”                                    | The author chooses to use the word “radioactive” here to show the reader that devastation was caused by a nuclear blast. | This reflects the perspective that life in the future is in danger due to the creation of nuclear weapons.    |