The Pedestrian (Full Text) by Ray Bradbury

This story was copyrighted in 1951 by Ray Bradbury, and presented here under Article 22 of China’s Copyright Law. Ray Bradbury is one of my personal heroes and his writings greatly influenced me in ways that I am only just now beginning to understand.

Introduction

For years I had amassed a well worn, and dusty collection of Ray Bradbury paperbacks that I would pick up and read for pleasure and inspiration. Later, when I left the United States, and moved to China, I had to leave my treasured books behind. Sigh.

It is very difficult to come across Ray Bradbury books in China. When ever I find one, I certainly snatch it up. Cost is no object when it comes to these masterpieces. At one time, I must have had five books containing this story.

Credit to the wonderful people at Mother Earth News for posting it where a smuck like myself can read it within China. And, of course, credit to the great master; Ray Bradbury for providing this work of art for our inspiration and pleasure.

Full Text

Here is the full text of the masterpiece. I will let the reader read it and enjoy it.
The Pedestrian

To enter out into that silence that was the city at eight o’clock of a misty evening in November, to put your feet upon that buckling concrete walk, to step over grassy seams and make your way, hands in pockets, through the silences, that was what Mr. Leonard Mead most dearly loved to do.

He would stand upon the corner of an intersection and peer down long moon-lit avenues of sidewalk in four directions, deciding which way to go, but it really made no difference; he was alone in this world of A.D. 2053, or as good as alone, and with a final decision made, a path selected, he would stride off, sending patterns of frosty air before him like the smoke of a cigar.

Sometimes he would walk for hours and miles and return only at midnight to his house. And on his way he would see the cottages and homes with their dark windows, and it was not unequal to walking through a graveyard where only the faintest glimmers of firefly light appeared in flickers behind the windows.

Sudden gray phantoms seemed to manifest upon inner room walls where a curtain was still undrawn against the night, or there were whisperings and murmurs where a window in a tomblike building was still open.

Mr. Leonard Mead would pause, cock his head, listen, look, and march on, his feet making no noise on the lumpy walk.

For long ago he had wisely changed to sneakers when strolling at night, because the dogs in intermittent squads would parallel his journey with barkings if he wore hard heels, and lights might click on and faces appear and an entire street be startled by the passing of a lone figure, himself, in the early November evening.

On this particular evening he began his journey in a westerly direction, toward the hidden sea.

There was a good crystal frost in the air; it cut the nose and made the lungs blaze like a Christmas tree inside; you could feel the cold light going on and off, all the branches filled with invisible snow.
He listened to the faint push of his soft shoes through autumn leaves with satisfaction, and whistled a cold quiet whistle between his teeth, occasionally picking up a leaf as he passed, examining its skeletal pattern in the infrequent lamplights as he went on, smelling its rusty smell.

“Hello, in there,” he whispered to every house on every side as he moved. “What’s up tonight on Channel 4, Channel 7, Channel 9? Where are the cowboys rushing, and do I see the United States Cavalry over the next hill to the rescue?”

The street was silent and long and empty, with only his shadow moving like the shadow of a hawk in midcountry.

If he closed his eyes and stood very still, frozen, he could imagine himself upon the center of a plain, a wintry, windless Arizona desert with no house in a thousand miles, and only dry river beds, the streets, for company.

“What is it now?” he asked the houses, noticing his wrist watch.


Was that a murmur of laughter from within a moon-white house? He hesitated, but went on when nothing more happened.

He stumbled over a particularly uneven section of sidewalk.

The cement was vanishing under flowers and grass.

In ten years of walking by night or day, for thousands of miles, he had never met another person walking, not once in all that time.

He came to a cloverleaf intersection which stood silent where two main highways crossed the town.

During the day it was a thunderous surge of cars, the gas stations open, a great insect rustling and a ceaseless jockeying for position as the scarabbeetles, a faint incense puttering from their exhausts, skimmed homeward to the far directions.
But now these highways, too, were like streams in a dry season, all stone and bed and moon radiance.

He turned back on a side street, circling around toward his home.

He was within a block of his destination when the lone car turned a corner quite suddenly and flashed a fierce white cone of light upon him.

He stood entranced, not unlike a night moth, stunned by the illumination, and then drawn toward it.

A metallic voice called to him: “Stand still. Stay where you are! Don’t move!” He halted. “Put up your hands!”

“But-” he said.

“Your hands up! Or we’ll Shoot!”

The police, of course, but what a rare, incredible thing; in a city of three million, there was only one police car left, wasn’t that correct?

Ever since a year ago, 2052, the election year, the force had been cut down from three cars to one.

Crime was ebbing; there was no need now for the police, save for this one lone car wandering and wandering the empty streets.

“Your name?” said the police car in a metallic whisper.

He couldn’t see the men in it for the bright light in his eyes.

“Leonard Mead,” he said.

“Speak up!”

“Leonard Mead!”

“Business or profession?”

“I guess you’d call me a writer.”
“No profession,” said the police car, as if talking to itself.

The light held him fixed, like a museum specimen, needle thrust through chest.

“You might say that,” said Mr. Mead.

He hadn’t written in years. Magazines and books didn’t sell any more.

Everything went on in the tomblike houses at night now, he thought, continuing his fancy.

The tombs, ill-lit by television light, where the people sat like the dead, the gray or multicolored lights touching their faces, but never really touching them.

“No profession,” said the phonograph voice, hissing. “What are you doing out?”

“Walking,” said Leonard Mead.

“Walking!”

“Just walking,” he said simply, but his face felt cold.

“Walking, just walking, walking?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Walking where? For what?”

“Walking for air. Walking to see.”

“Your address!”

“Eleven South Saint James Street.”

“And there is air in your house, you have an air conditioner, Mr. Mead?”

“Yes.”
And you have a viewing screen in your house to see with?"

"No."

"No?" There was a crackling quiet that in itself was an accusation.

"Are you married, Mr. Mead?"

"No."

"Not married," said the police voice behind the fiery beam, The moon was high and clear among the stars and the houses were gray and silent.

"Nobody wanted me," said Leonard Mead with a smile.

"Don’t speak unless you’re spoken to!"

Leonard Mead waited in the cold night.

"Just walking, Mr. Mead?"

"Yes."

"But you haven’t explained for what purpose."

"I explained; for air, and to see, and just to walk."

"Have you done this often?"

"Every night for years."

The police car sat in the center of the street with its radio throat faintly humming.

"Well, Mr. Mead," it said.

"Is that all?" he asked politely.

"Yes," said the voice. "Here."

There was a sigh, a pop. The back door of the police car sprang wide. "Get in."
“Wait a minute, I haven’t done anything!”

“Get in.”

“I protest!”

“Mr. Mead.”

He walked like a man suddenly drunk. As he passed the front window of the car he looked in. As he had expected, there was no one in the front seat, no one in the car at all.

“Get in.”

He put his hand to the door and peered into the back seat, which was a little cell, a little black jail with bars. It smelled of riveted steel. It smelled of harsh antiseptic; it smelled too clean and hard and metallic. There was nothing soft there.

“Now if you had a wife to give you an alibi,” said the iron voice.

“But-“

“Where are you taking me?”

The car hesitated, or rather gave a faint whirring click, as if information, somewhere, was dropping card by punch-slotted card under electric eyes. “To the Psychiatric Center for Research on Regressive Tendencies.”

He got in. The door shut with a soft thud.

The police car rolled through the night avenues, flashing its dim lights ahead.

They passed one house on one street a moment later, one house in an entire city of houses that were dark, but this one particular house had all of its electric lights brightly lit, every window a loud yellow illumination, square and warm in the cool darkness.

“That’s my house,” said Leonard Mead.

No one answered him.
The car moved down the empty river-bed streets and off away, leaving the empty streets with the empty side-walks, and no sound and no motion all the rest of the chill November night.

**Posts Regarding Life and Contentment**

*Here are some other similar posts on this venue. If you enjoyed this post, you might like these posts as well. These posts tend to discuss growing up in America. Often, I like to compare my life in America with the society within communist China. As there are some really stark differences between the two.*

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**Why Can’t America have High-Speed Bullet Trains?**

Well? Why not? Just about every other nation of any significance has them. But, somehow, America just can’t afford them. America spent over 77,000,000,000 on a high speed rail line in California, and only got 15 miles of track laid down, no stations, and some multi-million dollar fiberglass and cardboard mockups.

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**The Most Important Things That a Man Looks for in a Woman.**

Here, we look at the things that men search for in a woman. These things are considered, by men, to be absolutely essential in a mate. We discuss ten attributes and go into detail as to why they are important.

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**Adventures Exploring the Cemeteries of Indiana**

cemeteries can tell us a lot about ourselves, our history, and our future. This is most especially true in regards to smaller and remote cemeteries located in the counties that surround us. This is my story about the impressions that my prayers into these curiosities made upon me.
What it was like being a kid in the early 1970's
This is my narrative of what it was like growing up a young teenager in 1971. This took place in the hills of Pennsylvania outside of Pittsburgh. I was 13 years old. I went to school, rode my bicycle around everywhere. I fished with my father, and watched television a lot.

The Fiasco of the Reengineering of the Common Tomato
This is the sad, sad story about how the wonderful and tasty tomato was reengineered to be “better”. It was made better to ship. Better to sell. Better to store. However, there was one thing missing. No one paid any attention to taste, which is why it tastes like a cardboard shipping box today.

A Movie Tribute to the 1980’s When Ronald Reagan Ran America. Here we argue that movies reflect society when they were made. Today we see popular movies being remade as all female versions due to the progressive realities today. Likewise, the movies of the 1980s reflected the time when they were made as well.

Mad Scientist Explorations
Here we discuss what it was like growing up as a boy in the 1960's and the 1970's and the people, things, and adventures that inspired us. As such, we explore how the independence of growing up enabled us to cope through life when we got older.

The Gorilla Cage in the Basement
When I was a small boy, I used to play in the abandoned buildings nearby. Here is a story about one of the objects that lay hidden inside one of those buildings and the possible mysteries that it held. As a child we thought it was a gorilla cage, now as an adult, I am not so sure...

The Two Fundamental Types of Families and how they work
One of the reasons why there is apparently so much strife and upset in the United States today is because the federal government has permitted the destruction of the fundamental family unit. This destruction has resulted in the various conditions that are prevalent in America today.
The Importance of a Family Meal Together
There is nothing more important and satisfying than spending time together with friends and family and eating a meal together. It is a time of friendship, familial bonding and relaxation. Here we discuss what I have learned from my childhood and how I apply it today in my life.

The Pleasures of Fresh Baked Bread with Butter
One of the things that I have come to miss, since I moved to China, is fresh hard crusty rolls with full salted butter. The Chinese are not really fans of crusty bread. They like sweets and sponge cakes. Here I describe something that is close to me; not appreciating what you have right in front of you.

What Work was Like in the 1960’s and 1970’s.
When people go to work today, they find that there are all kinds of rules and regulations. It is for diversity, safety, inclusion, and improvement in a new progressive world. Well, here is what work was like before it became a sterile progressive testing ground for the New World Order.

Learning during my 1970s High School years
Here is a pretty long post on what it was like to go to elementary school in the 1960's, and then attend high school in the 1970's. I graduated in 1977, and that my friend is exactly the target date for the famous movie “Dazed and Confused”. Here is the real deal what it was like.

Some True Stories of Cat Heaven
Being in MAJestic taught me many things. One of which was an intimate understanding of Heaven and other “spiritual” things relative to quanta entanglements. Here I discuss what it is like to have a beloved animal (cat) dies and what actually happens to them and why.

Life Lessons from Working within the Corporate Dream – 1
After I was trained by MAJestic, I was left to fend for myself in Corporate America. It was a hellish existence. As such, I learned many lessons concerning behavior and the ultimate impact that it holds on our families, our friends, our loved ones, and our very lives. Here are my commentaries.
Life Lessons from Working within the Corporate Dream – 2
This is part two of the two part section. There is quite a lot of information to impart. Stories are told, and experiences relayed. Honestly working in corporate America in the 1980's, through the new century really sucked. It was harsh on everyone except the owners of the companies.

How to Build Up Your Life from Nothing.
This is for all those young men who are just leaving school and trying hard to build up their life. You can do it. Here are my thoughts and advice for a young man who is encountering that most difficult of challenges; carving your life out in the wilds of the world.

Allow your Children to Play and Grow (Part 1)
I am horrified, just horrified, that parents do not allow their children to play, roam and explore on their own. It has created a society of pampered fearful children. Here I discuss this in terms of what I know. This is very non-PC and might offend the more liberal readers out there.

Allow your Children to Play and Grow (Part 2)
This is the second part of my rant about permitting children to play, explore and have fun. Everyone, the odds that some stranger will abduct your child is very small. Most people who do this are family friends and neighbors. Stop being so fearful. It harms the development of your child.

Ode to Diabolical Cretin John McCain
Well, that evil son-of-a-bitch is finally dead. If his grave wasn’t so far away, I go there and dance on top of it. This guy has spent his life backstabbing people, hurting people, concocting wars, and doing everything in his power to disrupt the lives of people. Good fucking riddance.

The Song “Baby Got Back” Translated into Latin
Here is a fun post. The song “Baby Got Back” is translated into Latin and then back again. I have to tell you that it is indeed hilarious. *Rebecca, ecce! tantae clunes isti sunt!* (Rebecca, behold! Such large buttocks she has!) Anyways, it’s just all fun and games. Enjoy.
Every Man Should Have a Roll-Top Desk
It’s true, and I discuss why. A roll-top desk is made for the person who accumulates the clutter of the road as they forge their way through life. The desk becomes a symbol and a place for a man’s privacy. It is a place where he has control over his life, and a place to store his treasures.

Why Women Need their own Personal Makeup Vanity Space
I am a strong believer that everyone needs privacy and a personal space to call their own. In this post I discuss the need for a woman to have a vanity and why it is important for a woman to spend time using it. Everyone, regardless of their situation, needs a place that is all theirs and theirs alone.

Democrat Busybodies and the Destruction of Freedom
Wouldn’t life be wonderful if you could just be left alone and live your life in peace? I think so. The founders of the United States thought so, however there is an army of busybodies who disagree. They have this vision of utopia where everyone listens to their commands.

Adventures of a 70’s Kid in an Army And Navy Store
Here we look at what adventures an Army and Navy store could hold for the inquisitive child. We talk about the history and the inherent adventures that lay hidden in dusty boxes, and dark corners. We narrate the exploration though the eyes of nostalgia. It’s a pleasant excursion.

Comparison between American and Chinese Playgrounds
The differences between American and Chinese playgrounds couldn’t be more telling. It is a tale of how things are handled differently and the roles that parents take. In China the role of the parent is to equip the child for life. While in America it is to protect the child from life.

Excuses We Use That Keep Us Enslaved
Here we look at what an American actually is. For the argument made here is that citizenship in the United States is not what qualifies a person to be an “American”. Rather it is the way a person thinks, the way they act, and their general philosophy in life. For not everyone is an American.
Posts about the Changes in America

America is going through a period of change. Change is good... that is, after it occurs. Often however, there are large periods of discomfort as the period of adjustment takes place. Here are some posts that discuss this issue.

Moma's Chicken Soup - A Parable About Modern America
This is a parable about modern America. It takes place around a global staple; the humble chicken soup. It compares American political news to that of making chicken soup, and utilizes many of the same catchphrases and memes in the process. It is a tongue in cheek look at America today.

What the Progressive Liberals have in store for Conservatives
The progressive socialists, who now go under the name of "Liberals", have plans on the consolidation of their power and control. This is what their ultimate plans are. It does not bode well for traditional American values, Rights, the Constitution, or history. It’s going to be a dangerous time.

What the Progressive Socialist Liberals have in store for Conservatives (part 2)
When the American second civil war occurs (CWII), it will be an ideological genocide. It will follow the identical patterns that have happened in all of the genocides of the twentieth century. How do we know? Because the identical pre-genocide preparations have already been put in place.

What the Progressive Socialist Liberals have in store for Conservatives (part 3)
Everything is currently in place for a full-scale genocide against "the privileged white", the "rural deorables", and the "crackers who are racist and love slavery". You know who they are targeting. It is cultivated, and intentional to drum up hatred and zeal to "transform America".

What the Progressive Socialist Liberals have in store for Conservatives (part 4)
The Rwandan genocide was initiated, and put into motion, by the rich urban elite inside the cities. They used the Civil War as an opportunity to "cleanse" the nation of thought contrary to their ideology.
What the Progressive Socialist Liberals have in store for Conservatives (part 5) When SHTF, and CWII occurs scenes like this will be common place. Young armed youth will travel forth from the cities in new trucks right off the sales lot, and they will attack the people in the smaller cities and rural areas. They might even have technicals installed on brand new trucks.

What the Progressive Socialist Liberals have in store for Conservatives (part 6)
We conclude this study on history and what could very well happen in the United States, by looking at what happens to girls, and women during these contentious times of societal upset. We review the role of the Bill of Rights in protection.

Calexit and the American Civil War
This is a pretty detailed look at the causes of the American civil war, and why it wasn’t about slavery. We look at the rewriting of history by the internet, and the efforts that President Obama took to keep California intact so that the Democrats could maintain political power and control.

The Warning Signs that Government Collapse is Imminent
All nations go through cycles. They do so, and when they mature they evolve into other governmental forms. The United States is long overdue for a change; a reset. Now, while this will occur, it is unknown how severe it would be. Here are my thoughts on this issue and some warnings.

The r/K Selection Theory applied to American Politics
The r/K theory is a pretty well-known theory on animal behavior. It simply states that animals behave as they need to based on the scarcity of resources. Here, we argue that it can be applied to why humans follow different political philosophies. Especially in American politics.

The Line in the Sand – Now What?
It’s the same story. Just vote for us, and we will correct everything. Yet, nothing ever happens. You know, boys and girls, this old “song and dance” can only be maintained for so long. Eventually it will fractures, and people will no longer rely on elections to institute change...
The importance of having a second passport.
So President Trump is building a wall to protect Americans. Hum. Where have I heard that before? Oh yes, in Germany right when they were making the wall that separated Berlin. Walls serve two purposes; they keep people out, but they also keep people in. Be careful what you wish for.

How to Build a Gallows and a Hangman’s Noose
The United States is entering a period of strife. There will be violence. There will be discord and discomfort. It will be an ugly time. There will be winners and losers. It will be painful for the losers, and the victor will need build a gallows. This is how to do so and why it is needed.

Some things that need to be changed for America to be the “Land of the Free” again.
There are many things that a person can do to improve themselves. But, what about a nation? What about the United States? Here is a handful of suggestions that I would like to propose to help America become whole again.

More Posts about Life

I have broken apart some other posts. They can best be classified about ones actions as they contribute to happiness and life. They are a little different, in subtle ways.

On Being an Older Gent
Here are my thoughts on growing old as a man. The truth is that the life that I expected to have as I was growing up never materialized. Instead, something else manifested. My life today is nothing compared to what I thought it would be. For my illusions were created by American media.
Things that I wish that I knew when I was 25 years old
Here is the advice that I would give myself when I turned 25 years of age. It is the advice I would give my younger self after attending the school of “hard knocks” for around four decades or so. If only I knew then, what I know now. Would my life be any different? Let’s look at this curiosity.

Be Who You Are
All our lives we are told who to be, what to do, what career to take. Our religion, our work, our schools, our government, and our loved ones all tell us what we need to do. Here, I tell you the opposite. Stop allowing others to tell you what to do. You know what you need inside of you.

Why an American man should leave America and Travel
All people should get up off their duff and go forth and Travel. However, this is most especially true for American men. The United States has become a crucible of PC progressive realities that attack and deprecate American men. Go out, young man, see the world as it really is!

The Amazing Bremelanotide PT-141
Forget Viagra, and all those other ED medications. This is the real deal. This little baby causes humans to go into heat. It interacts with the brain and sets up feelings of intense arousal on both men and women. It turns people into 16 year olds. As such it is banned in the USA by the FDA.

Bronco Billy and the 25th Law of Power
Bronco Billy is a fictional movie starring Clint Eastwood. The movie depicts the life of a man who decides to change his life and go ahead and do what he has always dreamed of doing. He goes out and becomes his dream. There are lessons here for all of us, we only need listen.

How they get away with it
Ten years ago, Bankers committed fraud in Wall Street that just about devastated the nation. Earlier, we had the S&L fiasco, the nightmare with penny stocks, and now the grand wholesale treason with the selling of Top Secrets to a foreign nation. This is how they get away with it.
How Rocket Scientists Build Paper Airplanes
This is a tale of what me and my classmates used to do when we were young Aerospace Engineering students at the university. We would design paper airplanes and shoot them down with bottle rockets. Here is just a fun little exercise down “memory lane”. Enjoy.

What is Snopes.com and can it be Trusted?
Snopes is a “fact check” website that is fully funded by the oligarchy. It is used to “shout down” any narratives that does not support the rich and powerful, and politically connected globally. Here we discuss the organization, who they are and what they represent.

Today America Taxes it’s Expats without Representation.
This is a sad state of affairs. Americans who reside outside of the United States now have to pay American taxes, even though they have no representation in Congress. As I recall this was one of the reasons for the American cry for independence in 1776.

What life is like inside the ADC Prison in Arkansas
This post discusses what life is like in a hard labor prison in Southern Arkansas. We discuss hoe squads, food, the hole, commissary, dress, fashion, homosexual culture, prison gangs, murders, relationships and other aspects of life when you are sentenced to “Hard Time”.

The Hazing of New Employees – A Lost Tradition
Up until the 1980’s all companies would haze new employees. Today, we live in a world regulated by the government and policed by Human Resources. We forget how things used to be just a handful of decades ago. Here is my narrative when I started to work.

A Wish List of Favorite Firearms
This is a personal list of many favorite firearms that I would like to own. There are various reasons for the particular weapon of choice, and I provide my reasons. This post has no other purpose than to express my desire to own certain weapons that I cannot as an American.
The Ultimate Method to Make Your Computer Safe and Secure
The best way to make your computer secure and private is to have very strong encryption and use an obscure operating system that very few people know about. Here we look at 37 obscure computer operating systems.

Is America a Republic or is it a Democracy – What is it?
Here we take a nice good look at what the United States is today. We look at reports that are suggestive of other governmental organizations. We look at what is going on contemporaneously inside the United States, and we look at how the United States behaves globally.

The Many Things that Democrats want to Ban
This is a running list of the many things that American Democrats want to ban, have banned, or are trying to ban. You know, a ban of anything is a restriction on freedom. That is not what America was founded upon. Yet, here we are today. Everyday is a new ban, and loss of freedom.

Nations that an American Man could Travel and Relocate to – Part 1
Here, I suggest places where an American man could go if he wanted to start all over again. You know, this happens. Often a man will go through a nasty divorce, or get raked over the coals by a business associate or the United States government. When it happens, it’s time to start new.

Nations that an American Man could Travel and Relocate to – Part 2
Here, I suggest places where an American man could go if he wanted to start all over again. You know, this happens. Often a man will go through a nasty divorce, or get raked over the coals by a business associate or the United States government. When it happens, it’s time to start new.

Alternative Search Engines instead of Google
Google does two things that I do not like. Firstly, they vacuum up everything you do and send the information straight to the American deep state; the NSA and DHS. Secondly, they censor your results for you according to what they think you should see. Here we look at alternatives.
The Consequences of the #MeToo Movement
While the #MeToo movement burst forth onto American culture with good intentions, it was soon coopted by those with selfish and sinister intent. The aggressive nature of the accusations, and the consequences of being accused became dangerous. Here we look at the corporate aspect.

The Lies the Media Tell Us
The United States mainstream media does not report “news”. Instead they fabricate events that are designed to manipulate. The do not employ reporters. They employ actors and they stage events for public display. Let’s talk about this serious situation and how to avoid manipulation.

What it was like Growing Up in 1960’s and 1970’s America
Here is my narrative of some stories of what it was like growing up as a kid in the 1960's and the 1970's. It was a time of freedom, and we took full advantage of it. I’ll tell you what. I discuss a little about the clothing, friendships, and relationships of that time.

What High School Taught me About Democracy
America was formed as a Republic. Yet, for many decades we were brought up in the notion that the United States is the greatest “Democracy” in the history of the world. I have my own opinions about that. Democracy is “mob rule”. Let’s talk about it from what I learned in my High School.

The New Global Order and How to Survive It
The world is polarized. There are two distinctly different ideologies. One is the traditional conservative ideology. The other is the progressive globalist oligarchy that controls just about everything in the West. The future of the world hangs in the resolution of these two ideologies. We discuss that here.

How to take control of your life by using the Rule of Eight.
Here we discuss the "rule of eight" as a method for controlling spending and budgeting for a household. It is a simple rule, and works 100% of the time. Here we discuss it in the three parts or aspects of use, and apply it to purchases by quantity, quality and frequency.
Stories that Inspired Me

Here are reprints in full text of stories that inspired me, but that are nearly impossible to find in China. I place them here as sort of a personal library that I can use for inspiration. The reader is welcome to come and enjoy a read or two as well.

Robert Heinlein’s “The Long Watch” – Full Text
What if you were in charge of all the nuclear weapons in the world, and your base Commander checks your political leanings to see if you are willing to conduct a coup d’état. What would you do? Would you go along with the opportunity, or would you be a lone hero?

Kaleidoscope (Full Text) A Story by Ray Bradbury
This is the full text of a short story by Ray Bradbury. It concerns the final moments of a crew of spacemen as they drift about in space helplessly after their space rocket explodes. They know that no one can help them as they await their final moments tumbling through space...

Here There Be Tygers by Ray Bradberry
When I was younger I used to read science fiction stories for pleasure. They filled my minds with adventure and passion. One of my favorite authors was Ray Bradberry and here is a complete reprint of one of the stories that has influenced me to be the man that I am today. Enjoy.

The Long Rain (Full Text) by Ray Bradberry
This is the full text of a most excellent science fiction story. It concerns a group of survivors from a crashed spaceship stranded on a Hellish rainy planet; the tropical cloud-covered Venus. They survive the crash, but have to battle the forces of nature and their own passions.

The Fog Horn (Full Text) by Ray Bradberry
Here is a story about the emotions of being the last of your kind. This story is one that influenced me when I was a young boy in the 1970's and continues to haunt me to this day. All of us are human. We all feel emotions and passions. They drive us to accomplish or destroy. It’s our choice.
The Rocket (Full Text) A Story by Ray Bradberry
This is a nice short story about a poor man who dreamed about flying into space. No matter how hard he worked, and no matter how much he saved, he was never able to provide for that dream. Then one day, when he was asked to scrap a test rocket, a thought came to mind...

Dark They Were and Golden Eyed (Full Text) by Ray Bradberry
This is the complete short story by Ray Bradbury. It is a story about change and adaptation. I first read this story in my teens and it influenced me to live the life that I am currently living. It is a great read.

A Sound of Thunder (Full Text) A Story by Ray Bradbury
This is the full text of the great time-travel story by Ray Bradbury. Here, a time-travel machine is used to send people back in time to shoot a dinosaur. However, something goes wrong. What would you do? It’s a classic story and well worth a read again.

The April Witch (Full Text) by Ray Bradbury
This is a story written by Ray Bradbury that describes what might happen when a young teenaged girl has the power to enter the body of another person. What if, forbidden to experience love and relationships with “normal” people, she uses magic to experience forbidden pleasures...

The Last Night of the World (Full Text) by Ray Bradbury
What would you do if you knew that today would be your last day alive? How would you spend it? Would you go running in the streets hysterically? Would you spend it quietly with loved ones? Would you play games on the computer, or watch television? Well, here is a story that explores this interesting situation.

The Flying Machine (Full Text) by Ray Bradbury
One of the most common questions that people ask me is why won’t the government tell the people about the existence of extraterrestrials. Well, this story is the best reason that I can think of. This is a story by Ray Bradbury and it is called "The Flying Machine".
October 2026: The Million-Year Picnic (Full Text) by Ray Bradbury
Here is the full story of a man and his family that manages to escape from the madness on Earth. They escape and make their way to Mars to start anew. This is their story, and maybe ours in the near future.

All Summer in a Day (Full Text) by Ray Bradbury
This story takes place in a school room on Venus. Not the Venus that we know, but a wet and rainy Venus. It is a world with constant rain with downpours that lasts for years. However, once every seven years, the sun comes out, and when it comes out the children can see what it is like... or not...

The Smile (Full Text) by Ray Bradbury
This story takes place where the United States lies in ruin. The people behave as animals; rats that scurry in/out of the ruined buildings and avoid the radiation and biological contamination. The survivors of Armageddon truly resent their past; the people who laid their world to waste. Only a single smile remains.

The Menace from Earth (Full Text) by Robert Heinlein
This is one of the best short stories by Robert Heinlein that catered to the “young adult” science fiction market. As a young person, I would read these stories and enjoy them immensely. This story discusses a common enough theme that young people go through, only in a completely different environment.

Delilah and the Space-Rigger (Full Text) by Robert Heinlein
A female Communications Engineer, wangles a job as a radio technician and joins the all-male crew of construction workers building a space station. On her arrival she immediately has a confrontation with the superintendent, who hadn’t realized she was female. He doesn’t want any women on his station.

Life-Line (Full Text) by Robert Heinlein
Professor Pinero builds a machine that will predict how long a person will live. It does this by sending a signal along the world line of a person and detecting the echo from the far end. Professor Pinero’s invention has a powerful impact on the life insurance industry, as well as on his own life.
The Taxpayer (Full Text) by Ray Bradbury
This story focuses on an Earth Man, Pritchard, who we know as the Taxpayer. The Taxpayer is worried about impending nuclear war, and he thinks that paying taxes gives him the right to hop on the spaceship. But, he’s wrong. He is just a cash-cow. Instead, he gets to go to jail.

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