



*2018-2019 Letters About Literature Contest
North Carolina statewide winner from Level 2
Ruby Blue of Weaverville, NC*

Dear Ray Bradbury,

I was never afraid of technology. I thought technology was great, that it could only improve the lives of humans. It's the new, and therefore better, way of doing things. I know that sometimes people worry about dystopian futures where computers overtake us and run the world. But I've never worried about that. Since technology is made by humans, we're obviously superior, and because of that, I thought there was no way it could overtake us, or even negatively impact our lives.

When I read your short story, "The Veldt", I realized that technology could be bad. Not by overtaking us, but by us relying on it so much, we can't live without it. This occurred to me when the house was replacing the parents. I saw that the parents were useless. They didn't even do simple things for their children, like bathe them, or feed them. This made the children love the House and the Nursery more than their own parents. This was a scary concept for me.

I was even more frightened when I realized that the world is becoming more and more like the dystopian future in "The Veldt". There's always more technology being created, made to make everybody's life easier. What are the consequences of all this technology? Are we all going to be like Peter, who only wants to see, listen, and smell? Is that really living? Even if humans are superior to technology, what will happen if we let it control our lives?

I don't know the answer to any of these questions, but I do know technology is becoming something so many people rely on, including me. I definitely use it every day. In fact, I'm using it to write this letter. Sometimes, I feel like my only option is to use technology. I use it for school, entertainment, and communication all the time. Though ever since reading "The Veldt", I try to limit my time using technology, and to spend more time living. I think everyone else should too. Instead of playing mindless games on their phones, waiting for life to pass them by, people should talk to the person next to them. Instead of browsing the internet, people should learn a new skill. I also realized people need to learn how to survive without technology, so they can fend for themselves, and so they can live.

I don't want to live in a world like the one in "The Veldt", where people choose technology over other people. I want to actually live my own life, without everything being done for me. So thank you, for enlightening me.

Sincerely,

Ruby Blue

The North Carolina Center for the Book is a program of the North Carolina Humanities Council and is an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Through a variety of program formats and initiatives, the NC Center works to foster an interest in books, reading, libraries, and North Carolina's literary heritage. The North Carolina Humanities Council began operating the NC Center in 2018. To learn more visit www.nchumanities.org **Letter's About Literature** is a nationwide competition that asks students in grades 4-12 to read a book, poem, or speech and write to the author about how the work affected them.