

Ray Bradbury, An Inspiration to Many

Famous writers, movie directors, and artists admired Ray Bradbury greatly. These and many others said he inspired their creativity:

R. L. Stine, Steven Spielberg, Stephen King, Alice Hoffman, Neil Gaiman, Margaret Atwood, Mort Castle, David Eggers.

Today, Ray Bradbury continues to inspire his readers everywhere.

"Ray Bradbury's endless optimism, joy, curiosity, and love in his works reflect my childhood in Waukegan and serve as a constant source of inspiration in my life."

— Christopher Foster, Fox Lake, IL

"It's Ray Bradbury's style of writing that struck me the most in the story 'Calling Mexico.' I related because when he describes Mexico, it's like I'm there."

— Topacio Hernandez, Waukegan

"Ray Bradbury's writing style is like my look of the world, that there is more than we see. I love reading his biography at the moment, as there is so much influence of his past. It's awesome."

— Michaela Porwoll,
Hamburg, Germany

The Ray Bradbury Centennial

August 22, 2020

On August 22, 2020 Waukegan celebrates the centennial of native son Ray Bradbury. He was born August 22, 1920, at 11 S. St. James Street, Waukegan, Illinois.

"I was born in Waukegan in 1920 and had my second birth at the Carnegie Library in Waukegan. I came to full bloom there and when I was twelve, after reading most of the books in that fantastic library, I became Ray Bradbury. What more could I ask? What a wonderful town to be born in. What a library to grow in. What a town to come back to; a town that I know and love with all my heart."

— Ray Bradbury, 2009

This series of three Ray Bradbury Centennial posters highlights his roots in Waukegan, his lasting fame as an author, and his hungry imagination.

The Ray Bradbury Centennial Poster Series

RAY BRADBURY

1920 2020

Centennial Celebration

1972: Dandelion Crater
Apollo 15, Earth's Moon

2002: Bradbury Star
Hollywood, CA, Earth

1990: Ray Bradbury Park
Waukegan, IL, Earth

"How did I get from Waukegan,
Illinois, to Red Planet, Mars?"

Ray Bradbury, Zen in the Art of Writing

1992: 9766 Bradbury
Asteroid, Space

2012: Bradbury Landing
Curiosity Rover, Mars

ILLINOIS HUMANITIES

R B E M
Ray Bradbury Experience Museum

Ray Bradbury Centennial
Waukegan, Illinois

www.RayBradburyExperienceMuseum.org

The Ray Bradbury
Centennial Poster Series

was made possible by Illinois
Humanities through annual support
from the National Endowment for the
Humanities and the Illinois General Assembly.

R B E M
Ray Bradbury Experience Museum

His Imagination Blooms in Waukegan

In his book *Zen in the Art of Writing*, Ray Bradbury asks: "How did I get from Waukegan, Illinois, to Red Planet, Mars?"

Growing up in Waukegan, Bradbury said these captured his imagination:

Reading ghost stories

Circus parades down
Genesee Street

Carousels

Phantom of the Opera movie

Dinosaurs

The ravine in what is now
Ray Bradbury Park

The fog horn at the lake

Stars in the Illinois sky

Bradbury went on to use them in *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, *Dandelion Wine*, *Dark Carnival*, *The Fog Horn*, *Martian Chronicles*, and other stories.



Passion for Writing

As a boy, he received a toy typewriter at Christmas. He started typing his stories. Later he said, "I wrote a thousand words a day every day from twelve on."

The poster shows two of Bradbury's most famous books.

Dandelion Wine

The book is set in Green Town, a fictional town based on Waukegan.

He describes family members, friends, and places in Waukegan.

You can visit some of those places today.

Martian Chronicles

Humans travel into space to colonize Mars and experience astonishing images and visions. They come into conflict with ancient, mysterious, shape-changing Martians.

Read a Ray Bradbury Story!

Discover how his imagination took him from Illinois to "Red Planet, Mars."

Honored for a Lifetime of Writing

Ray Bradbury won the 2004 National Medal of Arts, presented to those who have made extraordinary contributions to the arts in the USA. He received too many honors and awards to list here.

The poster shows places both on Earth and in space.

On Earth

Ray Bradbury Park, Waukegan, dedicated 1990. Dedicated as a National Literary Landmark, 2019.

Bradbury Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in California, 2002.

In Space

Dandelion Crater on the Moon, Apollo 15 Expedition, 1972; named after Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury.

9766 Bradbury, Asteroid in space, 1992; named for Ray Bradbury.

Bradbury Landing on Mars, Curiosity Rover Expedition, 2012, honors Ray.