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:

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


“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
www.RayBradburyExperienceMuseum.org

The Ray Bradbury Centennial
1920 2020
Celebration!

1923: Zanazibar Center
April 13, London, England

2002: Bradbury Star
Hollywood, CA, Earth

1955: Bradbury Park
Waukegan, IL, Earth

“Where did I get from Waukegan, Illinois, to Red Planet, Mars?”
Ray Bradbury, I Am the Art of Writing

2012: Bradbury Landing
Cape Canaveral, Mars

1992: 9565 Bradbury Asteroid, Space

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.
His Imagination Blooms in Waukegan


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


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.