

## Short-Story -

### All Summer in a Day - Ray Bradbury

"All Summer in a Day", a short story by prolific science fiction writer Ray Bradbury, was first published in 1954 in The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction.

In the story "All Summer in a Day" a group of young children and their parents live on a futuristic Venus. The school children are 7 years old and are in a class awaiting a rare occurrence on the planet. It has been raining non-stop for 7 long years, but on this day, scientists have predicted that the sun will appear for a very brief period of time. The last time the sun shown was when the children were only 2 years old and they hold no memories of the event. They had no concept or the look of the sun. In school, they have been preparing for the day with lessons about the sun and writing poems about it. One child in the children is different from the others.

The name is Margot is a frail looking girl whom the other old children dislike. Margot lived on earth, in Ohio, until she was 5 years old. She has many memories of the sun and unlike the others, has an idea of what to expect from its pending appearance. When Margot tells the other old children that the sun is round like a penny and ought like a fire, they accuse her of lying. She isolates herself from the

~~the~~ other. She has been in a state of depression for most of the time she has lived on Venus. There is a rumour circulating that her parents are considering leaving the underground colony in which they lived on Venus and taking Margot back to their former home on Earth.

As Margot stands alone staring out of a window waiting for the rain to subside and the Sun to appear, the other children begin to her. One of the boys in the class tells her that the whole thing is nothing more than a joke and that nothing is going to happen with the Sun. While the teacher is away, the children wrap Margot and lock her in a closet. Margot is powerless to stop them. When the teacher returns, she leads the children through a tunnel to the colony's exit. She does not realize that Margot is not among the students. Once they are outside, for a short while, the rain stops and the Sun makes its appearance. The children run around in the sunshine and find the experience to be more pleasing than ever imagined. They realize how much better it is than the Sun lamps that are utilized in their colony.

A bit of time passes as the children continue to enjoy their brief time in the Sun. A girl cries out as she observes a huge rain drop falling on her hand. A sign that the rain is return

returning and the Sun will soon vanish. All of the children freeze. They think about the experience they just had and the feeling of the Sun on their skin. As the rain cloud takes over the sky, the Sun disappears from view and the rainfall intensifies. The children pause for one last moment realizing how special the experience has been. Then they enter the tunnel to return back to their class.

The students asked their teacher if it will really be another 7 years before the Sun returns. At that point someone remembers that Margot is still locked up in the closet, and they realize that Margot has been locked up in the closet for the entire time. They <sup>they</sup> were outside enjoying the Sun. They slowly, nervously approach toward the closet ~~where~~ where they have locked her. There is no noise coming from behind the closed door. They open the door and Margot slowly walks out. She will have to wait another 7 years to see the Sun.

Margot