

Connect to the Literature

1. What Do You Think?

What was your reaction to the “sound of thunder” at the end of the story?

Comprehension Check

- What kind of business does Time Safari, Inc. operate?
- What does Eckels do that has such far-reaching consequences?
- What is different when Eckels returns to his own time?

Think Critically

2. How would you describe Eckels?

THINK ABOUT

- his reasons for going on a safari
- his response to the tyrannosaurus
- his attitude about stepping off the path

3. How would you characterize the business practices of Time Safari, Inc.?

4. **ACTIVE READING PREDICTING** How accurate were the **predictions** you made in your **READER'S NOTEBOOK**? Discuss with classmates the details that either helped or misled you.

5. In your opinion, what **theme**, or message, is Bradbury conveying through the story?

THINK ABOUT

- the society Eckels returns to as compared with the society depicted at the beginning of the story
- the significance of the butterfly

Extend Interpretations

6. **Critic's Corner** In a review of *Dinosaur Tales*, the collection of Bradbury stories that contains “A Sound of Thunder,” the critic Andrew Andrews remarks that Bradbury “gets to you—in simple ways he shows you how to marvel over these awesome, startling creatures.” What was your reaction to Bradbury’s portrayal of the dinosaurs in the story?

7. **Connect to Life** Recall the ideas you discussed about time travel before you read the story. Why do you think time travel has become such a popular topic of stories and movies?

Literary Analysis

FORESHADOWING Fore-

shadowing is a device a writer uses to prepare a reader for an event that happens later in the story. The use of foreshadowing also adds suspense. Foreshadowing takes the form of hints—bits of information that suggest to the reader what is coming. Writers provide foreshadowing by creating a **mood** that prepares a reader emotionally for what is to come, by including facts and details that provide clues, by revealing **character traits** that determine future action, or by describing events that suggest what might happen later.

Paired Activity Now that you know the outcome of the story, review it with a partner to find additional foreshadowing that you may have missed. Make a chart like the one below to record your results. When you have listed three or four hints and outcomes, discuss the story’s title. How might it work as an example of foreshadowing?

Hint	Outcome
“If you disobey instructions . . .”	Eckels disobeys instructions.

REVIEW SCIENCE FICTION

Science fiction is prose writing in which the writer explores possibilities of the future, using known scientific information as well as his or her imagination. When considering the difference between fantasy and science fiction, Bradbury once explained that science fiction “could happen.” Why do you think “A Sound of Thunder” qualifies as science fiction?