

## Butterfly Effect on Ray Bradbury's *Sound of Thunder*

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### Introduction

Literature is a key to raising awareness, and it introduces many new things to the world and mold society. So the method of reading may change, but the study will not change. In literary history, so many theories emerge, and many branches are introduced by the literature. One of the best ways to understand the complex idea is to make ease of chaos theory; the term "Butterfly Effect" created by to attempt just such a thing. This term was coined by Edward Lorenz almost forty-five years ago during the 139<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Science. It would prove to be very popular and has been embraced by popular culture ever since; the metaphor goes: "Does the flap of a butterfly's wings in Brazil set off a tornado in Texas?". Lorenz, he developed the concept but never actually intended for it to be applied the way it has all too commonly used.

While it sounds a little ridiculous as a concept, it is not meant to be taken literally. The butterfly effect- the metaphor is simply meant to demonstrate that less insignificant events can lead to significant results over time. The phrase refers to the idea that a butterfly's wings might create tiny changes in the atmosphere that may ultimately alter the path of a Tornado, or delay, accelerate or even prevent the occurrence of a tornado in another location. Ray Bradbury was an American author and Screen Writer. He wrote many science fiction and horror fiction. Bradbury once described as "Midwest surrealist" and is often labeled a science fiction writer. So his imagination and creativities made him one of the best known. So the short story *Sound of Thunder*- is a science

fiction short story. It appears in Bradbury's collection *The Golden Apples of the Sun* in 1953.

### Impact of Butterfly Effect in *Sound of Thunder*

The core element of the short story explores human relationships to ecology and the natural environment. Through the device of time travel Bradbury can show the potential impact of human interference in the surrounding on seemingly unrelated events. The theme is that little things can make a big difference. This story reminds us of an idea called the "Butterfly Effect." Ray Bradbury raises concerns about technology through his writings. Through the warning given about how small changes in the future and the outcome showing that Eckels has negatively affected the present by altering the past, Bradbury suggests that technology and time travel are dangerous and destructive and things that shouldn't be pursued.

Eckels, the main character of the story, set in 2055, wealthy enough part of the story, sets in 2055. Wealthy enough to afford the \$10,000 price tag for the time travel adventures offered by Time Safari, Inc (the sole purpose of which is to provide the opportunity to shoot rare and non-extinct animals, as per its sign). Eckels embarks on a journey back to the date, Cretaceous period to hunt a Tyrannosaurus Rex. It is a risky endeavor as Eckels learns that at least six guides and twelve hunters have died on the Safaris within the past year. Regardless he promised excitement and dinosaurs.

Bradbury inserts an essential plot point into the narrative while Eckels is waiting for his expedition to begin. Through a chat with an employee of Time Safari, Inc about the recent election, readers learn that the democratic

candidate Keith prevailed over the fascist and doctoral candidate, Deutscher. Relieved, they quip that everyone would be running for the time machine if the election had turned out differently. The portion of the story introduced the theme of authoritarianism. The presidential election represents a classic conflict between American democracy and totalitarian regime. The agent's comment that the company does not conduct "escapes" foreshadows the dark political direction; this story will have an inevitability of authoritarianism.

So the Agent mentions that several clients and Safari guides have died on the trips and offer Eckels the chance to tear up his Check. Eckels hesitates, his finger twitching, but the agent, continues the transactions. The company agent hands Eckels over to the Safari guide Mr. Travis, although it's unclear whether Eckels has stated that he would like to continue on the Safari. The Time Machine begins to flash backward through the years as the hunters and guides test out their oxygen. Eckels sits stiff and pales alongside Mr. Travis, fellow guide Lesperance, and two other hunters. So Eckels control over the situation, Travis counsels Eckels not to shoot for the eyes and into the brain.

Through the height of human technology, the hunters find themselves amid of a vast and wild natural environment. Travis begins a speech emphasizing truth that the travelers are now far in the past, listing the historical figures that have not yet been born. At the same time, Travis demonstrates a firm grasp of tremendous unintended consequences. The guide details a long list of potential blunders and their effects, such as stepping on one mouse and disturbing an entire future food chain. Travis draws between cause and effect.

After the lecture of the guides, they ready to hunt dinosaurs. Eckels's encounter with the T-rex inspires in him a surprising swell of appreciation for the beauty of creation. He admires the footsteps of a giant beast and refuses to shoot. The story insists that human beings overestimate their power at their peril. In trying to avoid death, Eckels makes the fatal mistake of interfering with the prehistoric wilderness. His error will change their course of history. So this hunting program gives bloody memory of

an incomprehensibly large creature destroyed. Eckels wants to believe that a small mistake like stepping off the path could lead to any special change. His senses all tell him there are small, almost intangible differences in the atmosphere, while the sign confirms that human culture has changes as well. The air, smell, color, spelling systems are different.

### Conclusion

Eckels slumps down into a chair and examining his boots, examining his boots, finds that he has crushed a tiny butterfly. Its green gold wings glisten as his mind races with thoughts of dominoes wondering how something so small could change the future. Panicking, he asks the company agent election results and learns that Deutscher has now won. The story has many interlocking ideas, including the periods of carelessness with nature, the unpredictability of consequences, and the unseen of every life. *Sound of Thunder* hinges on the idea that the relation between cause and effect is far more complex than humans might like to think. This story anticipates a future when humans will be able to meddle with history, and demonstrates how futile and misguided such an effort would be. Bradbury urges readers to raise the questions of whether some technological advances serve only to facilitate human hubris. *Sound of Thunder* explores the human relationship to ecology and the natural environment. This short story thus explores mortality as at once a thrilling source of power, an advertising ploy, inevitability. Even as Eckels finds himself drawn by the danger and excitement of reversing time to hunt a deadly predator, his attempts to survive only lead to his demise.

### References

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