



# “Marionettes, Inc.”

By Ray Bradbury



**Vocabulary** — Using a dictionary or electronic device, define the words below:

Marionette:

Ethical/Unethical:

Remorse:

## Technology

1. What technology do you notice in the story? *List* any advanced technology and *explain* how it is used.
2. Similar tech today? --- From the technology you listed above, is any of it similar to anything we have today? *Explain*.

## Comprehension questions

1. How would you describe Braling’s marriage? *Why?* (pp. 234-235)
2. Explain what Smith thinks about his marriage and his wife. What problem is he having in his marriage? (p. 235)
3. What exactly *IS* Braling Two? (p. 237)

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## Comprehension questions

4. What is **ironic** about what Smith discovers about his wife? (p. 241)
5. What does Braling One think about Braling Two’s feelings? What do we learn at the end of the story about the marionette? (p. 242)
6. What do Braling and Nettie do to “solve” their marital problems?

## Thinking/Opinion questions

1. Do you think it was **ethical** that Braling bought a marionette to take his place in his marriage when he didn’t want to be there? Explain.
2. How do we use technology now to avoid conflict? Explain a time when you or someone you know has used technology to avoid working through a problem face-to-face.

**Theme/Central Idea** — Using at least two pieces of supporting evidence, explain one central idea of “Marionettes, Inc.”

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## Characterization

Describe two or more character traits for the characters listed below. In the third column, provide evidence from the text to support each characteristic. Give page numbers for your evidence.

<b>Character</b>	<b>Characteristics/ Character traits</b>	<b>Support/Evidence</b>
<b>Braling (1)</b>		
<b>Braling (2)</b>		
<b>Smith</b>		
<b>Nettie</b>		

**Nettie:** Look at how Smith’s wife, Nettie, is described in the story. 1.) How does our opinion of her change from the beginning of the story to the end? 2.) Give evidence from the story to support why our opinion changes.

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) Beginning	End
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