

# MARIONETTES INC.

by  
Ray Bradbury

1. What disturbing thing happened between Mr. and Mrs. Braling that likely led to their marriage? (Note: You'll need to use your inference skills because the situation is not clearly spelled out for the reader.)
2. What color are Mr. Braling's eyes? What's symbolically interesting about this?
3. In what year is the story set? How do you know this?
4. When Braling Two's mechanical heart beats, it makes a "tick-tick-tick-tick-tick-tick-tick-tick" sound. What other association does this sound hold for the reader? How is this an example of skillful foreshadowing by Bradbury?
5. Mr. Smith is shocked to discover that his wife, Nettie, has beat him to the punch, already swapping her spot with a marionette. Based on the text, how long ago do you think Nettie made the switch and where do you think she's been spending her free time?
6. Despite his questionable dealings with Marionettes, Inc., Mr. Braling sees himself as an ethical person. Give two pieces of evidence from the text that show Mr. Braling's belief that he is an upright citizen.
7. In the last line of the story, Braling Two is referred to by the narrator as "someone." What does this new identifier imply and how does it add to the drama of the closing scene?
8. Today, people don't buy clones to take their places in troubled relationships, but they do sometimes use technology to avoid conflict with their partners. Give an example from modern life that proves this statement true.