

Dandelion Wine (part II)



Made by Klimonova Yulia 18



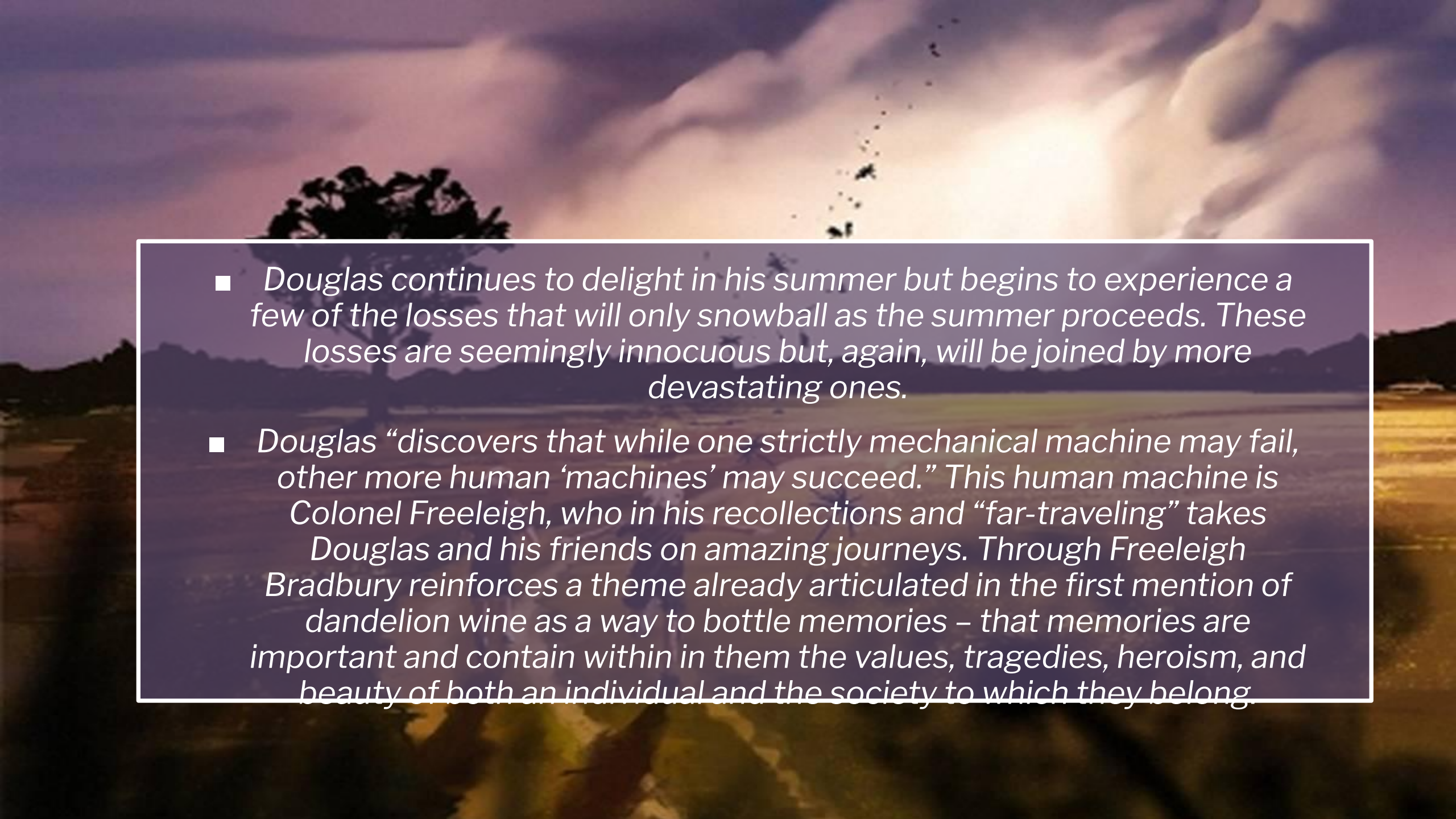
**Let me continue to tell you the
story...**

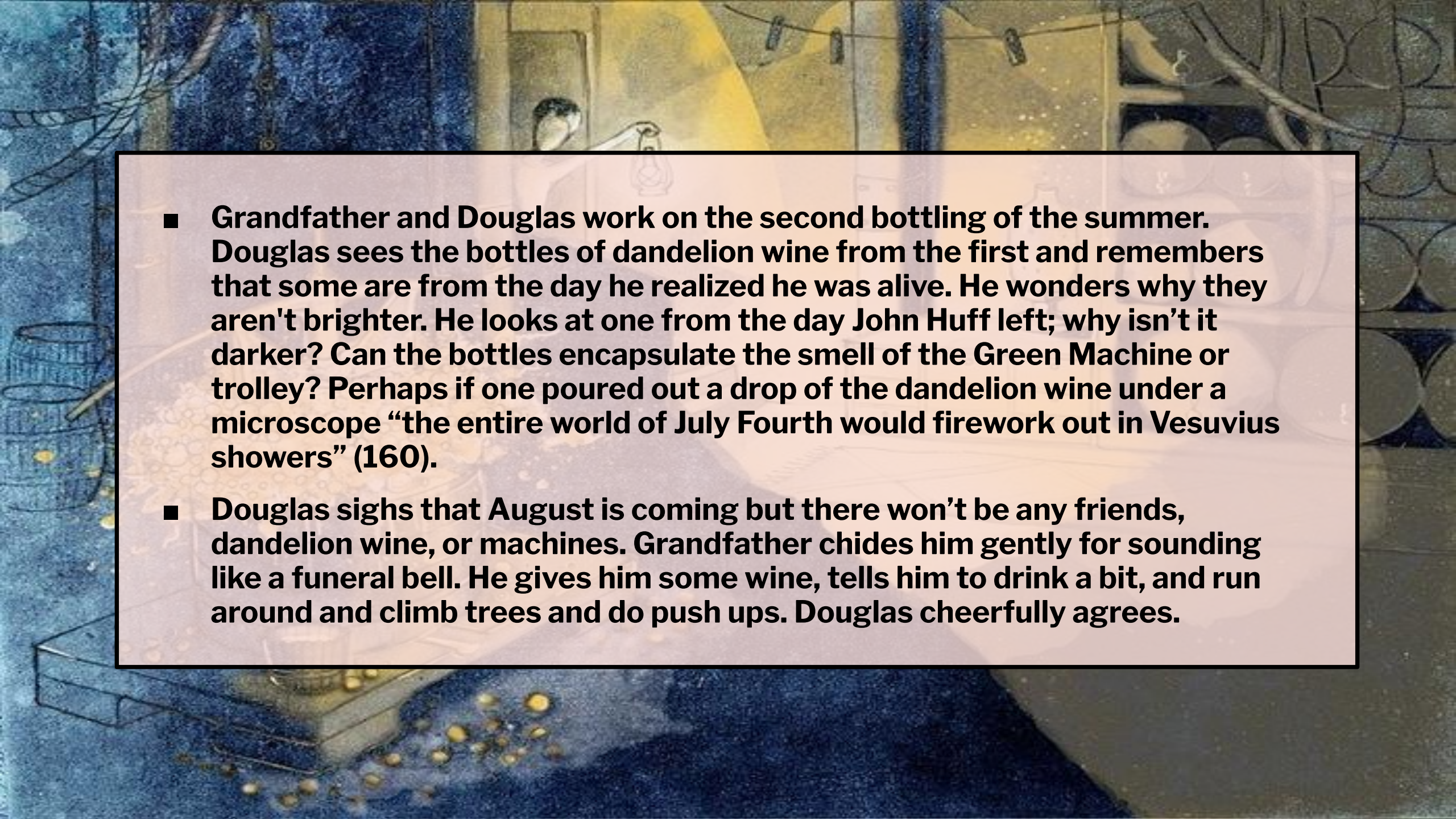
- **Mr. Tridden welcomes all the children on and tells them there is no charge because it is the trolley's last ride. The bus is starting tomorrow and he is retiring with a nice pension. Douglas is stunned; he cannot believe the Green Machine is gone, his shoes are wearing out, and now the trolley. A bus does not make the same noise as a trolley or throw the same sparks.**

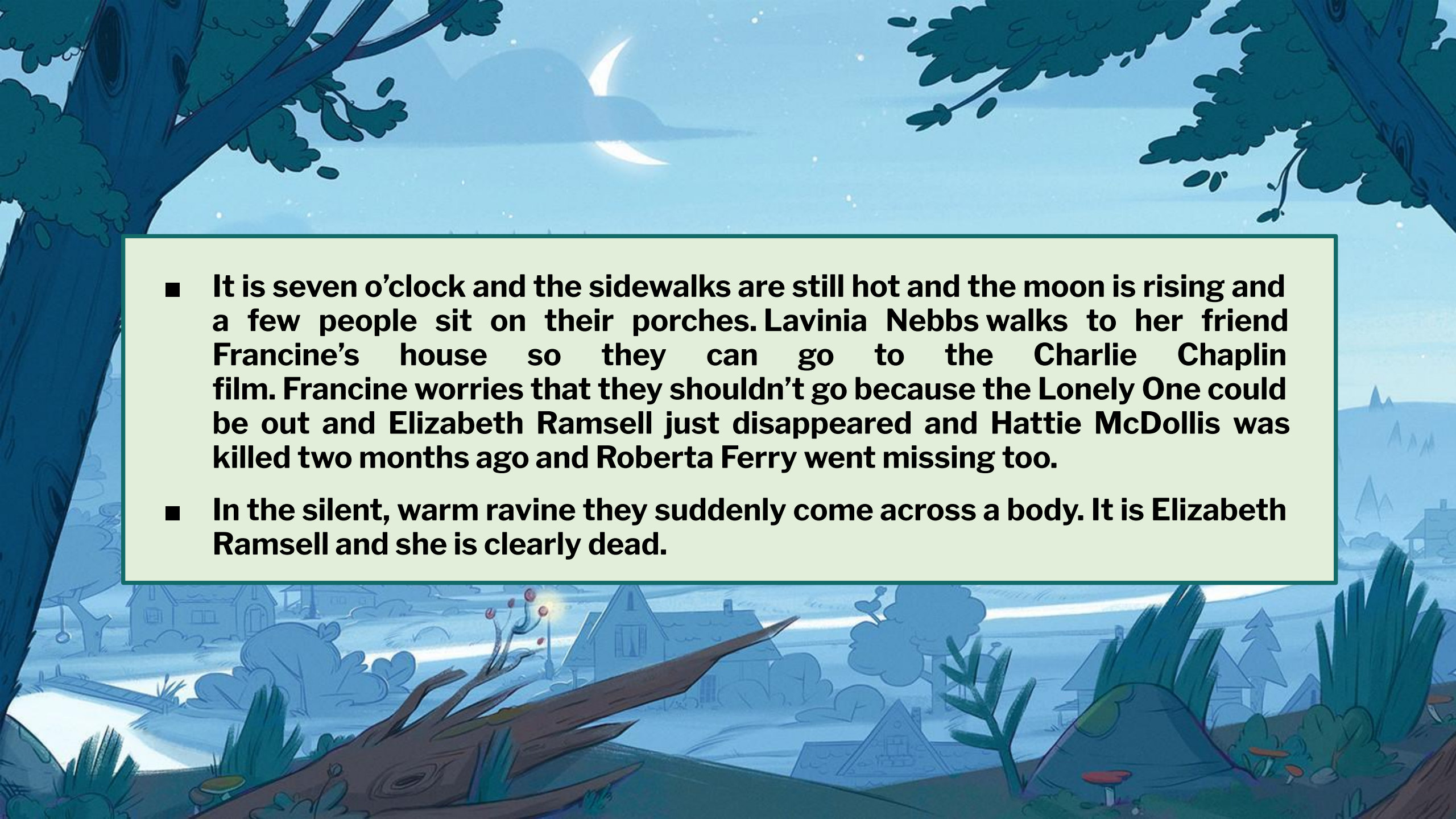




- Douglas and John are hiking out beyond town and it is a perfect day. Sadly, though, a cloud travels over and covers the sun and John tells Douglas that his dad got a new job and they have to move to another town. Douglas is struck and sinks down helplessly. He asks if John will visit and John says his dad said it would only be once or twice a year.

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- A sunset scene with a bright sun partially obscured by clouds, casting a warm glow over a field. In the background, there are dark silhouettes of trees and mountains. The sky is a mix of purple, orange, and blue.
- *Douglas continues to delight in his summer but begins to experience a few of the losses that will only snowball as the summer proceeds. These losses are seemingly innocuous but, again, will be joined by more devastating ones.*
 - *Douglas “discovers that while one strictly mechanical machine may fail, other more human ‘machines’ may succeed.” This human machine is Colonel Freeleigh, who in his recollections and “far-traveling” takes Douglas and his friends on amazing journeys. Through Freeleigh Bradbury reinforces a theme already articulated in the first mention of dandelion wine as a way to bottle memories – that memories are important and contain within in them the values, tragedies, heroism, and beauty of both an individual and the society to which they belong.*

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- Grandfather and Douglas work on the second bottling of the summer. Douglas sees the bottles of dandelion wine from the first and remembers that some are from the day he realized he was alive. He wonders why they aren't brighter. He looks at one from the day John Huff left; why isn't it darker? Can the bottles encapsulate the smell of the Green Machine or trolley? Perhaps if one poured out a drop of the dandelion wine under a microscope "the entire world of July Fourth would firework out in Vesuvius showers" (160).
 - Douglas sighs that August is coming but there won't be any friends, dandelion wine, or machines. Grandfather chides him gently for sounding like a funeral bell. He gives him some wine, tells him to drink a bit, and run around and climb trees and do push ups. Douglas cheerfully agrees.

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- It is seven o'clock and the sidewalks are still hot and the moon is rising and a few people sit on their porches. Lavinia Nebbs walks to her friend Francine's house so they can go to the Charlie Chaplin film. Francine worries that they shouldn't go because the Lonely One could be out and Elizabeth Ramsell just disappeared and Hattie McDollis was killed two months ago and Roberta Ferry went missing too.
 - In the silent, warm ravine they suddenly come across a body. It is Elizabeth Ramsell and she is clearly dead.

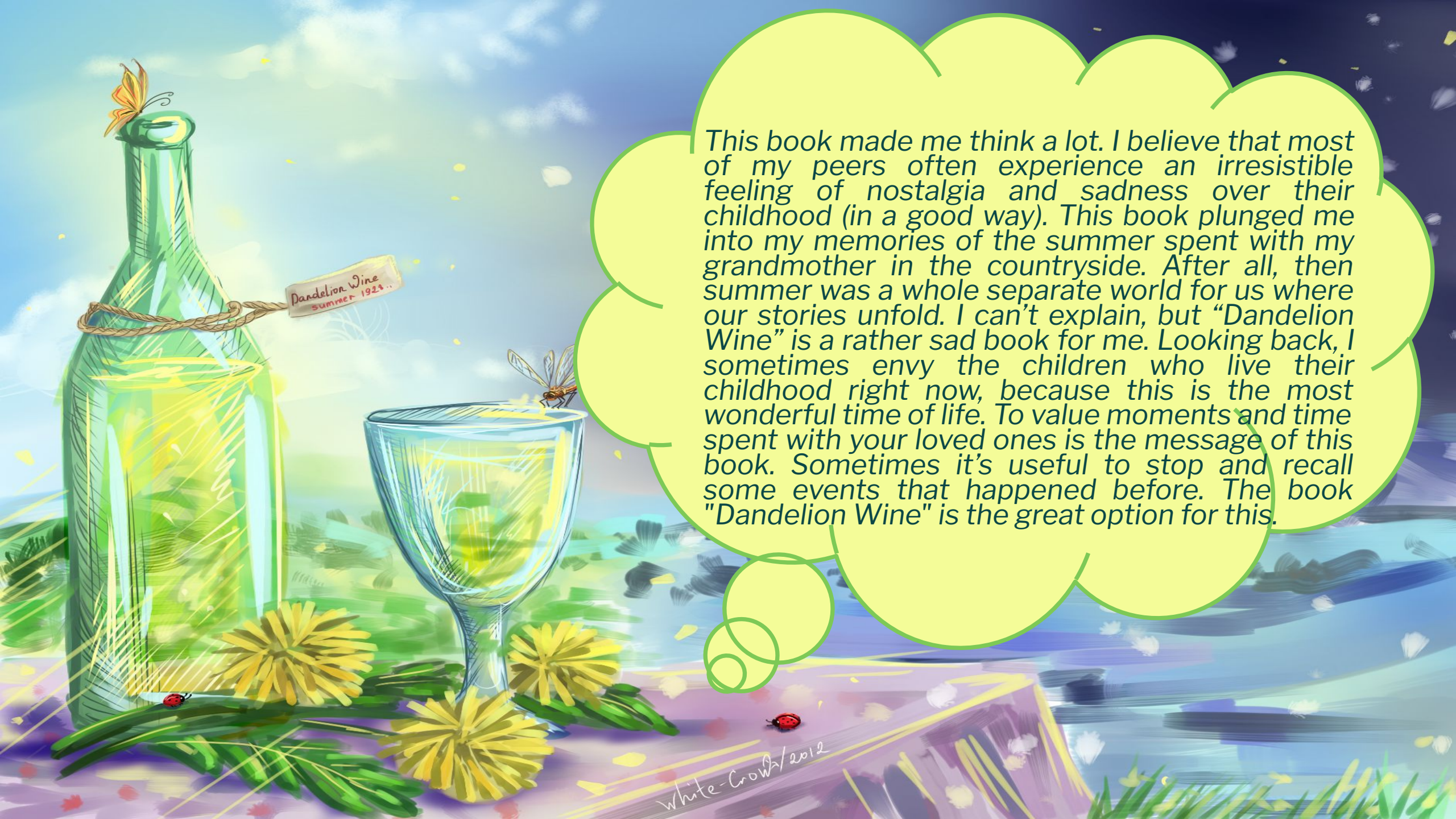


■ The disconcerting loss of the Green Machine and the trolley barely compare, especially in Douglas's mind, to the losses he suffers now. Colonel Freeleigh, Helen Loomis, and Great-grandma all pass away not long after John Huff informs Douglas he is moving far away. These deaths are startling to a boy who just realized the beauty and richness of life. Clearly Douglas is struggling with how to deal with these losses, which is understandable. The loss of John was the loss of a true best friend and a truly kind and wonderful person. The loss of Colonel Freeleigh meant the loss of time travel, of connection to the past. The same goes for Helen Loomis, but her death also indicates that not everyone gets their happy ending. And Great-grandma's death is a tragedy for the family.





Dandelion wine becomes in the novel a symbol of summer, happiness, and memories that are of great importance: “Hold summer in your hand, pour summer in a glass, a tiny glass of course, the smallest tingling sip for children; change the season in your veins by raising glass to lip and tilting summer in.” It is not an accident that wine is chosen as a symbol of happiness, because both happiness and wine can make a person drunk and even cloud one’s thoughts. However, dandelion wine has nothing to do with negative effect of spirits - it is only the positive side, only one of optimism. And the very process of collecting the flowers and making the wine is a kind of ritual that is important for the boys because it is associated with summer.



This book made me think a lot. I believe that most of my peers often experience an irresistible feeling of nostalgia and sadness over their childhood (in a good way). This book plunged me into my memories of the summer spent with my grandmother in the countryside. After all, then summer was a whole separate world for us where our stories unfold. I can't explain, but "Dandelion Wine" is a rather sad book for me. Looking back, I sometimes envy the children who live their childhood right now, because this is the most wonderful time of life. To value moments and time spent with your loved ones is the message of this book. Sometimes it's useful to stop and recall some events that happened before. The book "Dandelion Wine" is the great option for this.

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