

To Discuss with your partner after reading both poems:

"How do both poets imagine nature would respond to the eradication of humankind?"

There will come Soft Rain

by Sara Teasdale

There will come soft rain and the smell of
the ground,
And swallows circling with their
shimmering sound;
And frogs in the pools singing at night,
And wild plum-trees in tremulous white;
Robins will wear their feathery fire
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire.
And not one will know of the war, not one
Will care at last when it is done.
Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree,
If mankind perished utterly.
And Spring herself when she woke at
dawn,
Would scarcely know that we were gone.

**All Watched Over by
Machines of Loving Grace**

by Richard Brautigan

I'd like to think (and
the sooner the better!)
of a cybernetic meadow
where mammals and computers
live together in mutually
programming harmony
like pure water
touching clear sky.
I like to think
(right now, please!)
of a cybernetic forest
filled with pines and electronics
where deer stroll peacefully
past computers
as if they were flowers
with spinning blossoms.
I like to think
(it has to be!)
of a cybernetic ecology
where we are free of our labors
and joined back to nature,
returned to our mammal brothers and
sisters,
and all watched over
by machines of loving grace.