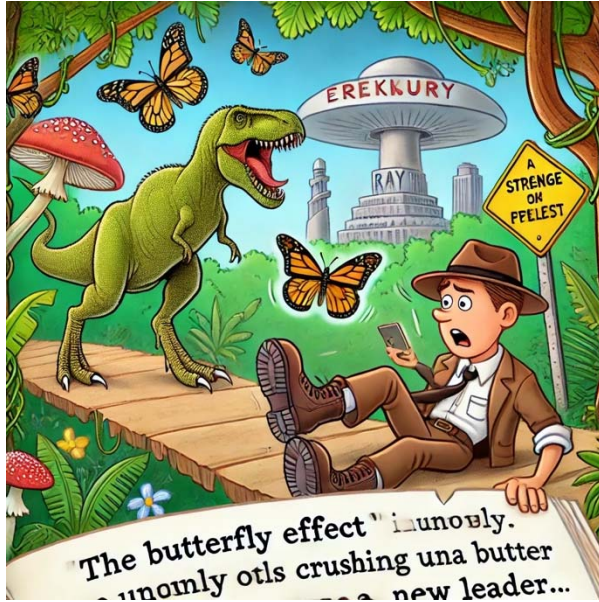


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Butterfly Changes

In Ray Bradbury's *A Sound of Thunder*, time travel reveals how even the smallest actions can cause massive changes. The story begins with Eckels, a hunter who joins a time-traveling safari to hunt a *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Mr. Travis, the guide, gives a stern warning: "Stay on the Path. If you step off and alter anything, the future could be

completely changed." This rule seems simple, but it holds great importance.

When they arrive in the prehistoric jungle, Eckels feels brave at first. But as the gigantic *T. rex* approaches, fear overcomes him. Ignoring the rule, he panics and steps off the Path. Though the moment feels small, Eckels crushes a butterfly under his boot, a tiny action he barely notices. Mr. Travis is furious and warns that this mistake could have far-reaching effects on their world.

When the group returns to the present, Eckels quickly realizes something is wrong. The air feels different, and the words on a nearby sign are spelled strangely. Worst of all, a new and cruel leader is now in power. The future they knew is gone, replaced by a world Eckels helped create with one careless step.

Bradbury's story uses this dramatic change to show how small actions can ripple through time, altering everything. The transformation of the present timeline at the end of the story highlights the importance of responsibility. Even something as minor as stepping on a butterfly has the power to shape the future in unexpected ways. Bradbury's message is clear: small choices matter, and we should always think about the consequences of our actions.