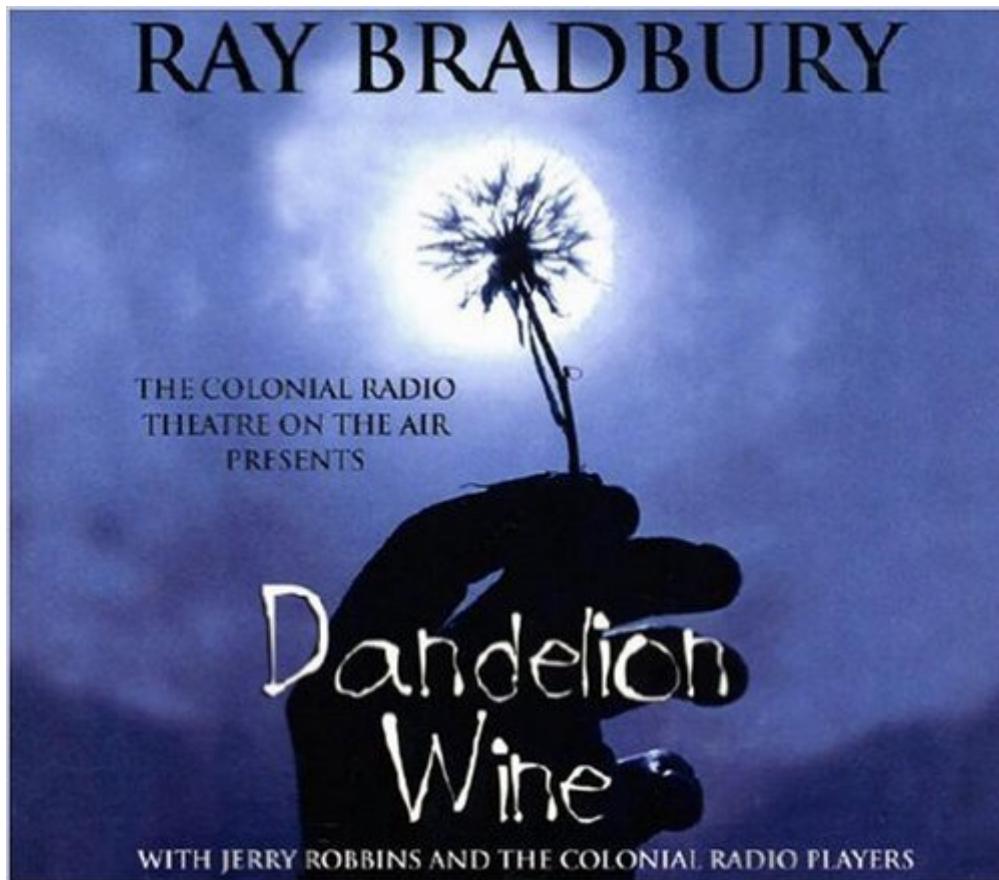


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# Dandelion Wine (The Colonial Radio Theatre On The Air - Full Cast Dramatization)



## Synopsis

Winner of the Gold Ogle Award for Best Science Fiction/Fantasy Audio Production Ray Bradbury's endearing, lyrical tale of boyhood and an idyllic Midwestern summer \*is presented here as a full-cast audio dramatization by The Colonial Theatre on the Air, complete with sound effects and a brilliant music score. Twelve-year-old Douglas Spaulding knows Green Town, Illinois, is as vast and deep as the whole world that lies beyond. For Douglas, summer is a pair of new tennis shoes, the first harvest of dandelions for Grandfather's renowned intoxicant, the distant clang of the trolley bell on a hazy afternoon. But as young Douglas is about to discover, summer can be more than the repetition of established rituals that hold time at bay. It can be a best friend moving away, a human time machine that can transport you back to the Civil War, or a sideshow automaton able to glimpse the bittersweet future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For the reviewers who gave this less than five stars, I want to ask do you really love and understand Ray Bradbury and his stories? Ray himself gave a very exuberant stamp of approval of this adaption of his wonderful book, Dandelion Wine. The story is not read word for word, it is even better! It is a dramatization that includes all the important key points of his book that we loved and the actors and the music and sound effects were fabulous! This dramatization was everything I had hoped it would be, it touched my heart even more than reading the story did. I highly recommend this adaption and if you truly love Ray Bradbury and this beloved story, you will understand and love this CD. I will treasure this always.

This is NOT a book. I can highly recommend the book, however, it should be known that this is a dramatic play written by the author and it features Jerry Robbins and the Colonial Radio Theatre players. I've become a fan of theirs within the last year, because of the historically accurate and well written/Performed dramas about our nation. This is the story based on Ray's life as a youngster and it is such a emotionally moving story. This production is in line with Colonial Radio Theatre's standard of excellence, and I really don't think I exaggerate when I say that Jerry Robbins and this incredibly talented group of actors reminds me of Orson Welles and the Mercury Theatre on the Air. The sound quality, special effects are top notch and really lend a lot to draw the listener into the story and stimulate one's imagination. And the music score by Jeffrey Gage is incredible and quite beautiful and exciting. What can I say about the author? I've been a Ray Bradbury fan ever since I read *Fahrenheit 451*. His writing is so incredible as his settings are only incidental, I really think it's his characterizations that are so powerful and this story is proof of that. I would highly recommend this adaptation to teachers for students and school and public libraries for it's incredible quality and simple fun to listen to. This would be a great way to get kids back to stimulating imaginations and away from tv and video games for a while.

Set in Green Town, Illinois, 1928, this is the story of Douglas Spaulding, age 12, and his younger brother Tom. Through these boys, the older poised at the edge of puberty, we experience the daily magic of life in their town and all the wonderful citizens, both young and old, with whom they spent their days. The Colonial Radio Theatre performers conveyed both the youth and vitality of the kids, as well as the eccentricity and wisdom of the older people. This item is the play, not the novel. I read readers' reviews which indicate to me that I really want to read the novel, while bearing in mind that the two pieces are separate - apples and oranges. Ray Bradbury wrote a sequel to *Dandelion Wine*, *Farewell Summer* in 2007 which takes up where the first novel ended. There are also two other works set in the Green Town of other times. I highly recommend this audio presentation of *Dandelion Wine* for the way in which the performers captured the spirit of small town life 87 years ago. Really, listening to this play was like opening that bottle of *Dandelion Wine* from 1928 and drinking deeply of its magical essence.

I taught summer school this year, and I use this to "break the ice." We listened to the chapter about buying new shoes as a summer tradition and how "new shoes would make [him] run faster." *Dandelion Wine* is more memoir, although it has some elements of fantasy in it. It's a

feel-good book about being a kid, enjoying summer, and recognizing that life is passing but that what's in the here and now is as precious as the "Dandelion Wine" that the old people make and drink while you (as a kid) hang out under the porch listening to their stories. It's a coming of age book, while at the same time, being a snapshot of childhood. This story, because it's set in the early 1900's, is timeless. It's a chance to think about endless summer. I paired it with the Beach Boys (which for my sophomores are equally old and classic!!!) and it was a hit.

This is not an audio production of the Bradbury novel *Dandelion Wine*, as I had expected. Rather, it is a production of his play of the same name, which deviates significantly from the book. What made listening to it problematic is the fact that the children in the cast of characters sound so similar that you never are sure who is speaking, and the sound effects without visuals only serve to further confuse the listener. I could not even get through the first act. Upon returning it, the publisher graciously refunded my money.

This is an incredible production. Ray Bradbury wrote a theatrical script for his book "*Dandelion Wine*," and now he has turned that into an audio drama. This is a riveting production, and it really has a "Twilight Zone" feel to it at times (especially in the second CD). But don't get me wrong - it still had the charm and feel of the original novel. The music is outstanding, and the opening scene where we see "Green Town" for the very first time is presented in a medley of music with vintage cars, trolley's, people - just very elaborate and thrilling. The actors are great, and the three boys who play the leads carry the action and are very engaging. There are hundreds of sound effects that make this feel like a movie. Without question, *Dandelion Wine* is one of the very best Bradbury audio presentations ever created.

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