

English 12

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Study Guide, Part 1 – *The Hearth and the Salamander*

DUE:

Directions:

Read p. 3-11 and thoughtfully complete the questions below. Your answers should demonstrate close reading, be supported by specific text, and help facilitate class discussion.

Part One: Characterization

1. What adjective would you use to describe the character of Montag? Support your choice with two direct quotes from the novel. Include page numbers.
2. What adjective would use to describe the character of Clarisse? Support your choice with one direct quote from the novel. Include page numbers.

Part Two: Setting

1. How would you describe the setting of the novel? Consider multiple elements of the term setting.
2. This novel was published during the 1950's. List everything you recall about 1950's America. This list will be important to later class discussion.

Part Three: Big Ideas

1. Bradbury begins the novel with a quote. "If they give you ruled paper, write the other way." What do you think it means? We will revisit this quote after learning more about the author.
2. Consider the role technology plays in the novel. Does technology improve the quality of life for Montag and his wife? Explain.
3. What do you notice about Bradbury's writing style? Provide an example from the novel.
4. Consider the definition of dystopian. How does this novel appear to be an example of dystopian literature?
5. Several metaphors are used to describe the character of Clarisse. How does the use of these metaphors allow us to better understand Clarisse and Montag?
6. What do you see as a possible emerging symbol in the novel? Explain your answer.

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Directions:

Read p. 11-68 and thoughtfully complete the questions below. Your answers should demonstrate close reading, be supported by specific text, and help facilitate class discussion.

Part One: Characterization

1. Mildred is described with much figurative language. Provide two examples, and explain how a reader feels about Mildred given Bradbury's language choices.
2. What adjective would you use to describe Captain Beatty? Defend your choice, providing page numbers when appropriate.
3. What adjective would you use to describe Montag's relationship with his wife? Support your choice with two pieces of textual evidence.

Part Two: Big Ideas

1. Do you think Montag's question to his wife about happy endings had a deeper meaning? Explain.
2. How does Clarisse describe school? Are there any similarities between the school she describes and school today? Explain your answer.
3. Consider the following quote, "People don't talk about anything" Is that true today? Explain.
4. Bradbury describes using the phrase "small sounds" instead of "crying" or "sobbing". Why do you think the author did this?
5. Why is Montag a fireman? What does he say about choices? Do you think this is true?
6. Reread Captain Beatty's monologue. Discuss his view that school cultivates anti-intellectual sentiment. Do you think it accurately depicts our school? Explain.
7. Explain why books are burned in Montag's society. What else has been eliminated in this society? What is the result?
8. What is the meaning of the "egg" quote on p. 68
9. What type of narrator is used in the novel? What is the effect of using this type of narrator? Do you think the novel would be more or less effective using 1st person? Explain your answer.
10. What do you think is an emerging symbol in the novel? What is its greater meaning?