

Name: _____ Start Date: _____ Turn in Date: _____

Study Guide: Fahrenheit 451

As you read each section of the novel, answer the following questions. These questions should act as a study guide and are intended to supplement careful reading of the novel.

Background Information

1. What type of genre is this novel? _____

2. When was this novel first published? _____

3. Who is the author? _____

4. What point of view is this novel written in? _____

5. What is "utopian"?

6. What is "dystopian"?

7. List characteristics of a dystopian society.

8. What is “social criticism”?

9. What is a “hearth” and how is it used in the novel?

10. What is a “salamander” and how is it used in the novel?

11. What is a “phoenix” and how is it used in the novel?

12. What is "Fahrenheit 451" (besides the title of the novel)?

13. Who is Guy Montag patterned after in history?

Part I: The Hearth and the Salamander (pages 3-68)

1. What do the "firemen" do for a living?

2. In the opening scene, why are the books compared to birds?

3. According to pages 3-4, what does Montag think of his job?

4. Who does Montag meet on the way home?

5. During his conversation, Montag says that "You never wash it off completely" referring to the kerosene. What could this mean symbolically?

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6. In a few words, how does she describe herself to Montag?

—

7. Why do you think that Bradbury would introduce Clarisse before Montag's wife?

—

8. What is Montag's wife's name? _____. In what physical condition does he find her one night when he arrives home?

—

9. Describe the help that she receives. What are the "moonstones" and the "black cobra"?

—

10. Is there anything unusual about the way the two men go about helping Mildred? How is it unusual? What does this say about society?

—

11. How is life in Montag's house very different from that of Clarisse's house?

—

12. How does Mildred react after she wakes up from her previous night's experience?

13. Why is the living room Mildred's favorite Place? What does she do all day?

14. Describe the setup of Montag's TV room.

15. What is Clarisse doing when Montag sees her on page 21?

16. How is Clarisse different than Mildred?

17. What test does Clarisse do to see if he's in love? Is he?

18. What does Clarisse say to Montag that causes him to feel "his body divide itself into hotness and a coldness, a softness and a hardness..."? What is his response to her?

19. What is the mechanical hound and what is its purpose?

20. What is the hound's reaction to Montag?

21. Describe the game the men who work with Montag play with the mechanical hound. Does Montag partake in this game?

22. How old is Clarisse? _____ How old does Montag say she acts?

23. Why does society consider Clarisse “anti-social” (page 29)?

24. Montag’s life is drastically changed by his friendship with Clarisse. Explain how the reader sees this happen.

25. Montag is told about a fireman in Seattle. What did he do? Why do you think he did that?

26. How does the history of firemen given by Beatty in this book differ from the truth as we know it?

27. At the next fire, what normally happens but didn't this night that is causing Montag to feel unease? (pg. 36-37)

28. Describe the simile that is used to describe magazines and what it is being compared to (pg. 37).

29. Describe the simile that is used to describe book and what it is being compared to (pg. 38). _____

30. What does Beatty tell the woman what is wrong with the books?

31. What allusion does Beatty make when telling her what is wrong with the books? Explain the allusion to the books.

32. What does the “book woman” do before the firemen can? Why do you think she does this?

33. What does Montag take from the house?

34. What were the “book woman’s” last words? Where does Beatty reveal they came from?

35. On pg. 40, Beatty reveals something very important about himself & his knowledge. What is revealed?

36. What technology does Mildred use to go to sleep?

37. Who is Mildred's "family"?

38. What has happened to Clarisse? How did it happen?

39. What is unusual about the way Mildred told Montag about Clarisse?

40. Read pages 55-62 very carefully. They contain great truths about our world. List three things Beatty talks about in his speech to Montag that are true about our world.

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41. What does Montag do with his wife at the end of part one? How do they differ in their reactions to their activity?

42. What is the title of part one? What do you think the title means?

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Part II: "The Sieve and the Sand" (Pages 71-110)

1. In the beginning of this section, Montag remembers Clarisse. Explain his comments about her. _____

2. What does Mildred say about why the television is better than books? What does she mean? Do you agree with her? Why or why not? What is the essential difference between books and television? _____

3. Why is Mildred worried about being caught with the books? What does this tell you of her character? _____

4. What is making the sound that Montag hears at the front door? _____
5. When was the last liberal arts college shut down?

6. Who did Montag meet at the park? _____
7. What was the old man doing at the park? _____
8. What did Professor Faber think about Montag's call? _____
9. Why did Faber's fear dissipate when Montag was standing outside his door? _____

10. What did Montag want from Faber? _____
11. What does the old man give Montag at the end of their conversation? Why is it significant? _____

12. What is "Denham's Dentifrice"? Why is Montag saying "consider the lilies of the field"? _____

13. What incident from his childhood does Montag remember that ties in with the title of this section of the novel?
What now is the significance of the title? _____

14. What book does Montag take to Faber's apartment? _____
15. What is the significance of this book thematically? What significance does it have to Faber? _____

16. Does Montag want Faber to teach him the “meaning of life”? Explain. _____
- _____
17. Where does Faber tell Montag the meaning of life can be found? _____
- _____
18. What three things does Faber say books must possess to be helpful to our society? (see pages 84&85)
- _____
- _____
19. What plan does Montag come up with to begin undermining the burnings? Why doesn't Faber at first want to help Montag? _____
- _____
20. What does Montag do to convince Faber to help? _____
21. What was Faber's former profession? _____
22. Describe the object Faber has created in his workroom. What exactly is its function? _____
- _____
23. In what ways does Montag disrupt Millie's nice evening at home with her friends?
- _____
- _____
24. What are the presidential candidates' names? Explain their significance. _____
- _____
25. What reason does Mrs. Bowles give for her Cesarean Section? What does she mean by the following: It's like washing clothes: stuff laundry in and slam the lid" (see pg. 96)? _____
- _____
26. What is the volcano's mouth? _____
27. What was Faber's opinion of Montag's poetry reading? _____
28. Which lady was affected by the original intent of the poetry? _____
29. Did Faber console Montag for foolishly reading poetry to the poor, silly women? Why or why not? _____
- _____

30. In the dream Beatty recounts to Montag, what are the two men doing to each other (see pgs. 106-107)?

31. What does Montag keep trying to hide from Beatty? How is this action symbolic? _____

32. What disrupts their game of poker? To where are the firemen called? _____

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Part III: Burning Bright (pages 111-166)

1. How has Beatty given Montag hints that he is under suspicion? _____

2. Who must have brought the books back from the garden? _____
3. Who TURNED IN AN ALARM AGAINST Montag? (3 people) _____

4. What happened to Montag's green bullet? _____
5. What does Beatty tell Montag will happen to him after they burn down his house? _____

6. Why did Montag do Beatty? Why? _____
7. What does the hound do to Montag? What does Montag do to the hound? _____

8. What is Montag's plan to escape? _____
9. How does Montag keep track of the pursuit? _____
10. How does Montag learn that war has been declared? _____
11. How many scents can the mechanical hound remember? _____
12. How much money did Montag give Faber? _____
13. Why did Montag want Faber to turn on the air conditioning and sprinklers? _____

14. Interpret "Twenty million Montag's running, soon, if the cameras caught him." _____
15. Why does Montag visit Mr. Black? _____
16. What should Montag do after he finds the river, according to Faber? _____
17. What two methods will the authorities use to track down Montag's escape route? _____

18. How does Faber escape capture? _____
19. Why did the search for Montag veer inland? _____
20. Who died in Montag's place? _____

21. What will happen in the city at the end of a count of ten? _____
22. What does Montag do at the edge of the river? How is this thematically symbolic? _____

23. What path does Montag find on the other side of the river? _____
24. What does he see that guides him in the dark? What significant difference does Montag see in this use of fire?

25. What is the function of the drink the men give Montag? _____
26. What did Granger mean by "Welcome back from the dead"? _____

27. What do they describe themselves as being to Montag?

28. When Granger and other like minded people are stopped by authorities, why isn't any incriminating evidence found?

29. What event do they watch on TV? _____
30. To where do the men go after this event? _____
31. From what book is Montag quoting at the end of the novel? How is this thematically significant?

32. Do you have a sense that there are other "book chapters" in other towns? What proof do you have?

33. What does Granger mean by his quote "You're not important. You're not anything"? _____

34. Explain the last implications of the events in the last 4-5 pages. _____

35. What is the significance of the title of this section of the novel? _____
