

Name _____

Period _____

Study Guide Questions for *Fahrenheit 451*

As you read each section of the novel, answer briefly the following questions. These questions should act as a reading guide and are not intended to replace careful examination of the novel's themes and development.

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

1. What do the "firemen" do for a living? Why is this ironic?
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?
6. Why do you think that Bradbury would introduce Clarisse before Montag's wife, Mildred?
7. Why does Mildred need help when Montag gets home?
8. Describe the help that she receives.

9. Is there anything unusual about the way the two men go about helping Mildred? How is it unusual?
10. How is life in Montag's house very different from that of Clarisse's house?
11. How does Mildred react after she wakes up from her previous night's experience?
12. What does Mildred do all day?
13. Describe the setup of Montag's TV room.
14. What is Clarisse doing when Montag sees her on page 21?
15. How is Clarisse different than Mildred?
16. What is the mechanical hound and what is its purpose?
17. What is the hound's reaction to Montag?
18. Why does society consider Clarisse "anti-social?" (p. 29)
19. At the next fire, what does Montag take?

20. On page 40, Beatty reveals something very important about himself and his knowledge. What is it?

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

22. Who is Mildred's "family?"

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

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

25. 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.

a.

b.

c.

26. What human institutions are being criticized in the novel?

27. What is Fahrenheit 451?

Additional Notes:

Vocabulary Focus

The world of the future is filled with hidden menace. Bradbury uses these words to capture the moral decay.

venomous: poisonous

imperceptible: very slight or gradual; barely noticeable

mausoleum: a stately tomb or a burial place

pulverize: to reduce to dust or powder; demolish completely

melancholy: a depressed or gloomy state of mind

The sentences below are based on descriptions in Part One, pages 3-35. Choose the best Vocabulary Focus word to complete each sentence. Look for context clues to help you.

NO DICTIONARIES ALLOWED!!!

1. The sound of the jet bombers overhead seems to _____ the stars and grind them into dust.
2. A(n) _____ feeling grips Montag that another person may be somewhere nearby.
3. Mildred's demand to have a fourth wall television installed leaves Montag in a(n) _____ state of mind.
4. Mildred's room seems as cold and dark and airless as a(n) _____.
5. Montag's flame thrower shoots its _____ flames like a great snake killing its prey.

Additional Vocabulary:

Bradbury uses these words to describe the changes that have transformed society. (pp. 35-68)

odious: hateful; offensive

cataract: a furious rush or downpour of water; a torrent

feign: to put on the appearance of; to pretend

pratfall: a comic or humiliating fall onto the rear end

serenity: peacefulness

gibber: to talk in a confused, meaningless way

1. According to Beatty, no one wants to follow serious pursuits anymore; life has become one big _____.
2. The people on the wall television seem to _____ without end, saying nothing of value.
3. In a _____ of emotion, Montag wonders how a woman could immolate herself for books.
4. Montag is afraid to _____ illness to avoid Beatty.
5. People seek _____, not challenge.
6. The people ban books that are _____ in any way so no one will feel inferior.

Additional Vocabulary:

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Part II: The Sieve and the Sand (pp. 71-110)

1. When was the last liberal arts college shut down?
2. T F Professor Faber thought Montag's call was some sort of trap.
3. Why did Faber's fear dissipate when Montag was standing outside his door?
4. What did Montag want from Faber?
5. T F Faber reminded Montag that people who are having fun are reluctant to become rebels.
6. How did Montag finally get Faber to consider really helping him?
7. T F The Queen Bee analogy underscored Faber's cowardice.
8. What two items were exchanged before Montag left the professor's house?
9. What is the volcano's mouth?
10. T F Montag pulled the plug on the living room fish bowl.
11. T F Faber objected to Montag's poetry reading.
12. Which lady was affected by the original intent of the poetry?
13. T F In the late hours of the night, Faber refused to console Montag for foolishly reading poetry to the poor, silly women.

14. Listening to Captain Beatty play his harp and needle, Montag had what effect upon Beatty?

15. What interrupted the poker game?

16. Captain Beatty drove the Salamander to whose house?

Additional Notes:

Vocabulary Focus

Faber helps Montag understand what modern society lacks. Here are some words Bradbury uses to make his points. (pp. 71-110)

subside: to lessen; to decrease

intuitively: known by intuition or insight

profusion: abundance; great quantity or amount

insidious: intended to entrap or mislead

verbiage: overabundance of words

oracle: someone who can look into the future

1. Montag is _____ right about the value of books, even if he cannot express his thought in words.
2. Montag devised a(n) _____ plan to hide books in firehouses.
3. Beatty warned Montag not to see himself as a(n) _____ with a message of truth for the world.
4. By oversimplifying everything, people do not see the _____ and complexity of life.
5. Do not mistake mere _____ for meaningful statements of truth.
6. Montag's rage would not _____ until he had reduced Mildred's guests to tears.

Additional Vocabulary:

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Part III: Burning Bright (pp. 111-166)

1. How has Beatty given Montag hints that he is under suspicion?
2. Who must have brought books back from the garden?
3. Who turned in an alarm against Montag?
4. What happened to Montag's green bullet?
5. Why did Montag burn Beatty's body?
6. What is Montag's plan to escape?
7. How much money did Montag give Faber?
8. How many scents can the mechanical hound remember?
9. Why did Montag want Faber to turn on the air conditioning and sprinklers?
10. Interpret "Twenty million Montag's running, soon, if the cameras caught him."
11. Why did the search for Montag veer inland?

12. Who died in Montag's place?
13. What did Granger mean by "Welcome back from the dead?"
14. When Granger and other like minded people are stopped by authorities, why isn't any incriminating evidence found?
15. Do you have a sense that there are other "book chapters" in other towns? What proof do you have?
16. What does Granger mean by his quote "You're not important. You're not anything?"
17. Explain the last implications of the events in the last 4-5 pages.

Additional Notes:

Vocabulary Focus

Images of light and dark fill this section of the novel. Bradbury uses these words to describe the contrasts. (pp. 113-145)

mannikin: a dummy used to display clothes

quarry: something hunted

juggernaut: a large, destructive object that crushes everything in its path

ricochet: to bounce off something from the force of impact

luminosity: brightness

1. Montag becomes the _____; the Mechanical Hound is the hunter.
2. The stars at night look to Montag like a powerful _____ about to crush him.
3. Beams from police searchlights would _____ off the sides of nearby buildings.
4. The Mechanical Hound glows with a pale green _____ as it begins to search for Montag.
5. In death, Beatty looks like a _____, a charred doll that is no longer human.

Will humanity be able to save itself? Bradbury uses these words to give his response. (pp. 145-165).

incriminate: to name others as involved in a crime

fragmentary: consisting of fragments; broken; incomplete

scythe: a tool with a large, curving blade used to cut (hay, wheat) by hand

pedant: a person who makes an excessive display of learning

metropolis: a large, busy city

1. The _____ in which Montag once lived is totally destroyed in a nuclear attack.
2. Because Granger's people memorize books, they carry nothing to _____ them.
3. A(n) _____ is someone who feels superior to others because of the knowledge that he or she carries.

4. Montag can recall only _____ portions of some books.
5. The aircraft levels the city just as a _____ could level a field of wheat.

Additional Vocabulary: