Name:

Block:

Mr. Haflin

*Fahrenheit 451* SLD Prompts

Use the following questions to prepare for the end-of-the-unit student-led discussion on *Fahrenheit 451*. Please reference **both** the novel and current events in order to prove your point / facilitate an engaging discussion.

1. Although *Fahrenheit 451* is a story about both censorship and collective consciousness (AKA we all “should” believe the same things), it’s also about what it means to be an effective citizen. **What does Bradbury assert as necessary for responsible citizenship?**
2. Montag comes to learn that "firemen are rarely necessary" because "the public itself stopped reading of its own accord." Bradbury wrote his novel in 1953: **To what extent has his prophecy come true today?**
3. "Don't look to be saved in any one thing, person, machine, or library," Faber tells Montag. "Do your own bit of saving, and if you drown, at least die knowing you were headed for shore." **How good is this advice?**
4. Beatty justifies the new role of firemen by claiming to be "custodians of [society's] peace of mind, the focus of [the] understandable and rightful dread of being inferior." **What does he mean by this, and is there any sense that he might be right?**
5. Are there any circumstances where censorship might play a beneficial role in society? Are there some books that should be banned?
6. If you had to memorize a single book or risk its extinction, which book would you choose?
7. Do you believe, as Montag did, that Beatty wanted to die? If so, why do you think so? If not, why not?
8. Is it intelligence that saves us from surrender to the majority? Or another quality, or mix of qualities?
9. What other people, events, political/cultural conditions do you see in our world that parallel those of the storyworld?
10. As we stand at the check-out counter of most any store, we see the covers of tabloids. Let’s say we’re drawn to the photos and text. Some people call these magazines “guilty pleasure.” **Why is popular culture compelling? Is popular culture pernicious and worth fighting, or is it innocent? What is the best-known family in America? What do you make of this? Does such a thing matter?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| 2) |
| 3) |
| 4) |
| 5) |
| 6) |
| 7) |
| 8) |
| 9) |
| 10) |