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Humanities

***Fahrenheit 451:* Guided Reading Questions**

**Part I: The Hearth and the Salamander**

**Please answer all questions with page citations**

**a. Pgs. 1-9 *(From the beginning of the novel to when Montag comes home to Mildred.*)**

1. What do the “firemen” do for a living? Why is this ironic?
2. According to pages 1-2, what does Montag think of his job?
3. Who does Montag meet on the way home?
4. What color is used to describe the person he meets? Why is this significant?
5. What is the significance of her name?
6. What symbol does Montag wear on his arm? What is the significance of this symbol?
7. What symbol does Montag wear on his chest? What is the significance of this symbol?
8. Why does Montag think the girl he meets is “odd”?
9. What does question does she ask Montag? How does he feel about this question?
10. What does Montag remember when he looks at the ventilator grill?
11. What does Montag compare her face to? Why?

**b. Pgs. 10-22 *(From when Montag comes home to Mildred to the description of the mechanical hound.*)**

12. Why does Mildred need help when Montag arrives home?

13. What does the first machine do? What does the second machine do?

14. Describe the men who operate the machines. What might Bradbury be trying to suggest through their behavior?

15. How does Mildred react after she wakes up from the previous night’s experience?

16. What does Mildred do all day?

17. Describe the setup of Montag’s television room.

18. What is Clarisse doing when Montag walks out into the rain?

19. How is Clarisse different from Mildred?

20. What is the significance of Montag opening his mouth to taste the rain after Clarisse leaves?

**c. Pgs. 22-32 *(From the description of the mechanical hound to the fire at the woman’s house.)***

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

22. How does the mechanical hound react to Montag? What is Montag suspicious of?

23. What does Montag continue to worry about?

24. How does Clarisse define being “social”?

25. Why is she considered anti-social?

26. How is Montag’s routine disturbed?

27. What does the radio in the firehouse report about? Why is this significant?

28. How is the reader able to see Montag’s character develop when he asks Beatty about the history of firefighting?

**d. Pgs. 33-50 *(From the fire at the woman’s house to Beatty’s speech on the history of book burning.)***

29. Who called in the alarm on the woman with the books?

30. Why is Montag bothered about the woman being home?

31. How does the woman feel about her books?

32. What does Montag take from this fire?

33. Why does the woman light her house, her books, and herself on fire?

34. In this section of the novel, what is fire symbolic of?

35. What does Beatty reveal about himself and his knowledge after the fire?

36. What is Montag’s hand “infected” with?

37. Why does it become import to Montag to remember how he met Mildred?

38. Why does Montag start crying?

39. What does Mildred reveal about Clarisse?

40. What is the significance of Mildred referring to television characters as “relatives”?

41. Why is Montag considering quitting his job?

**e. Pgs. 50-end of section (*Beatty’s speech on the history of book burning.)***

42. Why do you think Montag is “sick”?

43. Consider Beatty’s behavior when he comes to Montag’s house. Does he know why Montag is “sick”? Why?

44. On page 51, why does Beatty consider books to be “paste pudding”?

45. Evaluate the following direct quotation: “Whirl man’s mind around about so fast under the pumping hands of publishers, exploiters, broadcasters that the centrifuge flings off all unnecessary, time-wasting thought!”(52). What is Beatty’s argument against books in this passage? What might Bradbury be criticizing?

46. “Why learn anything save pressing buttons, pulling switches, fitting nuts and bolts?”(53). What is Beatty’s argument against books in this passage? What might Bradbury be criticizing?

47. What does Mildred start to notice under Montag’s pillow? Does Beatty react to it?

48. “The bigger your market, Montag, the less you handle controversy, remember that! All the minor minor minorities with their navels kept clean….Magazines became a nice blend of vanilla tapioca. Books, so the damned snobbish critics said, were dishwater”(55). What is Beatty’s argument against books in this passage? What might Bradbury be criticizing?

49. Beatty says, “You must understand that our civilization is so vast that we can’t have our minorities upset and stirred”(56). What does he equate being “upset” with?

50. “What do we want in this country, above all? People want to be happy, isn’t that right….Well aren’t they?”(56). What does Beatty equate being “happy” with?

51. “I’ve had to read a few in my time, to know what I was about, and the books say *nothing*! Nothing you can teach or believe”(59). What is Beatty’s argument against books in this passage?

52. What is the procedure for firemen who have gotten the “itch” (taken books)?

53. What does Montag pull out from the ventilator grill? How does Millie react?