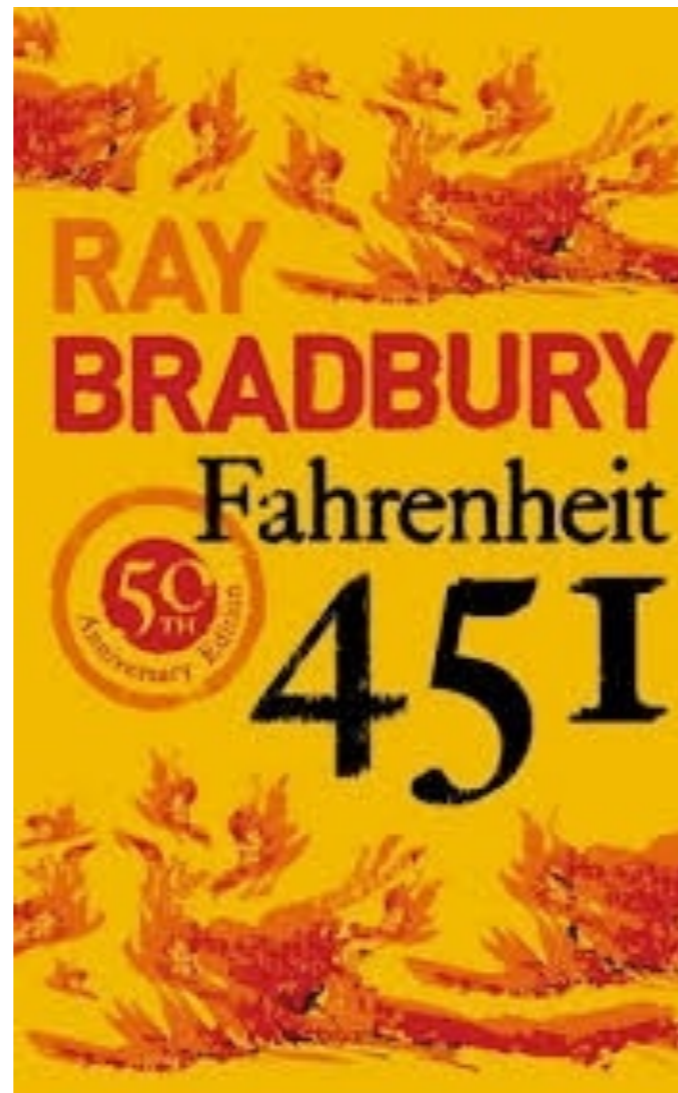


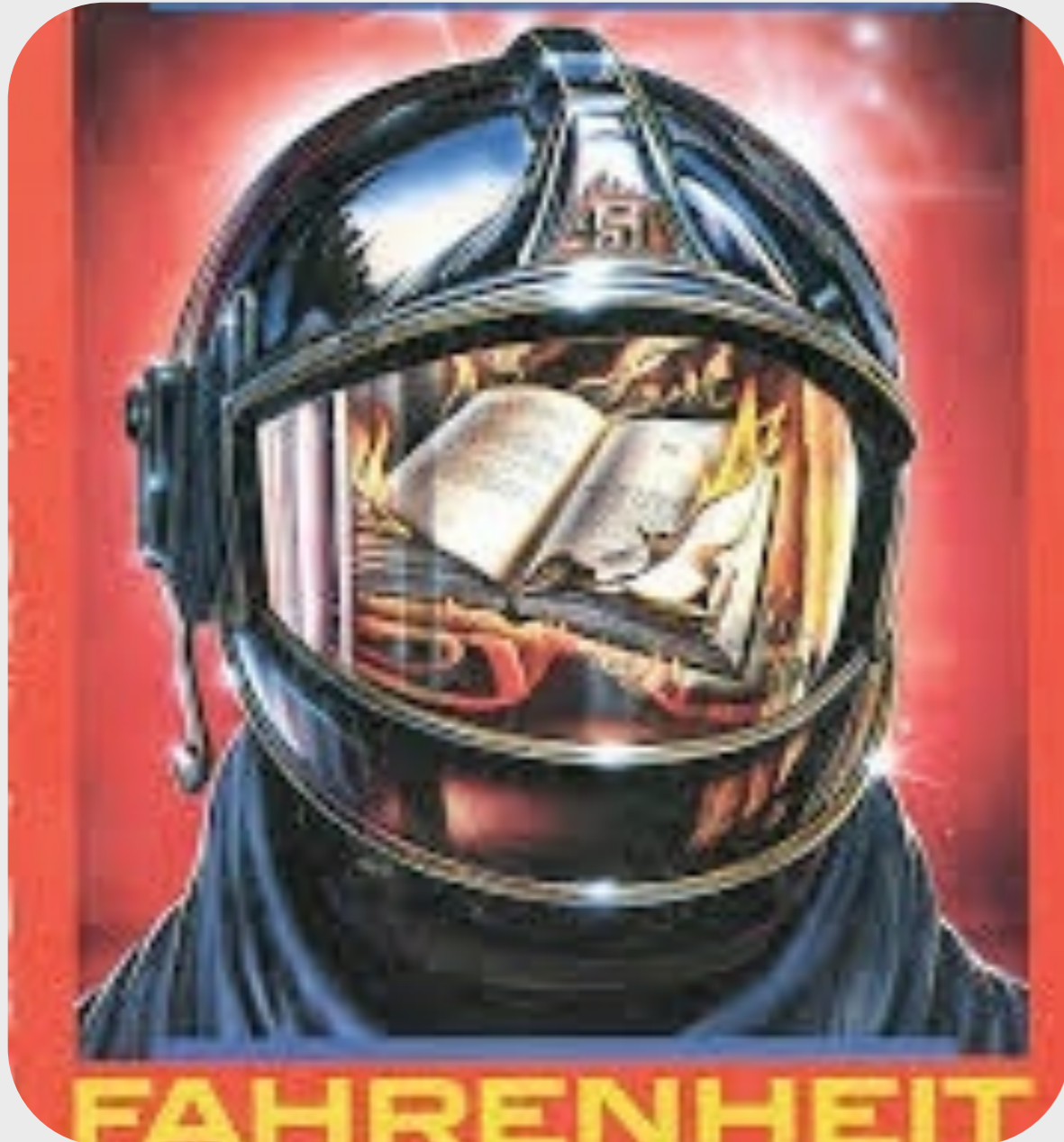
Fahrenheit 451

Ray Bradbury

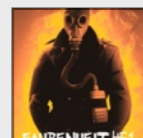


PREFACE

COVERS - POSTERS



Discuss the covers and speculate



A) SETTING

- Where? When? Historical background?

B) CHARACTERS

- List all the characters and be able to write a character profile for each of them

C) ABOUT THE AUTHOR

1920

Ray Bradbury is born in Waukegan, Illinois, USA

1953

Fahrenheit 451 is published

2012

He dies on June 5 at the age of 91.

THE HEARTH AND THE SALAMANDER

1. What is Montag's job? Why is this strange?
2. How does Montag feel about his job at the beginning of the novel?
3. Who is Clarisse McClellan and what do you get to know about her?
4. What is strange about the way Clarisse speaks to Montag?
5. Describe Montag's home and his relationship with Mildred.
6. What happens to Mildred and how is this problem solved?
7. How does the Mechanical Hound work and what does it do?
8. Do you notice anything strange about the hound's behaviour when it's around Montag? What does this mean?
9. What do you get to know about the world outside the society of F451?

ACTIVITY 1:

What kind of society is illustrated in chapter 1?
Read the passage below and draw parallels to our society.

Media Control (Noam Chomsky)

The people in the public relations industry aren't there for the fun of it. They're doing work. They're trying to instill the right values. In fact, they have a conception of what democracy ought to be: It ought to be a system in which the specialized class is trained to work in the service of the masters, the people who own the society. The rest of the population ought to be deprived of any form of organization, because organization just causes trouble. They ought to be sitting alone in front of the TV and having drilled into their heads the message, which says, the only value in life is to have more commodities or live like that rich middle-class family you're watching and to have nice values like harmony and Americanism. That's all there is in life. You may think in your own head that there's got to be something more in life than this, but since you're watching the tube alone you assume, I must be crazy, because that's all that's going on over there.

The bewildered herd is a problem we've got to prevent their roar and trampling. We've got to distract them. They should be watching the Superbowl or sitcoms or violent movies. Every once in a while, you call on them to chant meaningless slogans like "Support our troops." You've got to keep them pretty scared, because unless they're properly scared and frightened of all kinds of devils that are going to destroy them from outside or inside or somewhere, they may start to think, which is very dangerous, because they're not competent to think.

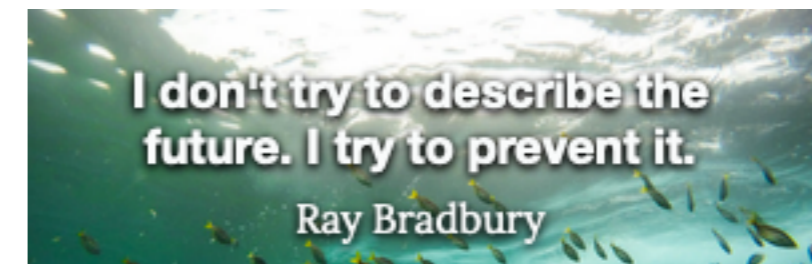
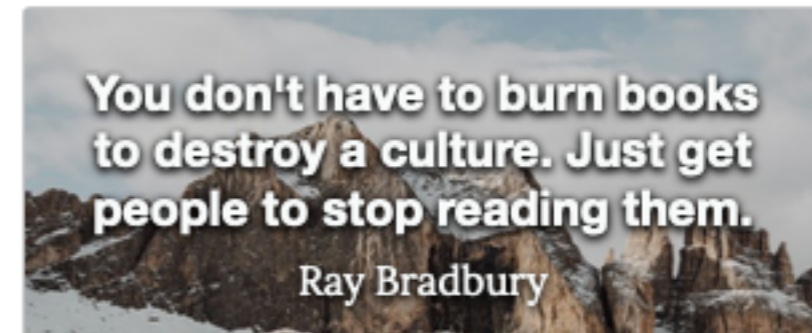
THE SIEVE AND THE SAND

1. How does Montag react when the hound comes to his house?
2. Who does Montag get in touch with and why?
3. How does the relationship between Montag and Mildred develop?
4. Analyse the episode with Montag on the subway. Why is it relevant?
5. Explain Faber's philosophy of life.
6. Why does Montag believe that books can make him happy?
7. How will Faber help Montag?
8. Discuss the scene with Montag and Mildred's friends.
9. How does Beatty behave toward Montag at the firehouse?
10. Where do the firemen go at the end of the chapter? Why?

ACTIVITY:

Read the quotes by Ray Bradbury.

Explain and discuss them.



The major networks, the cable networks, they're being prosecutors. They're judges and jurors and executioners. Well, c'mon, that's ridiculous. But they're doing it.

Ray Bradbury

BURNING BRIGHT

1. "Old Montag wanted to fly near the sun and now that he burnt his damn wings, he wonders why." What is the allusion in Beatty's statement?
2. "Oh, no! You weren't fooled by that little idiot's routine, now, were you?" Who does Beatty refer to here and what is he trying to say?
3. What did Mildred do? Why?
4. "Well - so there's more here than I thought. I saw you tilt your head, listening. First I thought you had a Seashell. But when you turned clever later, I wondered. We'll trace this and drop it on your friend." What and who is Beatty talking about here?
5. What does Montag do to Beatty and the Hound?
6. "Beatty wanted to die". Explain why Montag comes to this conclusion.
7. What do we get to know about the world outside?
8. What is Faber's plan for Montag?
9. List the methods that the government uses to hunt Montag and describe how he manages to escape.
10. Analyse the community that Montag meets when he leaves the river. (Who are they? What do they do? How do they protect themselves? What do they symbolise?)
11. Explain the scene about Montag's manhunt that is shown on TV.
12. Why does Granger tell Montag the story of his grandfather?
13. What is happening to the city?
14. Do you see any parallels between the symbol of the phoenix and Montag's struggle?

BEYOND THE TEXT

Essay topics / discussion:

1. "In Fahrenheit 451, technology has the power to control and liberate the people." Discuss.
2. Contrast Mildred Montag and Clarisse McClellan.
3. Analyse the character of Beatty or Faber.
(their struggle - their development)
4. Identify the different stages of Montag's metamorphosis.
What causes him to change? When? Why?
5. Do you see any similarities between their society and ours?
6. How is it possible to keep the people from rebelling against the system in place?
7. Why are books a threat to the values of society?
8. Why is it fair to say that Fahrenheit 451 is dystopian fiction?
9. Compare and contrast the two societies portrayed in the novel. (F451 vs book people)
10. Analyse the character of Captain Beatty.
11. Why is this novel still so popular today?

ARE BOOKS DANGEROUS?

CASE STUDY: READING FEVER

FACT:

"Reading addiction {Lesesucht} is introduced by Joachim Heinrich Campe as a new word into the Wörterbuch der Deutschen Sprache in 1809, where it is defined as an "unbounded, unregulated {...} craving to pleasure oneself through reading books".

Johann Gottfried Hoche in 1794

Reading addiction is a foolish and harmful abuse of an otherwise good thing, a truly great evil, which is as infectious as yellow fever in Philadelphia {...}

Johann Georg Heinzmann in 1795

Reading causes "susceptibility to colds, headaches, weakening of eyes, heat rashes, gout, arthritis, hemorrhoids, asthma, pulmonary disease, indigestion, blocking of the bowels, nervous disorder, migraines, epilepsy, hypochondria and melancholy."

Anon, "Reading as a Means of Culture", Sharpe's London Magazine (1867)

"Moreover, reading should be avoided when it interferes with necessary repose, as it does when pursued at a late hour of night. It then has a pernicious influence upon the health first, then upon the spirits, then upon the mind itself. The knowledge gained in this way is, for the most part, but of little value, for it is gained at the expense of mental vigour, and sometimes even of life itself. To read when in bed, is to inflict a great evil on yourself without an equivalent. It is to injure your eyes, your brain, your nervous system, your intellect."

Questions:

1. Why is reading compared to drugs / diseases / food in these articles? Try and find an explanation for these claims.
2. List 4 consequences that you find the extremely amusing.
3. List 2 consequences that you have understanding for.
4. Why do you think are these fears no longer a problem in our society?
5. Do these fears remind you of debates that are currently going on?

FILL OUT THE TABLE BELOW AND COMPARE THE FINDINGS WITH YOUR CLASS

WHO? WHAT?	ROLE IN F451	WHY? HOW?	SYMBOLISM / TODAY
Firemen			
Mechanical hound			
Technology			
Medicine / science			
Sports / entertainment			
Books			
Happiness			
Unhappiness			
Fear			
Education / art / history			
Critical thinking			