

2018 Summer Reading Assignment 9th grade Literature College Prep

Why do we have a summer reading assignment?

The key to being a great reader is to read extensively, and the key to being a great writer is exposure to great writing. Reading is not something we want you to do just during the school year; life-long learners are also life-long readers. Research clearly shows that students who do not read over the summer can lose up to three months of reading progress, and that loss has a cumulative, long-term effect. Further, summer provides time to enjoy uninterrupted reading and allows students to digest ideas prior to discussing and interpreting ideas in class.

The Novel

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Why has my teacher chosen this novel?

Fahrenheit 451 is a dystopian novel by American writer Ray Bradbury, published in 1953. It is regarded as one of his best works. The novel presents a future American society where books are outlawed and "firemen" burn any that are found. The book's tagline explains the title: "Fahrenheit 451 – the temperature at which book paper catches fire, and burns..." The lead character is a fireman named Montag who becomes disillusioned with the role of censoring works and destroying knowledge, eventually quitting his job and joining a resistance group who memorize and share the world's greatest literary and cultural works.

The Assignment

Step 1: Read and enjoy the novel!

Step 2: Annotate the Text (this will take time, do not start the night before all is due)

How will I be graded on this assignment?

-Your novel will be checked for annotation, the other assessment will be your contributions to discussion and a summative test. Annotating the text will help you reference characters, themes, symbols and motifs more effectively and efficiently.

When is the assignment due?

The novel and annotations should be completed by Monday, August 13th, 2018. There will be additional class assignments that connect to *Fahrenheit 451* and your annotations.

Annotating Text

As you are reading, you should also annotate the text in your book. Annotating the text is a powerful strategy to comprehend literature; it will not only help you actively read, it will also aid in your discussion participation and literary analysis skills.

ANNOTATION GUIDE

Inside front cover: Keep a character list with a small space for character summary and page references for key scenes, moments of character development, etc.

Inside back cover: Make note of your thoughts about themes, allusions, imagery, motifs, key scenes, etc. List page numbers/references as you read.

Chapter Summaries: Make sure to summarize the chapters either at the beginning of each chapter or the end. This should be a 3 or 4 sentence summary of the plot in that chapter.

Underline: As you read, underline or highlight anything that strikes you as memorable or significant. When you mark something in the text, **you should also write something in the margin to remind yourself why you marked it in the first place.**

What makes a moment significant?

That's up to you as a reader/interpreter/thinker. If you are stuck, consider moments that:

- reveal a truth about a character, the theme of the novel, or life in general.
- indicate a major change in the character, tone, plot, etc.
- demonstrate the writer's craft (consider major literary devices).
- strike a chord in you or grab your attention, for whatever reason.

Circle Vocabulary: Circle words 4 words per chapter that are unfamiliar to you or that strike you as unusual. Look up words that seem essential to an understanding of the meaning or the sense of the author.

Questions: Actively engage the text by writing at least 1-2 open-ended questions for each chapter of the book (which means you should have 14-18 questions total). Also, any question that pops up in your head as you read, write it in the margins.

Final Thoughts on Annotation:

THINK CRITICALLY ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE READING. While the amount of annotation may vary widely from page to page, any **thoughtful notes** you add to a text will help you to read more critically—so, any **thoughtful attempt** to annotate your book will help you to understand the reading.

RECAP:

- You should have annotations inside the front/back cover and for each chapter of the novel, although the amount of annotation will vary.
- You should come to class on Monday, August 10th with 12-18 open-ended discussion questions.