

## **2023 Summer Reading Assignment 9<sup>th</sup> 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 annotations; 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 **the first day of school**. 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, but 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 must 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 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. Write a synonym in the margin by the circled word.

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

## **SOCRATIC SEMINAR QUESTIONS**

Please answer the following questions using textual evidence to support your answers. You should cite the text in MLA format under each answer. You may type or hand write your responses. Your responses will be taken up for a quiz grade the first week of school.

1. Why is the novel called Fahrenheit 451?
2. How is this novel a dystopia?
3. Why is Montag upset with Mildred and her friends?
4. Why is it ironic that Montag reads "Dover Beach" by Matthew Arnold?
5. How do Beatty and Montag relate and how do they differ?
6. What is the significance of the woman burning with the books?
7. What if the true climax of the book?
8. Which character do you relate to the most and why?
9. Who reported Montag's book stash to the police and why is that a pivotal point in the novel?
10. What are mechanical hounds and why are they important?
11. Why is Montag important to the homeless men he meets while on the run?
12. How does Clarise change Montag?
13. In what way might Captain Beatty be considered a contradictory character?
14. In the novel, who does Montag find himself in conflict with?
15. Why does the government think of Clarise as a threat?
16. Describe the society Montag lives in at the beginning, middle, and end of the novel.
17. Define Individualism in the novel.
18. What was the title of the first version of F451 and why was it changed?
19. What is the significance of the salamander?
20. What are the similarities and differences between Clarisse and Mildred?
21. What aspects of Bradbury's life and childhood impact the novel and why?