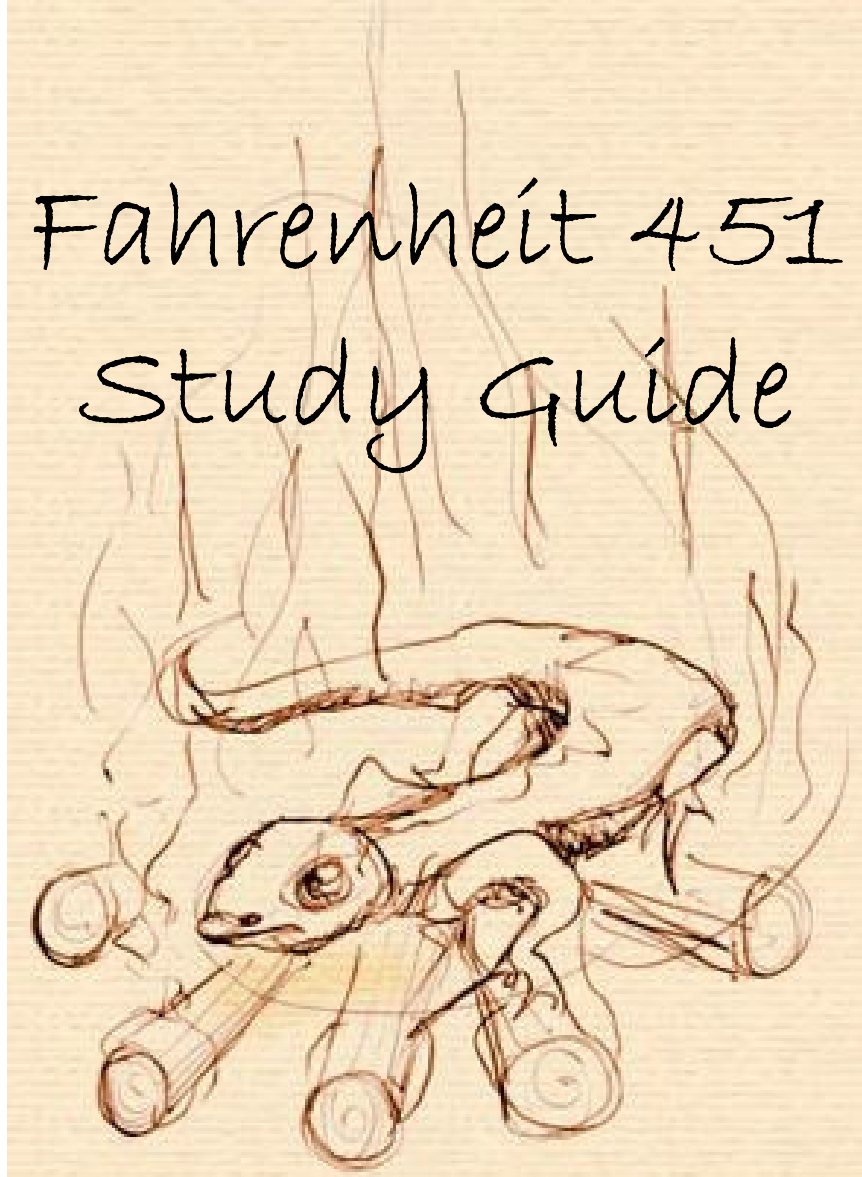


# Fahrenheit 451 Study Guide



## **How to Read**

As you begin to get ready to read your first book here at Albertus Magnus, you must realize that importance of reading. Reading between classes or before school starts will ultimately lead you unsuccessful in your studies. The best place to do reading is somewhere quiet: your room, a library, or a living room; furthermore, this location should be free of noise. Listening to music, watching television, or text messaging while reading will keep you distracted. In the end, you may end up simply reading words, as opposed to reading for content - this will result in poor pop quiz, quiz and test grades.

English 9 Honors is a class that not only demands reading, but careful re-reading and constant questioning of the content. If something does not make sense a phrase, a word, an unfamiliar name, you should pause and ask yourself, “why is this important?” Everything in a book is important including the order of words, the sentence structure, the vocabulary, the plot, the structure, the title of chapters, and even the dedication. Reading requires hard work and it is your responsibility to not only read, but read carefully and find out the meaning of the content, even if it requires extra research.

### **Helpful tips for reading:**

1. Find a quiet place to read
2. Read slowly and carefully
3. Question the content within the literature
4. Look for literary devices
5. Take notes on interesting information or information that does not make sense

### **Study Guides:**

Study guides are meant to aid our reading; they will not give us every answer, nor are they a means to an end. They are a tool to help understand important plot points and guide us through difficult parts of the book. It is recommended to take notes on your study guide, as well as list the page number and give fine detail to the question.

If a question reads, “What were Montag and Clarisse talking about on page 22?” Do not simply write “Dandelions.” That does not help you when referencing the study guide. If you go on to explain the symbolism of dandelions, and the meaning behind the dandelions, as well as her actions with the dandelions, you will find yourself reading carefully and understanding the content. This will help you prepare for quizzes and tests.

Do not simply look for the answers to the study guide, that will - not only not do justice to the literature - but will make understanding class discussion that much more difficult. The study guide should be completed with the assigned reading. **I will not tell you when it is due**, as it is assumed you are completing your study guide as we are reading. Study guides will be periodically checked for homework and quiz grades.

### **About the author:**

**Ray Bradbury** is one of those rare individuals whose writing has changed the way people think. His more than five hundred published works - short stories, novels, plays, screenplays, television scripts, and verse - exemplify the American imagination at its most creative.

Once read, his words are never forgotten. His best-known and most beloved books, The Martian Chronicles, The Illustrated Man, Fahrenheit 451, and Something Wicked This Way Comes, are masterworks that readers carry with them over a lifetime.

His timeless, constant appeal to audiences young and old has proven him to be one of the truly classic authors of the 20th Century. In recognition of his stature in the world of literature, and the impact he has had on so many people, Bradbury was awarded the National Book Foundation's 2000 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, the National Medal of Arts in 2004, and the 2007 Pulitzer Prize Special Citation. He dies on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the age of 91 (raybradbury.com).

**The major influence:**

McCarthyism is the politically motivated practice of making accusations of disloyalty, subversion, or treason without proper regard for evidence. The term specifically describes activities associated with the period in the United States known as the Second Red Scare, lasting roughly from the late 1940s to the late 1950s and characterized by heightened fears of communist influence on American institutions and espionage by Soviet agents.

Originally coined to criticize the anti-communist pursuits of U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy, "McCarthyism" soon took on a broader meaning, describing the excesses of similar efforts. The term is also now used more generally to describe reckless, unsubstantiated accusations, as well as demagogic attacks on the character or patriotism of political adversaries.

During the post-World War II era of McCarthyism, many thousands of Americans were accused of being Communists or communist sympathizers and became the subject of aggressive investigations and questioning before government or private-industry panels, committees and

agencies. The primary targets of such suspicions were government employees, those in the entertainment industry, educators and union activists.

Suspicious were often given credence despite inconclusive or questionable evidence, and the level of threat posed by a person's real or supposed leftist associations or beliefs was often greatly exaggerated. Many people suffered loss of employment, destruction of their careers, and even imprisonment. Most of these punishments came about through trial verdicts later overturned, laws that would be declared unconstitutional, dismissals for reasons later declared illegal or actionable, or extra-legal procedures that would come into general disrepute.

**Important Literary Terms:**

Symbolism:

Simile:

Metaphor:

Dramatic Irony:

Personification:

Allusion:

Setting:

**Study Guide Questions:****Part 1 - Pages 3-40**

What is Fahrenheit 451?

Explain the quote by Juan Ramon Jimenez?

What is the significance of the title of Part One: "The Hearth and the Salamander"?

According to the text, how does it feel to burn items?

What colors appear in the first part of this book? What are their significances?

What literary term is “The flapping pigeon-winged books?”

What is Montag’s profession?

What is the name of his new neighbor? What color is her dress, and what does it do? What literary terms are found in their small conversation?

What does Clarisse say about herself?

How do people feel towards firemen?

Who does Montag burn? What are their significances?

Why was her uncle jailed?

What question does Clarisse ask Montag that throws him off guard?

What was peculiar about the way Montag and Clarisse met? How does it appear?

When Montag gets home, how does he describe his bedroom?

Who is Mildred and how does the author describe her?

What flies over the house, what does this signify?

Who are the men who come into Montag's house and what is "The Eye"? What occurs in this scene?

What does Montag want to listen to?



On the bottom of page 17 into the top of 18, what is occurring with the writing? What is the author trying to illustrate?

Why does Montag tell Mildred what happened to her? What do we find out Mildred may have been trying to do?

Why does Clarisse like the stormy weather?

What were Montag and Clarisse talking about on page 22?

Why does Clarisse call Montag peculiar?

What does Montag do on page 24? What does this reveal about his character?

Who or what is the mechanical hound?

Why does the Captain think Montag is strange for saying, “[the hound] doesn’t like me”?

What does the Captain say about Montag’s conscience?

How does Clarisse feel towards Montag?

What do old leaves smell like?

How does Clarisse describe herself?

How does Montag describe Clarisse?

How do children act towards each other?

What do people talk about?

What happens to Clarisse?

What do we find out about the appearance of firemen?

What are the five rules of the firemen?

Where do the firemen go? What happens in this scene?

Who is Master Ridley?

What is the significance of passing the house?

**Part 1 - Pages 41-68**

What does Mildred ask him upon coming home?

What is the most important thing in the world?

What is the parlor?

Who is Dante, Swift and Aurelius?

Why is Montag “sick”?

What does Beatty talk about to Montag?

What do people want to be?

On page 60 what is the significance of “Burn all, burn everything. Fire is bright and fire is clean.”

According to Beatty, what do books have?

Even though fun is everything, how does Beatty feel?

Why does Montag get the chair and go towards the air-conditioning system?

Where should Mildred and Montag begin?

**Part 2:**

What is the title of Part 2 and why is this appropriately named?

What is the setting of Part 2? What is different about this setting versus the setting of Part 1?

What is Montag listening to?

What was Clarisse's favorite subject?

What does Mildred do to the books?

How many wars have occurred since 1990?

Who is Faber? What is his significance?

What specific book do they begin to talk about? What might be the significance of this book?

How many copies of Shakespeare are left?

What other authors do they mention?

What is the memory that Guy sees. What literary term is this?

What color is Faber's walls?

Who is part of the family now?

What is the significance of Montag saying, "Nobody listens anymore"?

Faber calls Montag a hopeless romantic. Why?

What three things are missing?

1.

2.

3.

What is the good part of dying?

What is the “plan”

What is the significance of the salamander eating his tail.



What does Montag do to the Bible?

Why does Faber have the reaction he does to the Bible?

What does Montag examine in Faber's room?

What does the following sentence mean, "Montag was in the dark street again, looking at the world."

What does the bank have?

What is the significance of the book of Job?

How does the general population feel about children?

What do the people say about looks in society?

What happens between Montag and Mrs. Phelps?

What is the Sea of Faith?

Why does Clara react the way she does?

Why does Montag tell Mrs. Bowles to think about her children?

What kind of connection does Montag have with Faber?

What do Faber and Montag say about fun?

What does Beatty hope from Montag?

Who are the allusions they reference?

What did Dr. Johnson say?

What can be traitors?

Where do Beatty and Montag stop? What is the significance?

**Part 3:**

What might be the significance of the carnival being set up?

How does Beatty act towards Montag?

What does Beatty say about consequences?

What is the significance of the flame thrower?

Who is Montag compared to?

Who is Cassius, why is he referenced?

What happens to Beatty?

Why does Montag say Beatty wanted to die?

What literary terms do we see at the beginning of Part 3?

What does the Police Alert say?

Where does Montag run to? Why?

What are some locations Montag runs by?

Even though the streets are empty, why should you concern yourself with crossing the street?

Who almost kills Montag?

What are the helicopters compared to?

Who are the Black's?

### **Page 130**

What was Montag a fool about? Why does Faber say this?

What kind of questions does Faber ask Montag?

Why should Montag walk by the river, what can he find there?

How many scents can the mechanical hound sense?

Why does Montag take the whiskey?

Montag compares his movements to what game? Why?

What does Montag imagine?

**Page 140**

What is the significance of “He felt as if he had left a stage behind and many actors.”

What is burning?

Who does he remember?

Who does he realize walked the same path?

Who is Granger?

What happens when Montag is “caught.” Explain.



Who are the people Montag meets? What do they each represent?

What do they say about people listening?

What is said about the dark age?

**Page 155**

What does Montag cry about?

What did Montag give to the city?

According to Granger how should you live?

What does Montag say about the bombs?

What does Montag finally remember? What is the significance?

Explain the following sentence, “Montag watched the great dust settle and the great silence move down upon their world.”

What is the story of the Phoenix?

Why does Granger say, “You’re not important.”

Why does the end talk about graves?

What is the significance of the last quote?