

Fahrenheit 451 Discussion Questions
Created by Literature Classes Periods 3 and 4
Chapter 1: pages 1-29
Socratic Seminar on MONDAY

**Prepare for the discussion by highlighting and
annotating in your book and
use post-it notes to note significant passages for discussion.
Be prepared!**

**Discussion Leaders: Emily Correll, Ellie McGovern, Joe Feldner and
Max Szykowny**

Predictions

- I predict he is hiding books behind the ventilator.

- I think that the hound knows that Montag is hiding books behind the ventilator.

- I think that the hound is stalking Montag from behind the ventilation.

- I think later in the story, Clarisse will convince Montag to read a book.

- I think that the hound knows what Montag is doing.

- I think the hound will do something bad to Montag.

- I think Mildred will take more pills but will survive

- Mildred will die from the pills
- Montag will start thinking like Clarisse
- Clarisse will try to talk Montag out of his job
- Books will become legal

- They burn books so no one will know about the past
- I think Mildred will take more pills
- Montag will lose his job
- Mildred will continue having suicidal thoughts
- I think Mildred will try to kill herself by taking too many pills
- Something happened to Mildred that impacted her and made her have suicidal thoughts
- I think the government is trying to hide the past by burning books.

“Help Me” Questions :)

- What did the eye machine do to Mildred?
- What happened to Mildred?
- What is the operator?
- Why did Mildred deny taking the pills?
- Is it illegal to read all books or just certain books?
- Why is being a pedestrian illegal?
- Did Mildred try to commit suicide?
- Why do people speed by on highways?
- What is the hound?
- What year does this take place?
- What happened to Montag when he felt like he was "ripped in half?"
- What happened at the top of page ten?
- What are thimble radios?
- Why didn't Mildred need an M.D.?
- Is Mildred deaf?
- Why would they pump Mildred's stomach?
- Why is 451 on his helmet?
- What are the two moonstones?

Questions for Discussion (Pre-assessment)

Is Clarisse scared of Montag?

What does Montag do for a living?

What happened to the sleeping pills?

Why do firemen burn books?

Why are dogs robots?

What happened to Mildred when the operators sucked out her blood?

What's behind the grill?

Does Montag really love Mildred?

Why does the fire department cause fires and not put them out?

Why are books illegal?

Why do kids not learn what we learn today?

Why is Clarisse so friendly with Montag?

Why is it illegal to read books before you burn them?

What happened to Clarisse?

Why is the eight legged, multi eyed hound still considered a hound?

Is the government trying to hide a secret of the past?

Why does Mildred need so many T.V.s?

Why is it against the law to read the books you burn?

Do you think Guy and Mildred are in love?

Do you think firemen are highly respected? Can firemen get away with more things?

Why is the hound robotic?

What does the Hound sense in Montag?

Do you think Clarisse and Montag will team up in the future?

Why do you think Clarisse was out so late?

Why do you think it's illegal to burn books?

What do you think is behind the ventilator?

Why do you think she took those pills and why she denies taking them?

Do you think Guy married Mildred for love?

What happened to Clarisse?

Can the Hound sense that guy has a curious, sort of slow, sensual side of him?

Why do they burn down houses?

Why is Montag so different?

What does the burning point really mean?

What does the Salamander mean?

How have things changed so much?

Where's Clarisse?

What do you think is wrong with Mildred?

Right There Questions

- What does Montag do for a living?

- ◆ What does Montag's job require him to do?

- ◆ Is Clarisse Montag's neighbor?

- ◆ Does this take place in the future?

- ◆ Who and where does Clarisse live with?

- ◆ How old is Clarisse?

- ◆ What sounds does Mildred listen to at night?

- ◆ Why is Clarisse not going to school?

- ◆ Why did Mildred get her stomach pumped?

- ◆ What does Mildred wear in her ears?

- ◆ How old is Montag?

- ◆ What does Mr. Montag have on his arm?

- ◆ Can you explain why Mildred went to the hospital?

- ◆ What does Clarisse look like?

- ◆ How old is Mildred?

- ◆What is the Hound?

- ◆How can you recognize Clarisse?
- ◆
- ◆What city does Montag live in?
- ◆
- ◆What is Montag's job?
- ◆
- ◆When does this story take place?
- ◆
- ◆What is Montag's symbolic number on his helmet?
- ◆
- ◆Who does Montag meet after work?
- ◆
- ◆What kind of society is this?
- ◆
- ◆What does Guy do at work?
- ◆
- ◆How old is Clarisse?

Think and Search Questions

1. What is Clarisse doing out at night?
2. How do we know Clarisse is brave?
3. What characteristics reveal Mildred's personality?
4. Why are books illegal?
5. Is Mr. Montag good or bad?
6. What is Clarisse's personality like?
7. What does Montag say about his happiness?
8. Why do you think Montag is unhappy?
9. Does Montag like his job?

Why was Mildred's pill bottle empty?

How does Guy feel about whatever is behind the ventilator?

How would you describe Guy and Mildred's relationship?

What do you notice/learn about Clarisse in her first conversation with Guy?

What clues help us understand the word Tamped?

Why is Clarisse in therapy?

How do others feel about Clarisse?

Does Montag know why books are illegal?

Why does Clarisse not want to go to school?

Own My Own Questions

Do you think Montag loves Mildred?

What would be your opinion on burning books if you lived in this world?

What do you think it would be like to live in this book? How would you feel about books being illegal?

Do you think Mildred is taking the pills on purpose?

What do you think about Montag?

Why did the dandelion say Mr. Montag wasn't in love?

Would you like this type of society to be like this in the future? Why or why not?

Why did Mildred take all these pills, and why did she need a blood transfusion?

What happened to Mildred's pills?

Is Montag good or bad?

When have you felt as if you didn't agree with society?

Is Montag hiding books behind the ventilator grill?

-have you ever tried to tell someone something, but they refused to listen?

-why do you think Clarisse asked Montag if he was happy?

-was there a time when you felt a law or rule was unjust?

-have you ever burned a book?

-have you ever had an experience with fire?

-have ever just stopped, looked, listened, and absorbed your surroundings?

-Do you think Mildred is crazy?

-what do you think about the character Mildred?

-Have you ever had a bon fire or fire pit? Describe what you felt and what you saw?

How was the fire started?

Author and Me Questions

What is the importance of reading books in today's society?

How does it affect the society in the book?

- What theme or message is the author trying to get across?

- Why do you think Clarisse feels this way about burning books?
- What do you think Mildred did with the sleeping pills? Was it on purpose?
- Why did the author name chapter one “The Hearth and the Salamander”?
- Would the book be as powerful if Bradbury didn’t use strong vocabulary?
- Do Montag and Bradbury relate in anyway?

Does Guy really love Mildred?

How does Ray Bradbury come up with the ideas for this book?

What other things are strange about this dystopian society?

Why did the author choose to make Clarisse look the way she looks?

Can you elaborate on the detail why books are illegal?

Why did the author include robots way advanced technology in the 50's?

What happened in the last couple of years?

What year did Bradbury set the story in?

Describe how the author might have felt when writing this book?

Why did the author decide to have Clarisse vanish?

DOK #1

-How are Clarisse and Guy Montag alike?

-How would you describe Guy Montag?

-How would you describe Clarisse?

-How would you describe Mildred as a person?

-How would you describe Montag's feelings towards Clarisse?

-Can you identify how Clarisse found out about firemen in the past?

-When did Clarisse leave?

Can you recall how Montag first met Clarisse?

Can you identify why Montag's helmet has the numbers 451?

When did Clarisse move next door?

Who was the fireman that wore the Captain's hat?

How can you recognize Clarisse?

DOK #2

- How are Clarisse and Mildred different?

- How would you compare people's thoughts on the future today as opposed to people's thoughts on the future in the 50's?

-How does Clarisse affect Montag?

- How is the world we live in different from the world in Fahrenheit 451?

- How would you compare Mildred and Clarisse?
- Can you explain how burning books affected the society?
- How would you compare Montag + Clarisse and contrast them?
- -What repeating conclusions can you draw from the repeating mention of the ventilator grill?
- -How would you summarize what we read?
- -Can you explain how Clarisse affected Montag?
- -Can you explain why Mildred took so many pills?
- -How are Mildred and Clarisse alike? Different?

DOK #3

- What would happen if books were taken from U.S. today?
- Could you predict the outcome if Mildred continues to take the pills?
- Could you predict the outcome if someone is caught reading?
- what would happen if you never read a book?
- Can you predict the outcome if Mildred take the pills again?
- Can you predict the outcome what will happen to Montag after Clarisse's influence?
- How would you compare Guy and Mildred?
-
- What conclusions can you draw from the relationship that is starting between Montag and Clarisse?
-
- What do you think would happen if someone found out what guy was hiding?
-
- What would happen if Montag NEVER sees Clarisse again?
-
- How is Clarisse related to her uncle?
-

Reading Literary Text

What would you say Clarisse is trying to do with Mr. Montag?

How is the plot effected by the setting? Think about the time.

What is the most accurate characterization of Guy?

How does the time affect the plot?

What is the most accurate characterization of Guy Montag?

In which way is the setting important to the passage?

What does the setting suggest about the narrator?

What will be the most accurate characterization of Clarisse?

How is Montag affected by the setting?

In what year do you think this story takes place?

Based on what we read, what is an accurate characterization of Guy?

Additional Questions for Discussion

How old is Mildred and why does she act the way she does?

Why do you think Mildred didn't remember taking the pills?

Why do you think reading books is illegal?

Does Mildred work? If so what does she do?

Why do firemen start fires?

Why does no one remember how the world used to be?

Why does Guy pretend to love Mildred?

What happened to change the whole world including firefighters starting fires?

Will Guy and Clarisse start to become really close and will Guy leave Mildred?

Where do you think Clarisse went?