

Fahrenheit 451: Road Map to Success

I. Character List: Below is a list of the major characters you need to know.

- Guy Montag:** He is the thirty-year-old fireman who realizes his life is empty and oppressive. He searches for meaning in books and from others like him.
- Mildred Montag:** She is Montag's sickly wife who uses painkillers and TV to avoid facing her own problems. She doesn't understand Montag's strange behavior and wishes he would return to his old self.
- Clarisse McClellan:** She is the innocent seventeen-year-old girl and outcast who teaches Montag to appreciate beauty, question his world, and seek happiness.
- Captain Beatty:** He is the captain of the fire department who is well-read but hates books. He notices Montag's change and anticipates his every move.
- Professor Faber:** He is the retired English professor and self-proclaimed coward who blames himself and others like him for the oppressive state of society. He teaches Montag about the importance of books and helps Montag carry out his plan.
- Granger:** He is the leader of the book people who has a plan to preserve literature through the Dark Age until they are ready to rebuild.
- Mrs. Phelps:** She is one of Mildred's zombie-like friends who seems unconcerned that her husband is fighting in the war.
- Mrs. Bowles:** She is another one of Mildred's friends who leads an empty life and does not care that she has lost three husbands and that her children hate her.
- Stoneman and Black:** They are firemen who perform their duties without question.

II. Study Guide Questions: These questions help you stay on track with the plot as well as build your reading comprehension. Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper as you read.

Part One: The Hearth and the Salamander

1. What is Montag's occupation? What is unusual about his job? How does he feel about it?
2. What time of year is it?
3. Who is Clarisse McClellan? What effect does she have on Montag?
4. What two symbols on Montag's uniform seem to hypnotize Clarisse?
5. To what does Montag compare kerosene?
6. How old is Montag? How long has he been a fireman?
7. What is the official slogan of the firemen?
8. According to Clarisse's uncle, what virtue are the youth of society missing?
9. What does the fireman in Seattle do to the Mechanical Hound? Why?
10. What is wrong with Mildred?

11. Describe Montag's marriage and relationship with Mildred.
12. How is Montag's home different from Clarisse's? Why is he drawn to her home?
13. What effect does the contraceptives have on Mildred?
14. What do you think Montag learns from reading the last page of the script?
15. Describe the Mechanical Hound. Why does it worry Montag?
16. Who is Beatty?
17. What reason does Montag give Clarisse for not having any children?
18. Explain the irony of Clarisse being labeled antisocial.
19. Why does society provide activities for teens to "run [teens] ragged"?
20. What is announced on the radio?
21. What are the shared features of firemen?
22. Why does the woman refuse to leave her books? What effect does this have on the firemen, particularly Montag?
23. Why does Beatty refer to the old woman's books as the Tower of Babel?
24. Why is it surprising that Beatty knows the Master Ridley quote?
25. Why must fire captains have book knowledge?
26. Montag has caught the "dis-ease." What are his symptoms?
27. Why does Beatty visit? What does he tell Montag?
28. What purpose does shrinking classics to brief synopses serve?
29. What literature is allowable?
30. Who are the "custodians of our peace of mind"? In what way have they failed Montag?
31. Montag asks, "How do people like Clarisse come to exist in our world?" How does Beatty reply?
32. What happens to firemen who have books?

Part Two: The Sieve and the Sand

1. Of "that favourite subject, Myself," Mildred says, "I understand *that* one." How does this show a contrast to her foil, Clarisse?
2. Mildred is horrified by the thought of a visit from Captain Beatty. What does she stand to lose?
3. What case does Montag make to Mildred in defense of reading?
4. What effect does Montag's rantings about their thoughtless world have on Mildred?
5. Why does Montag seek help from Faber? Who is he?
6. What book in Montag's possession is the last of its kind in his part of the world?
7. What are Faber's reasons for giving Montag his address?
8. What does Montag imagine Beatty would say of the content of books?
9. When does Montag believe his "numbness" began? What is his "numbness"?
10. Recount Montag's flashback of the sieve and the sand.
11. Relate his childhood experience with the sieve and the sand to his difficulty reading and understanding his books.
12. What does Montag do when the train stops?
13. Who does Faber blame for book burnings? Why do they let go of the lovely books?

14. Why does Faber consider himself a coward?
15. Why does Montag turn to books when he realizes he isn't happy?
16. Faber confirms Montag's realization that something is missing. What three things does he say are missing?
17. According to Faber, what is the difference between books and television?
18. Faber inspires Montag's insidious plan. What is it?
19. What shocking thing does Montag do that horrifies Faber?
20. What is the last refuge for the "dangerous intellectual"?
21. Describe the device invented by Faber. How will Montag use it?
22. What book does Faber begin reading to Montag first?
23. Describe the conversation between Millie and her friends.
24. What does Montag do that irritates the women?
25. Describe Mrs. Bowles' parenting methods.
26. Describe the superficial voting practices of the women.
27. Why does Mrs. Phelps cry when Montag reads "Dover Beach"?
28. How is Montag greeted by Beatty at the firehouse?
29. Where does Montag's conscience first manifest itself?
30. What is Beatty's purpose in reciting passages from great authors and thinkers?
31. Describe Beatty's dream. Why is this an effective strategy for rebuking Montag?
32. What address is typed out on the alarm report?

Part Three: Burning Bright

1. What is the real beauty of fire according to Beatty?
2. Why can't Montag run?
3. Beatty says to Montag, "Your house, your clean-up." What does he mean?
4. Who turns in Montag?
5. What happens to the green bullet?
6. What does Montag do to arouse suspicion in Beatty?
7. How does Beatty die?
8. What becomes of the mechanical hound?
9. What does Montag suddenly realize about Beatty and his death?
10. What is nearly responsible for Montag's death?
11. What is Montag's purpose in going to Mrs. Black's home?
12. Where does Faber tell Montag he should go?
13. What is the "one-man circus"?
14. Why does Montag tell Faber to burn his furniture and turn on the lawn sprinklers?
15. What does "twenty million Montags running" mean?
16. What does the river give Montag time to do?
17. As Montag steps out of the river, what kind of shelter does he dream of for his first night out of the city?
18. What creature does he mistake for the Hound?

19. Describe the voices. About what do they speak?
20. Who is Granger? What does he give Montag?
21. Why does the chase continue inland?
22. Who is killed in Montag's place?
23. Why can't the government officials admit that Montag eluded them?
24. Why doesn't Montag feel he belongs in the company of these men?
25. What book will Montag become?
26. What is significant about the "odd minority out in the wilderness"?
27. Why does Granger refer to this time as the Dark Ages?
28. Why does Granger trust Montag?
29. Why won't Montag grieve if his wife dies?
30. Granger explains that one does not grieve for the person. One grieves for the things that person did and will never do again. What did Montag leave?
31. How does the war end? What happens to the city?
32. Where does Montag remember meeting Mildred for the first time?
33. What does Montag save for noon when they reach the city? How does it contribute to the ending of the novel?