

Dallas Christian
English II Summer Reading 2017
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

About your teacher:

My name is Mrs. Winn, and I am excited for my first year teaching at Dallas Christian! I am married and I have four children: Eden, Ruby, Judah, and Asher. I enjoy spending time with my family and church family, reading, and teaching! I am looking forward to getting to know each of you!

A Note for Parents:

Fahrenheit 451 discusses themes of censorship, and the role of government and media in the lives of its citizens. It offers a glimpse into a future where a society becomes captive to a government that controls critical thinking and deeper reflection. This text does contain some profanity and violence, and parents can discuss these issues in the story context with their students as they read. Here are some topics families can discuss related to this book (taken from media.focusonthefamily.com):

- What might be the results of a society that doesn't believe in conflict? How is this type of thinking visible in your world today? How can different opinions be healthy in a country?
- How would you describe Montag and Mildred's relationship? What makes them cold and detached from each other? What parts of Montag's world have contributed to this kind of marriage?
- Why is Clarisse McClellan considered an outcast? What do others in her society find offensive about enjoying nature, people, and honest conversation? What kinds of things are popular in our world? What kinds of things are disliked by our culture? Do you agree or disagree with these likes and dislikes?

Assignment:

Over the summer you will need to read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury and complete the corresponding assignment. The assignment is intended to guide your reading and focus your thoughts in preparation for the discussions, summer reading test, and writing assignments you will engage in when you return in August.

The assignment is due on the first day of class.

Make sure you read all the assignment directions and are clear on all parts. It is up to you to email me with any questions, and I strongly suggest you ask me if you have any confusion. Don't wait until August to begin this assignment. You will not be successful. Please do not plagiarize, or copy information from the internet to pass off as your own. Instead, embrace academic honesty by doing your own thoughtful work. This will only benefit you in the future. **Be sure to bring your book and your written assignment on the first day of school.**

Your summer reading assignment is to annotate the text and keep a dialectical journal as you read. Please see the annotation and dialectical journal instructions on the next page for more information. You should:

- **annotate 15 or more passages in the text, and**
- **respond with 15 or more entries in your dialectical journal.**

Be prepared to take a test over *Fahrenheit 451* upon returning to school.

Enjoy the summer! I will see you in August!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Winn
awinn@dallaschristian.com

Annotation and Dialectical Journal Instructions

One way to read actively is to annotate the text. To annotate a book, you simply choose what you think is important (or what you like) and underline/highlight, and note it in the margin of the book. Annotate as you read *Fahrenheit 451*. Reading journals, or dialectical journals, record your reaction to the book as you are reading; therefore, you determine what you want to highlight or underline, and make notes in the margins of the book. Hence, you must write in the book! You may note what a character says or does, or you may note something about the author's writing.

Your goal is to gather quotes that catch your attention and then respond to the quotes by analyzing them. You may respond to ideas by writing about a person, a setting, an event, or a theme in the text. Why did the quote pop out to you? You may choose quotes that you find particularly insightful, interesting, or even funny. Is something unusual or especially meaningful?

You will do your journal over *Fahrenheit 451* using quotes from throughout the book.

- **It must be typed in Times New Roman, 12 point font, and double spaced.**
- **Be sure to include your first and last name, class period, and my name (Mrs. Winn) in the upper left corner of your page so that you receive credit for your work.**

You will need to locate at least 15 quotes from throughout the book and write a response explaining the importance of the quote you chose. **The journal is due the first day of class.** Complete it early so your assignment is finished and ready to turn in. **Bring your book to class on the first day.**

1. Title your journal like this: Reading Journal for *Fahrenheit 451*.
2. Skip a line, and in proper MLA format (which includes the page number in parenthesis), write out the quote (see sample below).
3. Skip a line after your quote and begin your commentary (analysis). This is not a summary of the quote, but instead an interaction with what was happening at that point in the story. You can structure your journal like the side-by-side sample below, or you can type in your quote, skip a line, and then type your commentary. **Be sure to make each entry at least one paragraph (which means at least 5 clear, correct, and effective sentences). Some entries may be longer than others, but each must be at least 5 sentences.**
4. After your analysis, go to your next quote and repeat the process until you have responded to 15 quotes from throughout the book. Select quotes from throughout the whole book, and don't restrict your selections to a few sections or chapters.

Example of Dialectical Journal Entry:

| Quote from Text: Can be quotes about a character, event, or scene. | Commentary: Thoughts, ideas, connections, understandings, recognition of literary devices. |
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| <p><i>"We must all be alike. Not everyone born free and equal, as the constitution says, but everyone made equal . . . A book is a loaded gun in the house next door. Burn it. Take the shot from the weapon. Breach man's mind" (62).</i></p> | <p>Here Captain Beatty is giving a speech to Montag in his house and here he states the reason for why books are banned and burned. His statement here is the opposite of what our Constitution says, but yet he uses fear of ideas to scare people into believing that individual thinking is dangerous. He even uses the metaphor here of "a loaded gun in the house next door." A book is that dangerous for this character! Reading books might make some people unequal in their thinking, and this would throw off the vision of a utopia where everyone lives in a state of "idea-sameness" and equality. No one would challenge another with different ideas, and no one would change or grow.</p> |

Possible ways to begin your commentary (analysis):

- I wonder if this means...
- I don't understand this because...
- I like/dislike this idea because...
- I agree with this idea because...
- This part is confusing because...
- This idea makes me feel...
- This quote reminds me of the character _____ in the story _____ who did _____.
- I didn't expect the author to say this because...
- The idea reminds me of ...
- This quote is particularly effective/thought-provoking/depressing/unusual because...
- This makes me think that _____ will happen later.