



# Activity One

## Themes



Themes from *Fahrenheit 451* include censorship, ignorance, and nature versus technology. Choose one of these themes—or another that you feel is relevant to the novel—and outline some actions, interactions, or events where that theme is on display. Note as many instances where you can identify this theme as possible. The structure of this should be a flow chart with the theme at the top and actions, interactions, and events stemming from it. This exercise can be done in groups and the results should be shared among the class.

Once you have outlined your theme and some examples, do some research on the author, Ray Bradbury. Individually, describe Bradbury's time and place. What factors could have contributed to Bradbury's state of mind when he penned the novel? What were the dominant news events at that time? What was the overall sentiment of society like at the time?

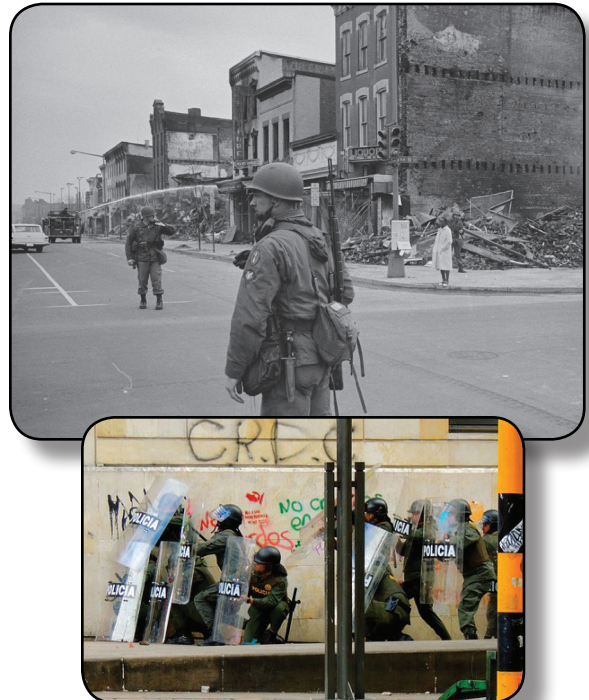
Is it possible Bradbury didn't intend for readers to infer this theme? Was his writing simply influenced by his time and place? Is the theme common for literature at the time?

In at least 700 words, answer these questions and describe why the theme you chose would have been important to Bradbury at the time the book was written.

### Censorship



### Riots



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity Two

## Book Review



Now that you've completed reading *Fahrenheit 451*, it's time to express your opinions on it. In a review of no less than 700 words, examine the book in some depth, but don't spoil the ending for those reading your piece.

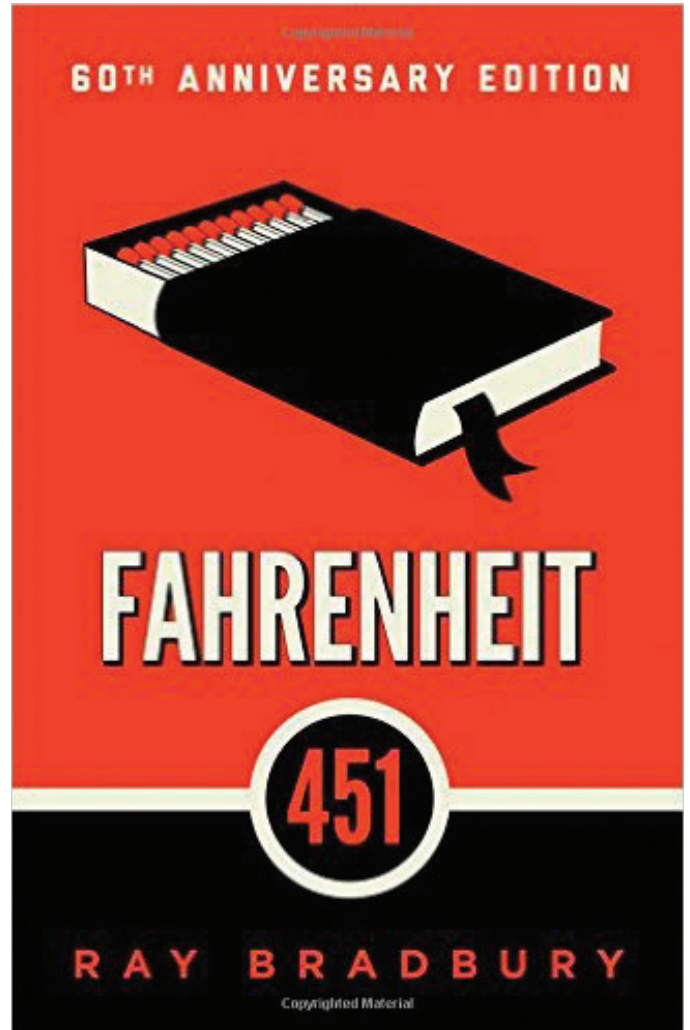
Set up the major players, and set the scene (year, time, geographical location). Be sure to make the review entertaining and be as scathing or complimentary as you wish.

Give some examples of things you liked about the book and some things you didn't like. If you didn't like anything about the book, describe in detail why. Advise readers whether they should avoid reading the book or whether they should jump at the chance to read it.

Name your favorite character or least favorite character. Explain why you liked or didn't like their thoughts, actions, or motivations.

Provide a bit of detail on the price, length of the book, and identify the appropriate readership (toddler, young adult etc.).

Finally, come up with your own grading scale—like star ratings for movies—and rate the book based on your scale. Make sure you provide a short description of your grading scale at the end of the review, followed by the rating you give to the book.



**Highly Recommend**



# Activity Three



## Time Prediction

Author Ray Bradbury has stated the book is concerned with censorship, but has also said the main theme stemmed from his fear of technological intrusion into people's lives. He was writing in the 1950s. Put yourself in Bradbury's concerned mindset and describe any concerns you have or that the world should have about the advancement of technology or censorship.

Compare Bradbury's vision of the future with today. Is there anything he got undeniably right about the future? Are things as bad today as Bradbury envisioned when writing this novel?

If you're examining technology, what do you believe is the most important thing the world should be concerned about? Make sure you do some research and include thoughtful evaluation of current events and note sources.

If you're examining censorship, be sure to research and include a comparison of censorship in your country versus censorship in other countries. Is there anything that's censored today that society should be concerned about? Are there any good reasons for censorship?

Your structure should include an opening paragraph explaining your perspective. The following paragraphs should support the main statement included in the opening paragraph. The piece should conclude with a reiteration of the main theme and why people should be concerned or not. The length should be at least 3 pages, typed and double-spaced.



**1950  
vs  
Today**



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity Four

## "News" Story

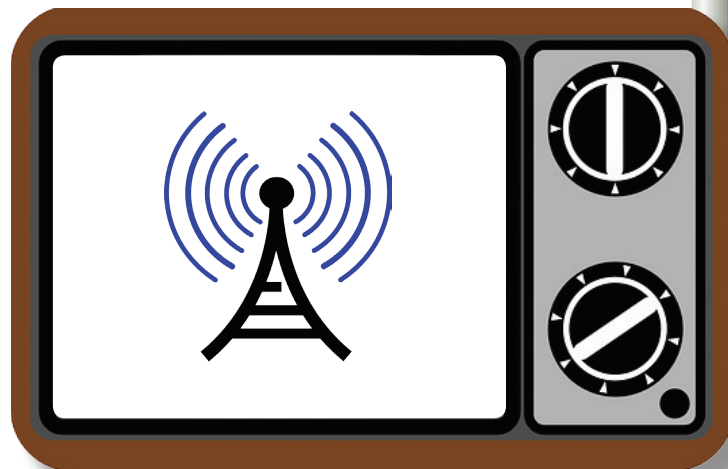
You're the lead reporter on the year's biggest news story—Fireman Guy Montag has killed his fire captain and is on the run through the city.

Using information of the events as depicted in the book, craft a news story detailing Captain Beatty's murder and Montag's escape. Remember this is a future where newspapers likely don't exist, books are burned, and few people read. The news story should be written as a script for a television broadcast. Additionally, remember that this broadcast is run by an authoritarian government that will want to depict the events as sensationally and slanted against Montag as possible.

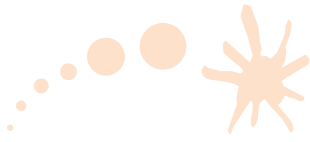
Use as much detail from the book as possible, including the capture and death of "Montag." How would the broadcasters portray his death? Would there be any emotion about it? How would Beatty's death be treated? What sort of statements would likely be made about Montag? Keep these questions in mind when writing your script.

Also include:

- Anchor names and introductions.
- At least one interview with a neighbor.
- A throw to a reporter in the field.
- An interview with Mildred, Montag's wife.
- A quick description to set the scene.
- A wrap-up, followed by a promotion of what will be coming on after the news.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity Five

## Interpersonal Relationships



Throughout the book it's clear that fireman Guy Montag's relationships—and the relationships of most people in this society—are largely superficial.

For example, when Montag meets Clarisse, she says: "...You're not like the others. I've seen a few; I know. When I talk you look at me. When I said something about the moon, you looked at the moon, last night. The others would never do that. The others would walk off and leave me talking. Or threaten me. No one has time anymore for anyone else..."



Montag and Mildred from the movie Fahrenheit 451 (1966)

Clarisse's comments provide a window into the interpersonal relationships and social interactions of the society of Montag's time and place. What we know is that there is a seemingly authoritarian government power that censors most information under the guise of keeping the populace happy and docile.

In a piece of no less than 500 words, describe some of the interpersonal relationships and social interactions depicted in the book. Discuss why these relationships might exist as they do in this society. What factors are at play? Do you think a society could ever go as far as what is depicted in the novel?

Finally, describe the significance of interpersonal relationships in relation to the overall story.



Montag and Beatty from the movie Fahrenheit 451 (1966)



Montag and Clarisse from the movie Fahrenheit 451 (1966)



# Activity Six

## Literature Examination



Throughout *Fahrenheit 451*, there are many, many references to great authors and literary works. Often they are rhymed off in succession as examples of things to be destroyed. In his first interaction with Clarisse, Montag says:

“It’s fine work. Monday burn Millay, Wednesday Whitman, Friday Faulkner, burn `em to ashes, then burn the ashes. That’s our official slogan.”

Captain Beatty says something similar to Montag later in the novel and taunts Montag by reciting lines from various works.

Choose at least three of the literary works mentioned in the book. Examine the plots and themes and decide whether there is any deeper relationship between the works the author chose to include, and the themes of *Fahrenheit 451*. Compare and contrast each of the story’s themes and plots side by side with *Fahrenheit 451*. Use a chart to see if any patterns start to emerge.

If you conclude there is no discernible relationship, explain why—even outside of a direct connection with the themes of *Fahrenheit 451*—you believe Bradbury would have specifically chosen these titles and authors.

Your descriptions and conclusions should be no less than 500 words, and answer all of the questions above. Charts can also be presented and examined as a class.

