

Submit your answers to the daily reading questions on a piece of paper or in Canvas.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Part One: The Hearth and the Salamander

Pages 1-12

Day 1

1. How does Montag feel about burning and his job? (p. 1-2)
2. What does he burn? (p. 1-2)
3. What feeling does Montag have after getting off the train? (p. 2-3)
4. Describe the girl. Give her name, too. (p. 3-7)
5. What do the salamander and phoenix represent? (p. 4) *Hint: look up symbolic meanings of both on the web. Wikipedia has an article on "Salamanders in folklore" and search for "mythical creatures, phoenix"*
6. How old is Montag? (p. 5)
7. Millay, Whitman, Faulkner. (p. 6) Look them up. Edna St. Vincent Millay. Walt Whitman. William Faulkner. What were their professions? Where and when did they live and work? What clues might this give us about the setting of the story?
8. What **do you think** is hidden behind the ventilator grill? (p. 8)
9. What impression does the girl have on Montag? (p. 8-9)
10. What does he kick? (p. 10-11)

Pages 12-21

Day 2

1. What do the two men wearing coveralls and smoking cigarettes do? (p. 12-13) If two similar men came to a home today, what might their purpose be?
2. What happened to Mildred the night before? Why isn't Montag able to talk to her about it? (p. 11-17)
3. Based on the time he got home & the time he prepares to leave, what are Montag's hours? (p. 14 & 17)
4. How is Mildred spending her afternoon and evening? (p. 17-18)
5. What observations has Clarisse made of Montag? (p. 21)

Pages 21-32

Day 3

1. What is the Mechanical Hound? Describe it & give your interpretation. (p. 21-25)
2. What does Montag suspect someone at the firehouse has done? He thinks of the ventilator grill for a third time (p. 8, 17, 24). What do you think he has hidden there?
3. What is this future world's school system, according to Clarisse's description? (p. 27)
4. What do people (besides Clarisse) do with their free time in this world? (p. 17, 18, 27, 28, 29)
5. "Firemen of America, 1790, Benjamin Franklin." Speculate. What does it all mean? (p. 32)

Pages 32-45

Day 4

1. Research the words the woman speaks. Who said these? When? What happened to him? (p. 33, 37)
2. What is different about this call & this house? (p. 34-37)
3. What are the "small, soft sounds" Montag is making? Why? (p. 38-39)
4. Analyze Montag & Mildred's marriage. (p. 38-45) How does she spend her time? Why can't Montag relate to her?
5. What has supposedly happened to Clarisse? What **do you think** happened? (p. 44-45)

Pages 45-60

Day 5

1. What is the TV parlor? Who are the "relatives"? (p. 17, 18, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47)
2. Why is Montag feeling sick? (p. 45-49)
3. Captain Beatty describes an alternate history. How did this world come to be? (p. 51-58)
4. What **do you think** Mildred will do now that she knows about the book? (p. 53, 54, 56, 57)

5. **Do you think** Montag will go back to work? What will happen to him? (p. 60)

Pages 60-65

Day 6

1. Why did Clarisse's uncle believe society had done away with front porches? (p. 60)
2. How do people apparently take out their frustrations and emotions with "beetles"? (p. 61)
3. How does Mildred react when she sees what Montag has been hiding? (p. 62-63)
4. **Do you think** Montag is able to get Millie to understand him? (p. 63-64) Will she help him?
5. Who **do you think** was at the door? (p. 64-65) What did they want?

Part Two: The Sieve and the Sand

Pages 67-76

Day 7

1. Explain and analyze Mildred's resistance as Montag reads and talks to her. (p. 67-73)
2. What does Montag hope these books can do for him? (p. 67-70)
3. Faber. Who is he? How does Montag know him? Describe. (p. 8, 31, 70-72)
4. Describe Montag's experience on the subway air train. (p. 73-76)
5. What does Montag want to do with the words in the Bible he has & why? (p. 74) Why can't he do it?

Pages 76-88

Day 8

1. What are the possible meanings of Montag's statement to Faber, "My wife is dying."? (p. 77)
2. "History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people." (Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963) How is Faber saying something similar? (p. 77-78)
3. What are the three things Faber says are missing in their world? (p. 79-81)
4. Faber and Montag fall upon an idea and a plan. What is it? (p. 81-84) Do **you think** it will work?
5. What's the little device Faber shares with Montag? How will they use it? (p. 86-88)

Pages 88-98

Day 9

1. Why have Mrs. Phelps and Mrs. Bowles come to Montag's house? (p. 89-90)
2. Given their talk, what is important to Mrs. Phelps, Mrs. Bowles and Mildred? (p. 89-95)
3. What kind of mother does Mrs. Bowles seem to be? (p. 92-93)
4. Who continually warns Montag to keep his cool? (p. 90-98)
5. Why **do you think** Mrs. Phelps is crying after hearing Montag read the poem "Dover Beach"? (p. 96-97)

Pages 99-106

Day 10

1. Montag regrets the error or mistake of losing his temper with the women. Why? (p. 99-101, 106)
2. What does Faber tell Montag? (p. 99-104)
3. What does Beatty say to Montag? (p. 101-106)
4. The firehouse receives a call. Where do they go? (p. 105-106)
5. Who **do you think** called in this address?

Part Three: Burning Bright

Pages 107-119

Day 11

1. Look over pages 36-37, 83, 107 & 111. Why do people come out of their houses when the firemen arrive? What words does Bradbury use to describe these scenes?
2. Beatty says that Montag "wanted to fly near the sun" and "burnt his damn wings." (p. 107) This refers to the myth of Daedalus and Icarus. Research the myth. What's the story?
3. What terrible action does Montag take on pages 112 & 113, and what specifically triggered this action?

4. “Beatty wanted to die.” (p. 116) Given all you know about Beatty, why would he wish to die?
5. Montag needs to figure out where to go & what to do. What is the rough plan he’s forming? (p. 118-119)

Pages 119-130

Day 12

1. Does “war” have the same meaning in this world as in our world? (p. 119, 125) Explain & analyze.
2. Crossing the road is a bit of an ordeal for Montag for several reasons. Explain. (p. 119-123)
3. What did Montag do at Fireman Black’s house? (p. 123-125)
4. What is the irony in the phrases “hobo camps” and “Harvard degrees” on page 126? Analyze.
5. Another Mechanical Hound has been brought to hunt Montag. What precautions will he have to take now? What does he tell Faber to do? (p. 126-130)

Pages 130-138

Day 13

1. What happens when the Hound reaches Faber’s house? (p. 131) How does Montag see this?
2. How is Montag almost caught? (p. 131-132)
3. What does Montag do to cover his tracks? (p. 133)
4. How does Montag feel about the river? (p. 133-135)
5. He thinks of Millie. Why? What does he think? How does he feel? (p. 135)
6. As Montag adjusts to being away from the city, what does he remember from his childhood? (p. 135-136)
7. He thinks he sees the Hound, but what is it? (p. 137)
8. Montag’s senses seem to be reawakening as he goes farther into the river and deeper into the countryside. What does he feel, see, smell, hear and taste? (p. 133-138)
9. He thinks again of Clarisse. Explain. (p. 138)
10. **Do you think** Montag safely got away from the helicopters and the Hound?

Pages 138-148

Day 14

1. There have been a few more reminders of how futuristic this world is. Look back at pages 118 & 119, and tell about this science fiction detail. Then, tell about the sci fi fluid on page 140.
2. What does Montag find? (p. 138-140)
3. Describe the television coverage. What happens? (p. 141-143)
4. How are the books being kept? (p. 144-146) What will happen when the war is over? (p. 145-146)
5. Who is Granger? Describe him & the other men. (p. 139-148)

Pages 148-158

Day 15

1. Montag thinks again of Millie. What does this tell us about his true feelings for her? Was she happy? What does he think is happening to Millie? (p. 148-153)
2. What wisdoms did Granger’s grandfather share with his grandson? (p. 148-151)
3. The war is quick. Explain. Describe. (p. 151-155)
4. What is Granger’s rather poetic and hopeful message on pages 156-157?
5. What are the men going to do now? (p. 156-158)

Found Poem

Day 16

Create a “found poem” from *Fahrenheit 451*. Found poetry is created by taking words, phrases, and sometimes whole passages from other sources and reframing them as poetry by making changes in spacing and lines, or by adding or deleting text, thus imparting new meaning. It is much like a picture collage, but with words. You will create a *Fahrenheit 451* found poem. Your poem should be a minimum of 20 lines. You can make several smaller poems, if you’d prefer. (Remind Mrs. Johnson to share some samples of found poems with you.)