

Fahrenheit 451 Study Guide

Chapter 1 - The Hearth and the Salamander

1. Who is Guy Montag and what is his job? Why does he like to burn things?
2. What does Guy Montag think is so peculiar about Clarisse? What does Clarisse think makes her and/or her family unique or peculiar?
3. What do you think is behind the air conditioning grille in Montag's house? Why?
4. Do you think Mildred mean to kill herself? Why or why not?
5. Guy and Mildred discuss her overdose while she is talking about her newest interactive TV show. Is this meaningful? Why or why not?
6. What is TV like in this world? How is TV still in the process of becoming like that? How is it not?
7. Why does Guy become so defensive about the result of the dandelion-love test?
8. Describe the Hound. What is it for? How does it work?
9. What are teenagers like in this world?
10. Bradbury expresses how a week passes twice in the book by writing, "One two three four five six seven days." Why express it like that?
11. What is the history of the firemen according to the firemen themselves? Do you think it is true? Why or why not?
12. What happens when the firemen go on a call to burn books at a woman's house? What does the woman do, and what does Montag do?
13. What causes Montag to cry silently in bed?
14. How does Montag feel about Mildred?
15. When Montag experiences a TV show with Mildred, what is the experience like for him?
16. What does Mildred say has happened to Clarisse and her family? Do you think what she says is true? Why or why not? How does Montag react?
17. What's wrong with Montag?
18. Why has Capt. Beatty come to visit?
19. What is his version of the Firemen's origin? Does it seem true?
20. How is this society trying to rid the world of people like Clarisse?
21. Beatty says they are the Happiness Boys and that their burning books has made people happy. Has it? Why or why not? Is happiness the most important thing? Is peace?

22. What is Beatty's argument against fiction AND non-fiction writing? Is it accurate? Why or why not? Do you agree? Why or why not?
23. Beatty also discusses why he thinks architects stopped making front porches and gardens in home designs. Do you think this is true? Could there be other less sinister reasons?
24. How does Montag feel? What does Millie suggest he do to get rid of that feeling? Why?

Chapter 2 – The Sieve and the Sand

1. What books are among the many Montag has hidden?
2. When Millie asks Montag, “Why should I read? What for?” What is his answer?
3. What is Faber's answer to why read books?
4. Why did Faber give his address to Montag when he knew he was a fireman?
5. Montag tries to memorize part of the Bible before he has to turn it in to Beatty. What prevents him from memorizing any of it?
6. Faber says he is a coward for not protesting enough when his society let books go. Is he right? What are we letting go in our own world without a fight? Are we cowards? Why or why not?
7. Faber says it isn't the physical book that is what is missing – they are just one receptacle. He says there are three things missing. What are they? List them and list how their society destroys those three things.
8. What is Montag's plan? According to Faber, why won't it work?
9. Faber says, “Those who don't build must burn. It's as old as history and juvenile delinquents...There's some of it in all of us.” Do you agree or not? Why or why not?
10. Why does Faber say to Montag, “You're wise already.” on p. 89? Is he? Why is this wisdom?
11. When Montag turns off the Parlor walls, what happens? What do they talk about? How does Montag react?
12. How does Montag send the ladies home?
13. What is Beatty's argument against books contained in his description of his dream with Montag in it?

Chapter 3 – Burning Bright

1. What drives Montag to murder Beatty? What else does he do? In what shape is Montag when he leaves his house?
2. Why does Montag think Beatty wanted to die? Do you agree?
3. Why does Montag think the people in the car wanted to kill him? Why does he think they swerved? Do you agree? Why or why not?

4. What is their plan to defeat the Hound?
5. When Montag escapes in the river, what events are real and what events are in his mind (memories/imagination/misperceptions/fears)? How do you know?
6. How is the camp fire different from the fire of the firemen?
7. Who does the Hound end up killing? Why?
8. Who are the men around the campfire? What thing(s) do they have in common?
9. What books are they? What book is Montag? Why do they do this?
10. What is this group's plan to help the world? Do you think it will work?
11. How does Granger explain the fact that Montag doesn't feel sad about the probable death of Mildred? According to Granger, what kind of person is missed when he or she is gone?
12. Describe the destruction of the city. What happened to it?
13. Granger says that they are going to dig a giant hole and bury war in it and then build a mirror factory. What does he mean?
14. Why does Montag lead the men back to the city when the city's survivors are all fleeing? When does he think he will return? What does he bring with him from Ecclesiastes?