

ENGLISH 11

Summer Reading Guide 2019

What You Need to Know (you will be quizzed)

- ◆ Major characters and plot events
- ◆ Info on this bookmark

Introduction

- ◆ Author: Ray Bradbury (1920-2012)
- ◆ Genre: dystopian, science fiction
- ◆ Publication Date: 1953
- ◆ *Fahrenheit 451* presents a future American society where books are outlawed and firemen burn any house that contains them.

Symbolism in F451

- ◆ Fire
- ◆ Books
- ◆ Front Porch
- ◆ Mechanical Hound
- ◆ Phoenix

Definitions

- ◆ *Connotation*-suggested meaning; implication
- ◆ *Symbol*-person, place, or thing that represents a deeper meaning or an abstract concept
- ◆ *Dystopia*-a society where people lead dehumanized and fearful lives

Characteristics of Dystopian Fiction

- ◆ Poverty and totalitarian governments
- ◆ Environmental disaster or cataclysmic decline
- ◆ Oppression of justice and freedom
- ◆ Often set in the future
- ◆ Often analogies for real-world issues

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Real-World Issue 1: McCarthyism

McCarthyism—making unfair allegations in order to restrict dissent or political criticism

- ◆ McCarthy Era, 1950-1956
- ◆ Named after Joseph McCarthy, anti-communist senator from Wisconsin
- ◆ It was a time when Americans had heightened fears of spies and communist influences
- ◆ Many were accused of being communists and were the subject of aggressive investigations. The accused often lost their jobs or were imprisoned.

Real-World Issue 2: Censorship

Censorship—the practice of suppressing or deleting material considered objectionable

- ◆ Examples:
 - ◆ Clean versions of music
 - ◆ Internet censorship
 - ◆ Banned, edited, or challenged books

Real-World Issue 3: Book Burning

- ◆ Nazis held book-burning campaigns during WWII
- ◆ They burned books by Jewish authors or books that were considered un-German

Real-World Issue 4: Dangers of television

- ◆ Read article: “Ray Bradbury’s 180 on Fahrenheit 451” by Sam Weller

*“You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture.
Just get people to stop reading them.”
-Ray Bradbury*

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