

Name: Mrs. Flis

Reading Guide Questions for *Fahrenheit 451* = paper burns

As you read each section of the novel, answer briefly the following questions. These questions should act as a reading guide and are not intended to replace careful examination of the novel's themes and development.

Part 1: The Hearth and the Salamander = living in/born from fire

1. What do the "firemen" do for a living? Why is this ironic?

Burn books
fire fighters not starters

2. In the opening scene, why are the books compared to birds?

metaphor / symbolism
meaningless → full of life
burning pages = wings

3. According to pages 3-4, what does Montag think of his job?

content

4. Who does Montag meet on the way home?

p. 9-11
white = purity
Clarisse = good

Clarisse McClellan - neighbor

p. 12 Clarisse fore shadows that she reads "Have you ever read"

5. During his conversation, Montag says that "You never wash it off completely" referring to the kerosene. What could this mean symbolically?

Job = who he is
cannot leave day job
follows him

6. Why do you think that Bradbury would introduce Clarisse before Montag's wife, Mildred?

she's more important

p. 15 Clarisse's face is mirror.

7. Why does Mildred need help when Montag gets home?

she overdoses on sleeping tablets
p. 12 authors allusion

8. Describe the hep that she receives.

pump stomach
pump blood

9. Is there anything unusual about the way the two men go about helping Mildred? How is it unusual?

impersonal
not doctors
mechanical

9-10 overdoses a night
handy men
mildred = machine, not human

10. How is life in Montag's house very different from that of Clarisse's house?

laughter, light, life
drugs, darkness, death

11. How does Mildred react after she wakes up from her previous night's experience?

Doesn't remember, she's hungry / thinks she's hungover.
Did she mean to kill herself? - No

12. What does Mildred do all day?

Reads a script / interacts with the TV's
Always listening to something

13. Describe the setup of Montag's TV room.

3 TV screen walls

14. What is Clarisse doing when Montag sees her on page 21?

walking / drinking the rain

15. How is Clarisse different than Mildred?

C = full of life / observant

M = consumed by TV - earbuds

16. What is the mechanical hound and what is its purpose?

It assists the firemen in tracking people who break laws - to kill



17. What is the hound's reaction to Montag?

suspicious / almost kills

18. Why does society consider Clarisse "anti-social"?

she is social, which is weird in their society

no friends

p. 34 convo w/ Clarisse

19. At the next fire, what does Montag take?

books

p. 35

Beatty v. Montag

p. 31 - mechanical hound / Beatty

- ventilator hood

- Beatty knows?

p. 37 convo about books

20. On page 40, Beatty reveals something very important about himself and his knowledge. What is it?

He thinks he's smarter than everyone
possibly a reader - hypocrite?

p. 39
Master Ridley

21. What technology does Mildred use to go to sleep?

○ Seashells / pills

22. Who is Mildred's "Family"?

Her TV people

23. What has happened to Clarisse? How did it happen?

She gets hit by a car while she was out walking.

p. 54 Radical reaction → must be books

p. 55 importance of books

24. What is unusual about the way Mildred told Montag about Clarisse?

nonchalance

p. 59 school details

p. 60 Mildred finds his pillow buddy.

25. List three things Beatty talks about in his speech to Montag that are true about our world.

- a. ppl are made equal
- b. censorship of inflammatory / offensive texts
- c. continuously lower school ages to find "odd ones" earlier

26. What human institutions are being criticized in the novel?

school
government / institutions

~~school government / institutions~~

Part II: The Sieve and the Sand

1. When was the last liberal arts college shut down?

40 years ago

p. 77. Faber = English prof.

2. (T) F Professor Faber thought Montag's call was some sort of trap?

3. Why did Faber's fear dissipate when Montag was standing outside his door?

He recognizes that Montag is there for help.

p. 85 - pores personification

p. 83 - allegory of the cave.

4. What did Montag want from Faber?

○ Teach him how to interpret books.

p. 80 - "Allegory of the Cave"

5. (T) F Faber reminded Montag that people who are having fun are reluctant to become rebels.

6. How did Montag finally get Faber to consider really helping him?

he started tearing up the Bible.

p. 90 - why violence?

7. What two items were exchanged before Montag left the professor's house?

hearing device & the Bible

p. 95 - cheshire cat's smile

8. What is the volcano's mouth?

the parlor room with TV's

9. T F Montag pulled the plug on the living room fish bowl.

10. T F Faber objected to Montag's poetry reading.

11. Which lady was affected by the original intent of the poetry?

Mrs. Phelps

12. T F In the late hours of the night, Faber refused to console Montag for foolishly reading poetry to the poor, silly women.

13. Listening to Captain Beatty play his harp and needle, Montag had what effect upon Beatty?

makes him angry
Beatty distrusts him

14. What interrupted the poker game?

a fire alarm

15. Captain Beatty drove the Salamander to whose house?

Montag's house

Part III: Burning Bright

1. How has Beatty given Montag hints that he is under suspicion?

2. Who must have brought books back from the garden?