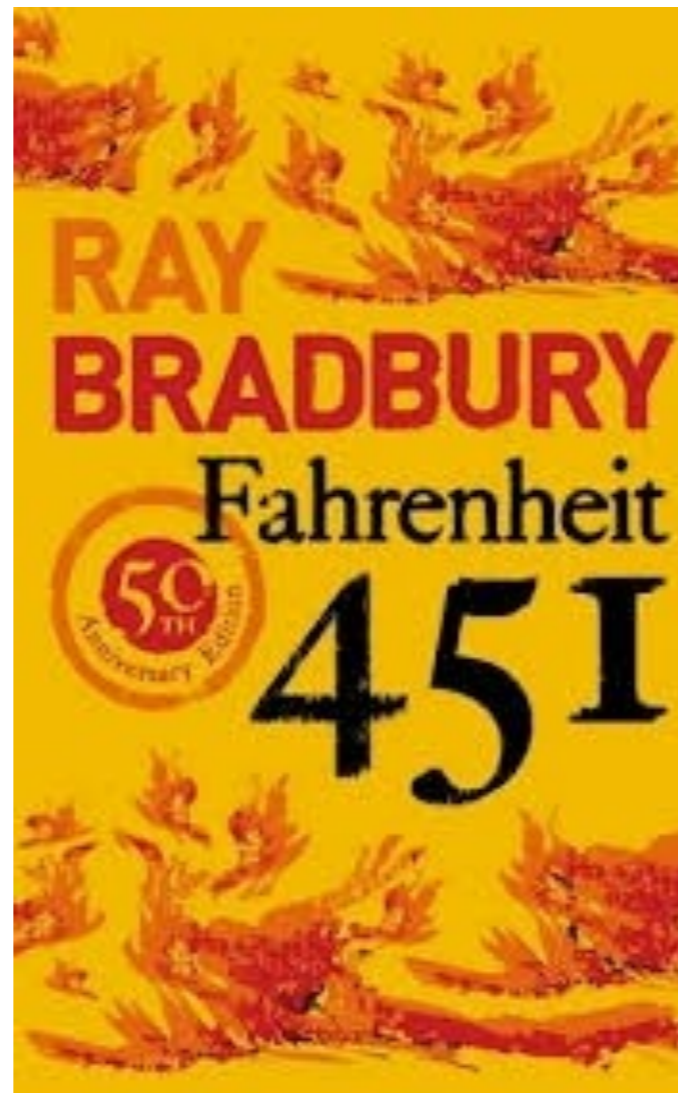


# Fahrenheit 451

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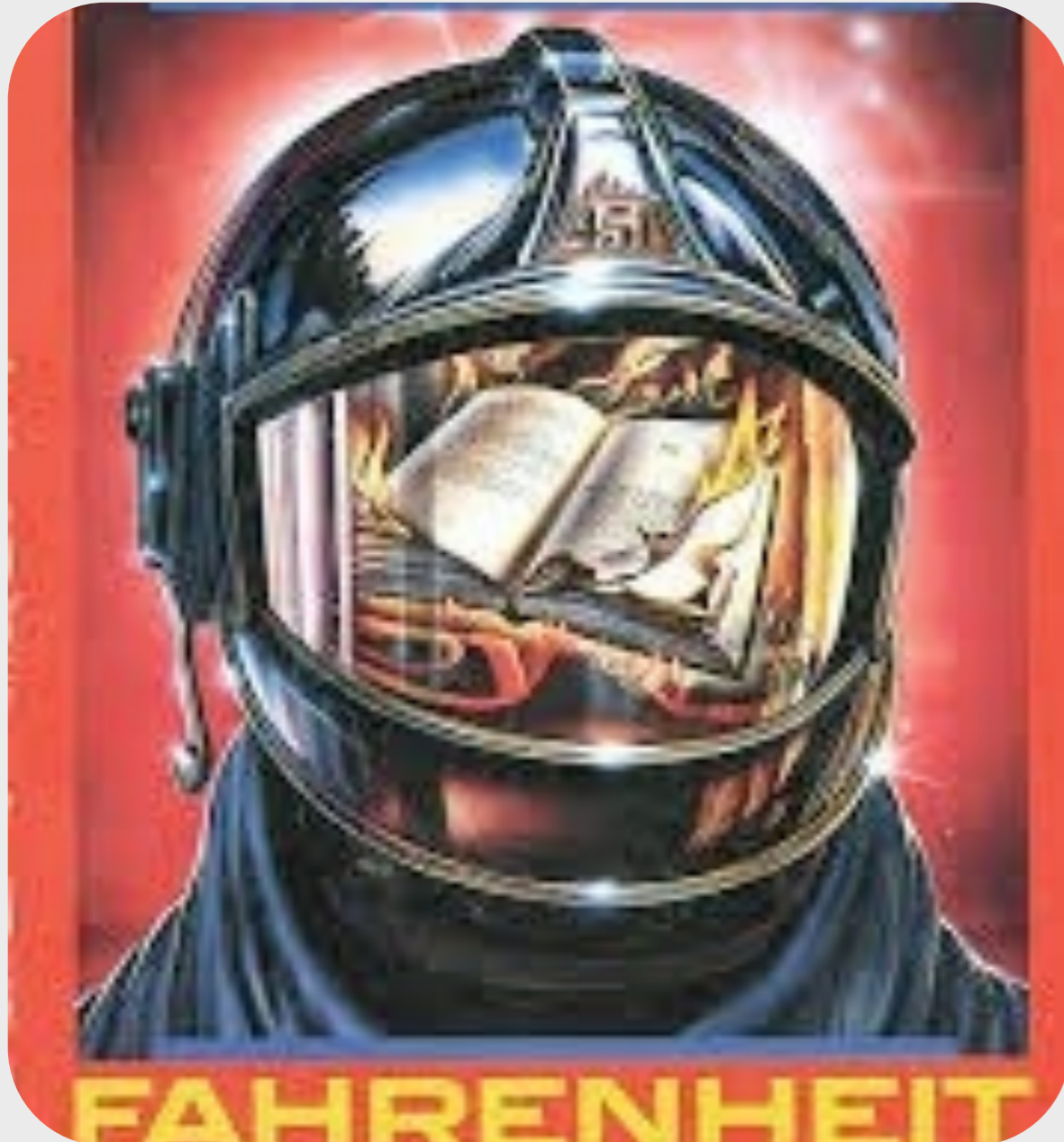
Ray Bradbury

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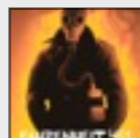


# PREFACE

## COVERS - POSTERS



Discuss the covers and speculate



## A) SETTING

- Where? When? Historical background?

## B) CHARACTERS

- List all the characters and be able to write a character profile for each of them

## C) ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### 1920

Ray Bradbury is born in Waukegan, Illinois, USA

### 1953

*Fahrenheit 451* is published

### 2012

He dies on June 5 at the age of 91.

## THE HEARTH AND THE SALAMANDER

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1. What is Montag's job? Why is this strange?
2. How does Montag feel about his job at the beginning of the novel?
3. Who is Clarisse McClellan and what do you get to know about her?
4. What is strange about the way Clarisse speaks to Montag?
5. Describe Montag's home and his relationship with Mildred.
6. What happens to Mildred and how is this problem solved?
7. How does the Mechanical Hound work and what does it do?
8. Do you notice anything strange about the hound's behaviour when it's around Montag? What does this mean?
9. What do you get to know about the world outside the society of F451?

## THE SIEVE AND THE SAND

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1. How does Montag react when the hound comes to his house?
2. Who does Montag get in touch with and why?
3. How does the relationship between Montag and Mildred develop?
4. Analyse the episode with Montag on the subway. Why is it relevant?
5. Explain Faber's philosophy of life.
6. Why does Montag believe that books can make him happy?
7. How will Faber help Montag?
8. Discuss the scene with Montag and Mildred's friends.
9. How does Beatty behave toward Montag at the firehouse?
10. Where do the firemen go at the end of the chapter? Why?

# BURNING BRIGHT

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1. Old Montag wanted to fly near the sun and now that he burnt his damn wings, he wonders why." What is the allusion in Beatty's statement?
2. "Oh, no! You weren't fooled by that little idiot's routine, now, were you?" Who does Beatty refer to here and what is he trying to say?
3. What did Mildred do? Why?
4. "Well - so there's more here than I thought. I saw you tilt your head, listening. First I thought you had a Seashell. But when you turned clever later, I wondered. We'll trace this and drop it on your friend." What and who is Beatty talking about here?
5. What does Montag do to Beatty and the Hound?
6. "Beatty wanted to die". Explain why Montag comes to this conclusion.
7. What do we get to know about the world outside?
8. What is Faber's plan for Montag?
9. List the methods that the government uses to hunt Montag and describe how he manages to escape.
10. Analyse the community that Montag meets when he leaves the river. Who are they? What do they do? How do they protect themselves? What do they symbolise?
11. Explain the scene about Montag's manhunt that is shown on TV.
12. Why does Granger tell Montag the story of his grandfather?
13. What is happening to the city?
14. Do you see any parallels between the symbol of the phoenix and Montag's struggle?

## BEYOND THE TEXT

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### Essay topics / discussion:

1. "In Fahrenheit 451, technology has the power to control and liberate the people." Discuss.
2. Contrast Mildred Montag and Clarisse McClellan.
3. Analyse the character of Beatty or Faber.  
(their struggle - their development)
4. Identify the different stages of Montag's metamorphosis.  
What causes him to change? When? Why?
5. Do you see any similarities between their society and ours?
6. How is it possible to keep the people from rebelling against the system in place?
7. Why are books a threat to the values of society?
8. Why is it fair to say that Fahrenheit 451 is dystopian fiction?
9. Compare and contrast the two societies portrayed in the novel. (F451 vs book people)
10. Analyse the character of Captain Beatty.
11. Why is this novel still so popular today?

# ARE BOOKS DANGEROUS?

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## CASE STUDY: READING FEVER

### **FACT:**

"Reading addiction {Lesesucht} is introduced by Joachim Heinrich Campe as a new word into the Wörterbuch der Deutschen Sprache in 1809, where it is defined as an "unbounded, unregulated {...} craving to pleasure oneself through reading books".

### **Johann Gottfried Hoche in 1794**

Reading addiction is a foolish and harmful abuse of an otherwise good thing, a truly great evil, which is as infectious as yellow fever in Philadelphia {...}

### **Johann Georg Heinzmann in 1795**

Reading causes "susceptibility to colds, headaches, weakening of eyes, heat rashes, gout, arthritis, hemorrhoids, asthma, pulmonary disease, indigestion, blocking of the bowels, nervous disorder, migraines, epilepsy, hypochondria and melancholy."

### **Anon, "Reading as a Means of Culture", Sharpe's London Magazine (1867)**

"Moreover, reading should be avoided when it interferes with necessary repose, as it does when pursued at a late hour of night. It then has a pernicious influence upon the health first, then upon the spirits, then upon the mind itself. The knowledge gained in this way is, for the most part, but of little value, for it is gained at the expense of mental vigour, and sometimes even of life itself. To read when in bed, is to inflict a great evil on yourself without an equivalent. It is to injure your eyes, your brain, your nervous system, your intellect."

### **Questions:**

1. Why is reading compared to drugs / diseases / food in these articles? Try and find an explanation for these claims.
2. List 4 consequences that you find the extremely amusing.
3. List 2 consequences that you have understanding for.
4. Why do you think are these fears no longer a problem in our society?
5. Do these fears remind you of debates that are currently going on?