

Summer Assignment 2021-2022
Accelerated English I
Bostic/Kent

We are looking forward to working with you this year to engage in the important, challenging, and immensely enjoyable task of studying literature. While this course will help prepare students for future AP Courses in high school, the **overall goal of this course is to help students become effective and confident readers, writers, listeners, speakers, and viewers**. Since this is an Accelerated course, the workload is challenging and expectations are high; consequently, time management skills are crucial. However, students will find that their hard work, fortitude, and dedication will be beneficial, rewarding, and gratifying.

The purpose of the Accelerated English I Summer Assignment is to keep reading and analyzing skills sharp and help students prepare for the class in the fall.

The summer assignment for Accelerated English I not only indicates your willingness to work hard, but it also measures your commitment to the course. Therefore, we would like you to read the novel, Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. Through this text, we are going to explore the science fiction genre. Science fiction depicts a future in which technological advancement has significantly transformed society. Science fiction stories can employ a range of different tropes, but what links them all together is their shared speculation about the future of technological innovation and its potential to influence humans in either positive or negative ways. Fahrenheit 451 fits squarely into the science fiction genre due to its exploration of the social and political consequences of scientific innovation.

Fahrenheit 451 is also an example of dystopian fiction, which is a subgenre of science fiction that depicts a negative vision of the future. As opposed to utopian fiction, in which the author envisions a future that aligns with their social and political ideals, dystopian fiction focuses on problematic aspects of society that do not align with the author's ideals and which prevent the development of a better version of the world. As such, dystopian fiction frequently focuses on life under totalitarian governments and police states, where surveillance and suppression of public opinion lead to mass fear and suffering. Fahrenheit 451 fits into this dystopian fiction subgenre because it emphasizes how innovations in media technology negatively affect future society. As Bradbury envisions, the negative effects on future society will eventually become reflected in the law, leading to something akin to a police state in which firemen actively repress reading, learning, and critical thinking through violent acts of destruction. Firemen see book burning as necessary for maintaining people's peace of mind. Bradbury treats this oppressive future world as a dystopia where no one is truly happy.

The purpose of the summer reading assignment is complex:

- To help build confidence and competence as readers of complex text
- To give you, when you enter the class in the fall, an immediate basis for discussion of literary elements/terms
- To set up a basis for comparison with other works we will read during the year
- To establish the mindset of a lifelong learner

FIRST:

Read the novel, Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. Please have the novel read before the school year begins in the fall. On this page you will find helpful background information that will help deepen your connection with the text.

Fahrenheit 451 presents a future dystopian American society where books are outlawed and “firemen” are charged with burning any that are found. It is named for the fact that at 451° paper catches fire and burns.

Bradbury grew up in Waukegan, Illinois, and hung around the fire station as a kid along with his dad. Later he heard about book burnings occurring in Germany, Russia, and China, and the story of the great libraries of Alexandria being destroyed by flames some 2,000 years ago. Bradbury frequented libraries starting at the age of eight. As he never attended college, he considered libraries to be his “university.” In his own words:

“When I heard about Hitler burning the books in the streets of Berlin, it bothered me terribly. I was 15 when that happened, I was thoroughly in love with libraries and he [Hitler] was burning me when he did that.... The reason why I wrote Fahrenheit is that I am a library person and I am in danger of someday writing something that people might not like and they might burn. So it was only natural that I sat down and wrote Fahrenheit 451.”

When Bradbury was 30, he was walking down the street with a friend when a police car pulled up. The policemen got out of the car and one of them asked, “What are you doing?” to which Bradbury replied, “Putting one foot in front of the other.” That turned out to be the wrong thing to say as the policeman didn’t appreciate the joke. As it were, that experience resulted in the story “The Pedestrian.” Bradbury would later turn the main character of “The Pedestrian” into Guy Montag, the protagonist of Fahrenheit 451.

The original title for the novel wasn't Fahrenheit 451 but rather The Fireman. And it was only fitting that Bradbury wrote it in a library—the basement of UCLA's Powell Library—on a typewriter that he rented for ten cents per half hour. He completed the story in nine days.

In a 1956 interview, Bradbury reminisced about the writing of the novel:

"I wrote this book at a time when I was worried about the way things were going in this country four years ago [1952]. Too many people were afraid of their shadows; there was a threat of book burning. Many of the books were being taken off the shelves at that time. And of course, things have changed a lot in four years. Things are going back in a very healthy direction. But at the time I wanted to do some sort of story where I could comment on what would happen to a country if we let ourselves go too far in this direction, where all thinking stops, and the dragon swallows his tail, and we sort of vanish into a limbo and we destroy ourselves by this sort of action."

SECOND:

Discussion: Be prepared to discuss the following questions when we return to class in the fall. These questions will help prepare you for the first test in the class.

Test Review

Reading Assignment 1

1. Identify Guy Montag and describe his job.
2. Describe Clarisse McClellan.
3. What smelled like perfume to Montag?
4. Clarisse asked Montag if he was happy. Was he?
5. Who is Mildred, and what happened to her?
6. Why did the Emergency Hospital send technicians instead of doctors to treat Mildred?
7. What are parlor-walls?
8. Describe the mechanical hound.

9. What did Montag believe had been done to the hound?
10. Why was Clarisse considered anti-social?
11. Who gave Clarisse most of her information about the way life used to be?

Reading Assignment 2

1. Who was Captain Beatty?
2. How did the firemen know which houses had books?
3. What lie did Captain Beatty tell Montag?
4. What did Montag do in the old lady's attic?
5. Why were the alarms to burn always at night?
6. Why did the old woman light the match and commit suicide?
7. What happened to Clarisse? Was it an accident?
8. What was Montag afraid Captain Beatty would discover when he came to visit?
9. Why did Captain Beatty believe books should be destroyed?
10. What did Montag show Mildred after the captain had left the house?

Reading Assignment 3

1. Who was Faber?
2. Why did Montag go to see Faber?
3. What three elements did Faber feel were missing from life?
4. What plan did Montag and Faber devise?
5. What was Montag willing to do to convince Faber to help carry out the plan?
6. What had Faber designed that allowed him to be in constant contact with Montag?

7. Why did Faber decide to go to St. Louis?
8. Why did Montag burn the book of poetry in the wall incinerator in his home?
9. Where did Montag hide his books after the ladies left?
10. What was the destination of the alarm on the night Montag returned to work at the firehouse?

Reading Assignment 4

1. Who was the informant on Montag's home?
2. Why did Montag kill Captain Beatty?
3. Why didn't Montag run away before he killed Captain Beatty?
4. Where did Montag go after he killed Beatty?
5. When Montag left Faber's house, which direction did he go?
6. Why did Montag take whiskey, a suitcase, and some of Faber's dirty clothes with him?
7. What did the railroad tracks mean to Montag?
8. What was different about the fire Montag saw after leaving the river?
9. During the manhunt for Montag by the hound, why did the camera identify an innocent man as Montag?
10. What was different about the hobos Montag met? Why did each man identify himself as a famous author or piece of literature?
11. What had Montag been able to memorize?
12. What happened to the city during the war?
13. What did Montag and the intellectuals believe their mission to be once the war ended?

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Rachel.Bostic@yukonps.com

Marsha.Kent@yukonps.com