

Fahrenheit 451 - Essential Questions

Directions: Write at least 3 sentences in response to each question. Please make sure you do not repeat yourself. Instead, your thoughtful responses need to be written in complete sentences and include references to specific plot points. Use quotations as often as you can. Label your answers with the appropriate pages.

“The Hearth and the Salamander”

Pages 3 – 24

1. What do the “firemen” do for a living? Why?
2. During his conversation, Montag says that “You never wash it off completely,” referring to the kerosene. What could this mean symbolically?
3. How is Clarisse different from Mildred? Give specific details.

Pages 24 – 40

1. What is the mechanical hound and what is its purpose?
2. Why does society consider Clarisse “anti-social” (29)?
3. On page 40, Captain Beatty reveals something very important about himself. What is it?

Pages 41 – 68

1. What is the role of technology in this society? Give specific details.
2. What happens to Clarisse?
3. Re-read pages 54 – 62 very carefully. List three things Beatty talks about in his speech to Montag that are true about our world.

“The Sieve and the Sand”

Pages 71 – 91

1. When was the last liberal arts college shut down? Why?
2. What two items are exchanged before Montag left Faber’s house? Why?

Pages 91 – 110

1. What does Montag do when he returns home from Faber’s house (94)?
2. What effect does listening to Captain Beatty play his harp and needle have on Montag?

“Burning Bright”

Pages 113 – 136

1. How does Beatty give Montag hints that he is under suspicion?
2. Why does Montag burn Beatty’s body?
3. Why does Montag want Faber to turn on the air conditioning and sprinklers?

Pages 137 – 165

1. Explain this quotation: “Twenty million Montag’s running, soon, if the cameras caught him.”
2. Explain the implications of the events in the final 4 – 5 pages.