



Welcome to English 9H,

We are excited to have you join us for this academic adventure!

Your summer reading project includes reading the novel *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury and exploring and responding to the text via the attached assignments. You can get a copy of the book from your English teacher.

Please do original work. Remember, the purpose of literary analysis (or any academic work) is to increase your ability to think critically and broadly, analyze and synthesize ideas, and discover new ideas using your own brain. You won't get any smarter or more capable of academic work by using other people's ideas or words.

Our advice:

- Read over the assignments before you start reading the book in order to get a context for your understanding of the book.
- Consider marking pages with small sticky notes as you read, so you can easily find the quote or symbol or idea you are looking for when you do the written assignments
- Don't stop during your reading to do the assignments; read the book, then do the assignments using the material you have flagged.
- Discuss the book with your family or friends, so you can work through your ideas out loud and fix the book more firmly in your mind. Don't ask for help; just tell them what is interesting in the book and talk about the ideas.

In this packet please find:

- ★ The Pleasant Valley High School Academic Integrity Contract
- ★ Choosing and responding to quotes assignment instructions
- ★ Analyzing symbols instructions



When completing the assignments, please:

- Make sure your name is on all pages of the assignment
- Type all responses in 12 point plain font like Arial or Times New Roman
- Make sure it is clear where one response ends and the next begins. Clarity is key!
- **Use MLA citation style, which is:**

“Quote of the exact words from the text” (author last name page number).

“So many people are. Afraid of firemen, I mean. But you're just a man, after all...” (Bradbury 7).

Use ellipses (...) to show something has been left out of the original quote.

Use brackets ([]) around words you have added to the quote for clarity.

Brackets indicate that these words were not part of the original quote.

When you return from summer break, you will turn in

- your signed Academic Integrity contract
- your typed responses to the *Fahrenheit 451* assignments.

[Have a great summer! Enjoy the book! See you in August!](#)

Part One: *Fahrenheit 451* Choosing and Responding to Quotes

The novel is divided into **3 sections**. You will be responsible for **3 quote and response entries from each section**. **You should have a total of 9 quote and response entries.**

Title the first section of your paper “The Hearth and the Salamander”, the second section “The Sieve and the Sand” and the third section, “Burning Bright”.

Under each section heading, you will be writing 3 quotes of text that you have selected as being **interesting, significant or worthy of comment**. The quoted text does not have to be something that a character said. It can be part of the narration. All quotes (both what characters say and narration) **must be inside quotation marks, correctly punctuated and cited with the author’s last name and page number**.

Under each quotation, write a thoughtful response to the quote using one of the **required** response prompts. Be sure to identify by number which prompt response you are using.

Response Prompt Choices

Use one response choice per quote. All three response choices must be used in each section in any order. Repeat the same process for all three sections.

1. Explain how the quote reveals something about the character either saying the quote or being spoken about in the quote.
2. Note examples of literary techniques or devices such as similes, metaphors, personification, imagery, allusion, etc. (This is a good example of ____ because...). Explain the effect of the technique/device and why the author might be using it. (When the author uses this ____ it...).
3. Make inferences or draw conclusions about something in the story based on the quote. (The author seems to be trying to show that.../ I understand that the reason the speaker feels this way is...The author wants the reader to understand/wonder/feel...)

Sample Quote and Response

“The Hearth and the Salamander”

“So many people are. Afraid of firemen, I mean. But you’re just a man, after all...” (Bradbury 7).

Response choice #3- This quote reveals that people in the book’s society are afraid of firemen. Since this is at the beginning of the book, the author wants the reader to be confused about why people would fear firemen. In our society, firemen are seen as protectors of people and property who are very trustworthy. I can infer that firemen are still important in this society, but their role is not so benevolent, or at least people don’t think of them as “heroes” the way our society does. The author also seems to be implying that the speaker, Clarisse, might not be like the other people in her society because 1) she isn’t afraid of Guy Montag and 2) she is able to think about her experiences and change her mind about her preconceived ideas. The author seems to be trying to show that the society is very different from our own, that firemen are feared (probably as some kind of authority figures) and that Clarisse understands her society and might be different from lots of people in it.

(This entry would be followed by two more quotes and responses from the first section of the book. The second and third sections will follow the same pattern.)

Part Two: *Fahrenheit 451* Analyzing Symbols

1. Choose one symbol from each category. **You should have two symbols total.**
2. **Type** a brief **interpretation** of the symbol and **discuss its significance** to the story.
3. Include **one piece of textual evidence per symbol** and **cite** correctly.

You may need to research the mythological, biblical, and/or cultural background of the symbols to help develop your understanding. If you found information online, write down the name of the website and the web address and attach to your symbol analysis.

Category 1	Category 2
Pigeon Winged Books	Faber
Black Beetle Helmet	Clarisse
TV Walls	The Women/Mildred's Friends
Electronic Bees/ Seashell Radio	Stoneman/Black
Book Burning	Man in the Moon

Example of Format

Symbol: Phoenix

According to "Myths and Legends of the World" reference guide, "the phoenix is a legendary bird mentioned in Greek, Roman, and Egyptian mythology" and it would "set [its] nest on fire and [die] in the flames. However, a new phoenix rose from the ashes." In *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury uses this symbol to metaphorically compare this immortal bird with humanity after the city had been bombed. Humans continue to make the same decisions over and over, just like the phoenix continually dies and is reborn. Humans continually make the same mistakes throughout history and Bradbury indicates through the character, Granger, that at least humans can recognize their mistakes. Granger explains to Montag that "There was a silly damn bird called a phoenix back before Christ, every few hundred years he built a pyre and burnt himself up. He must have been first cousin to Man. But every time he burnt himself up he sprang out of the ashes, he got himself born all over and over, but we've got one damn thing the phoenix never had. We know the damn silly thing we done for a thousand years and as long as we know someday we'll stop making the goddamn funeral pyres and jumping in the middle of them. We pick up a few more people that remember every generation" (Bradbury 163). This hope that Granger has for humanity purposefully mentions Christ as he is also seen as one who was "reborn." This is all significant to the story because it demonstrates mankind's continuous mistakes throughout history and the hope that humankind can recognize what needs to change in society. Granger and his group have made a point to remember the past and make changes for the future.