Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hr: \_\_\_\_

**Intro to Fahrenheit 451**

* The novel was written by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a celebrated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ writer. It began as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1951 and evolved into a novel by 1953.
* The novel was written at a time when the world was threatened by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were emerging and the world was getting smaller.

**Ray Bradbury (1920-2012)**

* As a child, Bradbury recalls an intense fascination with monsters, magicians, and adventure films.
* He began writing stories at the age of \_\_\_\_\_\_.
* He wrote for Alfred Hitchcock and *The Twilight Zone*.
* Bradbury is the author of more than \_\_\_\_\_ published literary works that include short stories, plays, novels, poetry, and screenplays.
* In 1940, Bradbury sold his first story.
* In 1942, he was able to quit his newspaper job and write full-time.
* His first novel was *The Martian Chronicles*, which describes humankind’s first attempt to colonize the planet Mars.
* This novel combines science fiction with social commentary—an approach that characterizes much of his work.

**Social Concerns**

* Bradbury’s works explored the threat of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—issues that still concern us today.

**Personal Context**

* On a more personal level, Bradbury used *Fahrenheit 451* as a means of protesting what he believed to be the invasiveness of editors, who, through strict control of the books they printed, impaired the originality and creativity of writers.

**What do you think?**

Despite its benefits, technology can have unpredictable consequences on our society.

What are some of these potential consequences?

**Historical Context**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had ended only a few years before
	+ Threat of nuclear warfare loomed
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Many Sci-Fi books and movies reflected this fear

**Lasting Effects of WWII**

* Hitler has just been defeated
* During his “power” reign he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ many books
* Soviet Union also \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and burned books
* Communist China also burned books

**McCarthyism**

* Questions about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the government
* Movement where fear of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was wide-spread!
* Practice of making accusations of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_without proper regard for evidence
* McCarthy trials
	+ Senator Joseph McCarthy
	+ McCarthy made a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that more than two hundred \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had infiltrated the United States government. Incited a huge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_which helped lead to the Korean War and the Cold War.
	+ McCarthy accused many Army officials of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and communist ties.
	+ He also focused on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, creating a great debate on artistic freedom.
* Thousands of people lost their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as, all across America, state legislatures and school boards mimicked McCarthy and his House on Un-American Activities Committee.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_were even pulled from library shelves, including *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*, which was deemed communist-like for suggesting stealing from the rich to give to the poor.
* Above all, several messages became crystal clear to the average American: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* By 1953, his accusations were at their height. His hearings were held in 1954 and were the first to be publicly broadcast (ruined his reputation and career).

**The 1950s**

* By mid-century, nearly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Americans were members of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; they had more discretionary income.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The electronics industry became the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_largest industry. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**had a widespread impact in American homes.
* The United States became an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_culture.
* The increase in prosperity after the war led to an increased passivity and conformity. Jobs were plentiful and the common saying of the time period was: “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

**Timeline of the 1950s**

* 1950:
* 1951: 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are convicted and sentenced to death for passing information on atomic weapons to the USSR.

* 1952: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ People are generally respectful of each other, the government, religion and life.
* 1954: The U.S. Supreme Court wrote in “Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas” that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in schools was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	+ U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy begins a televised \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This became known as “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”. Basically, the Cold War revolved around the fact that:
		- The USA was a Democratic country where people could do what they want, become rich and have freedoms.
		- The Soviet Republic (USSR) was Communist, which meant people listened to the government, lived equally and shared resources.
	+ The United States declared Communism countries to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The US government wanted everyone to think Communists were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_so they spread around hate propaganda.
	+ McCarthy accused random people he didn’t like of being Communists, which basically ruined their lives.
* 1956: Elvis Presley took the music world by storm with five #1 songs on the Billboard Music Chart.
	+ Robert Noyce and Jack Kilby invent the microchip.
	+ The first enclosed mall called Southdale opened in Edina, Minnesota
* 1957: First British H-bomb exploded at Christmas Island.
	+ First underground nuclear test “Rainier” occurred at the Nevada Test Site.
	+ Britain’s first truly successful thermonuclear bomb test.
	+ The Soviet Union Launches the Sputnik, the first artificial satellite.

**Predict or Prevent?**

* Bradbury claimed he was trying to “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.
* He did foresee many future developments:
	+ Walkmans, earbuds, big-screen and interactive t.v., rise in violence, growing illiteracy, condensation of info into “sound bites”

**The World Was Going Crazy!**

* As the 1950s and the Cold War progressed Ray Bradbury saw the government taking a great deal of power over the people and this worried him.
* How could a government with too much power be dangerous?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Ray Bradbury saw the world changing quickly and dangerously so this is why he wrote *Fahrenheit 451* – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_….
* 1945- fewer than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ television sets in the entire United States
* 1950- More than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the United States
* 1960- More than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the United States

**The Novel**

* The novel was written by Ray Bradbury, a celebrated science fiction writer. It began as a short story in 1951 and evolved into a novel by 1953.

**Overview**

* Protagonist: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Antagonist: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Narrator: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Setting: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* *Fahrenheit 451* was published in 1953.
* It is a novel of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** that warns against the dangers of suppressing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* It uses the conventions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to convey a message that “oppressive government, left unchecked, can do irreparable damage to society by limiting the creativity and freedom of its people”.

**What is Social Criticism?**

* Social criticism analyzes (problematic) social structures, and aims at practical solutions by specific measures, radical reform, or even revolutionary change.
* *Fahrenheit 451* is a social criticism that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* *Fahrenheit 451* was developed in the years immediately following World War II.
* It condemns not only the anti-intellectualism of Nazi Germany (book burnings), but also America in the 1950s—the heyday of McCarthyism, and a growing fear of communism.
* Other influential social criticisms of the time include George Orwell’s *1984* and *Animal Farm*

**The Novel**

* It is the \_\_\_\_\_\_century. Books are considered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Nobody is allowed to own them. Most people are happy being plugged into their technology, where they do not have to think too hard. All books that are found are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Bradybury was right: In *Fahrenheit 451*, Bradbury tries to “prevent the future,” not predict it, but he actually *does* anticipate the future.
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ Parlor Walls
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ A reliance on technology to mediate *all* social experience
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (including gun violence)
	+ The use of televised surveillance footage for many purposes.
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ The condensation of information into what we now call “sound bites.”
* Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451* is a type of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_novel. That means it is about a future that is bleak, dark, and dreary.
* The novel focuses on two central themes:
1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CENSORSHIP:**

* is the suppression of speech or deletion of communicative material which may be considered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the government or media organizations as determined by a censor.
	+ Why would something be censored?
	+ What are the dangers of censorship?
	+ In the world of *Fahrenheit 451*, books are burned because they trigger \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, two things that are unwelcome in this “happiness oriented” society.
	+ What’s unexpected about the censorship in *Fahrenheit 451* is that it seems to have originated with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**IGNORANCE OF KNOWLEDGE:**

* Bradbury focuses on the importance of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and how it impacts our ability to make decisions. He believes that without the ability to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about what we’re doing, we’ll be led to do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* What does true happiness consist of?
* Is ignorance bliss, or do knowledge and learning provide true happiness?
* In this world, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ promote \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by destroying \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—and with them—\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Other Themes:**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:
	+ Technology in Bradbury’s 24th century is highly advanced and dominates society.
	+ TV, radio broadcasts, fast cars and atomic weapons dominate people’s experiences—at the expense of things like nature, music and poetry.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:
* Dystopia: an imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad, typically a totalitarian or environmentally degraded one.
* The “Dystopia” motif, popular in science fiction—that of a technocratic and totalitarian society that demands \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_at the expense of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—is central to the novel.
* Dystopias:
	+ Characteristics:
		- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is used to control citizens.
		- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are restricted.
		- A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or concept is worshipped by citizens.
		- Citizens are under constant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
		- Citizens feel trapped and struggle to escape.
		- The natural world is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
		- Citizens are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
		- The society is an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of a perfect utopian world.
* Types of Control:
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: large corporations control society through products, advertising, and/or the media.
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: red tape, relentless regulations and incompetent government officials.
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: society is controlled by technology—robots, computers, etc.
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: ideology is enforced through a dictatorship or theocratic government.
	+ Can you think of any additional examples of dystopias in film or literature?

**Themes to Watch For**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is important.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is self-destructive.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ make for an empty life.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ should preserve and value the culture of the past.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has the ability to be reborn or revived.
* In the wrong hands, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can be dangerous.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can erode spiritual values.
* People lose their humanity when not able to communicate and interact with each other on a personal level.

**Themes to Consider:**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Freedom of speech and the consequences of losing it
* The importance of remembering and understanding history
* Machines as helpers to humans vs. Machines as hindrances or enemies
* Apathy and Passivity
* Alienation and Loneliness
* Change and Transformation

**Symbols to Investigate:**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The salamander
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Titles of each section

**Summary:**

Guy Montag is a fireman. It is not his job to put out fires. It is his job to start them. If a house is suspected to have books in it, Guy and the other firemen properly dispose of them. Most often, the whole house must be destroyed. Sometimes the people in the house choose to die with their books. The problem is Guy is not so comfortable with the whole burning books thing. He wonders why they must be burned. What power do they have? Why would somebody choose to die for their books? It wouldn’t hurt just to take one and read it, right? Unfortunately for Guy, he lives in a society where censorship is king; a society where you don’t know if you can trust your friends, or even your wife; a society in which criminals are tracked by relentless mechanical hounds that never fail to bring down their victims….Guy used to uphold and enforce the law. Bringing home a book will cause a chain of events that not even he could have anticipated…

**Now here is some irony:**

Fahrenheit 451 is a book about the dangers of censorship. Yet this book itself has been the object of censorship. It has been banned and/or challenged in many places across the United States.

Why might other books or types of media be censored?

It is the practice of keeping material from being viewed by others because of objectionable or offensive material.

What does it mean for a book to be banned or challenged?

It means that somebody was offended by something in the book and demanded that it be removed from shelves in libraries, bookstores, etc.

Not all books that are challenged in this way are banned, but some are. It depends on the community, and their policies on censorship.