

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE PREP ENGLISH IIIB

FAHRENHEIT 451 **Comprehension Questions**

(Pages 3-24)

1. The first page describes a man who is a fireman. What is different about his job and the usual meaning of “fireman”?
2. What does the fire hose (“this great python”) spray?
3. “His symbolic helmet numbered 451” echoes the “definition on the title page.” How is the helmet symbolic?
4. How does the fireman get home?
5. Whom does the fireman meet on his way home?
6. How old is she? How old is he?
7. How long has he been a fireman?
8. What is the official slogan of the firemen?
9. List several things the girl asks the fireman about.
10. Describe the girl’s uncle.
11. What does Montag look at so intently when he gets inside his house?
12. What event does he remember from a year ago that reminds him of this meeting tonight?
13. Montag thinks that most people’s faces are like torches, “blazing away” before you, but he thinks of Clarisse’s face as mirror like. What does he mean?
14. Define “foreshadowing” and “simile”.
15. What does Montag’s bedroom remind him of?
16. What does Montag accidentally kick on the floor and what was missing from it?
17. What is Mrs. Montag’s first name?

18. What does Montag do at the same time that the jet bombers go screaming over his house?
19. Show some evidence from the text that Montag's wife is like a living corpse.
20. Define "accumulated," "serum," "puff adders," and "contraceptive."
21. What do the two machines do?
22. Where does Montag go after the workmen leave?
23. Define, in your own words, "electronic bees," "seashell ears thimbles."
24. What does Mrs. Montag remember about the night before? What does she think must have happened?
25. Why doesn't Montag try to explain to Mildred what really happened?
26. What does Montag try to tell his wife before he goes to work?
27. Why is Millie so excited about the upcoming TV show?
28. How many TV walls do they have?
29. What do you think Millie wants him to buy?
30. What does Clarisse decide about Montag by using a dandelion?
31. Whom is Clarisse on her way to see? Why?

(Pages 24-44)

32. Define the following words:
 - olfactory system
 - proboscis
 - incinerator
 - trajectory
 - ballistics
33. Instead of a firehouse dog, like a Dalmatian, each firehouse now has a Mechanical Hound. Describe it.

34. What is the Hound's apparent function?
35. What games do the firemen typically play with it?
36. Define the following:
 - Antisocial
 - Abnormal
 - TV Class (*what the book says it may be*)
 - Proclivities
 - Flashback
 - Self-consciousness
37. When Beatty asks Montag, "You got some?" (meaning books), what two scenes does Montag picture in his imagination?
38. Whose influence is causing Montag to ask the dangerous questions he brings up at work?
39. According to the rule book used by these firemen, who established the Firemen of America, when, and why?
40. There is no such thing in America as a national fire department. Why would there be one in this story?
41. Define the following:
 - Objectivity
 - Fervor
 - Fanatics
42. When the woman quotes a famous line, what does Captain Beatty do?
43. What was the "inconvenient" feature of this particular fire alarm, caused by the unusual fact that the police had not come first?
44. In the middle of all the uproar, what does Montag's "hand" suddenly do?

45. What do you think the old woman means when she says, “You can’t ever have my books?”
46. What is Beatty’s explanation for knowing the old woman’s quote?

(Pages 45-68)

47. Define “relatives” and “cacophony.”
48. What question does Montag ask his wife that she cannot answer?
49. When Millie can’t answer the question, what does she get up to do?
50. As Montag lies alone in bed, he has a long meditation on Millie’s life with her television walls. What does he call the characters on the shows?
51. What does Mildred say has happened to Clarisse?
52. As his wife goes to sleep, what does Montag hear outside the house?
53. When he asks Millie to turn off the TV because he is sick, what response does she give for not wanting to do it?
54. What sudden reaction does Montag have to the odor of kerosene? What did he once tell Clarisse about the odor of kerosene (in section 2)?
55. What does Mildred find under Montag’s pillow while Beatty gives his lecture?
56. As Beatty drives away, and Montag looks at the flat-fronted houses on his street, what pops into Montag’s mind?
57. What does Montag admit to Millie?
58. How many books were stashed behind the ventilator grille?

(Pages 68-88)

59. Whom does Montag think of when he decides he needs a teacher?
60. Montag has known about Faber for a year without turning him in. What are some possible implications of this fact? What does it say about Montag?
61. What is the “only one thing to do” that Montag decides on before he leaves the house?
62. What dangerous thing does Montag do in this passage?

63. Faber says, “Three things are missing” in the world of Fahrenheit 451. What are they?
64. What plan does Montag suggest which Faber rejects at first?

(Pages 88-110)

65. What “insidious plan” does Faber casually suggest, and which Montag agrees to carry out?
66. What does Faber give Montag before he goes to help him against Captain Beatty?
67. How many men have been called up for the war by the government according to the radio? According to Faber?
68. As Montag walks home from Faber’s house, what does he have in his ears?
69. When Montag complains to Faber that he is still doing what he’s told, and not really thinking, Faber says, “You’re wise already!” Is that just double-talk, or do you think there’s something to what Faber says?
70. After he turns off the TV walls and argues with the women, what does Montag force them to do?
71. What reasons do the women give as evidence that Winston Noble was such a good candidate for president?
72. Why does Montag keep washing his hands when he gets to work?
73. How does Beatty cleverly “punish” Montag at work?
74. If you had to guess, who would you say turned in the alarm on Montag’s house?

(Pages 110-130)

75. Why were the lights going on all down the street?
76. Whom does Beatty assign to burn the house?
77. When Beatty struck Montag on the head, what happened?
78. What does Beatty say he’ll do about the two-way radio?
79. What does Montag do to the Captain? To the other firemen?
80. What does Montag soon hear on the radio?

81. What does Montag think is after him in the car, at first?
82. How old are they?

(Pages 130-150)

83. What do the police suggest to the people of Elm Terrace?
84. How many people are watching the TV chase? What do these viewers do exactly when the TV announcer tells them to? What kind of people are these?
85. How do the men know Montag's name?
86. What is Granger's prediction for how the Hound's chase will end?

(Pages 150-170)

87. Why do all the men start shouting at the same time? What earlier scenes come to mind?
88. When they walk north to help in the city, who leads?
89. What does Granger mean when he says, "But even when we had the books on hand, a long time ago, we didn't use what we got out of them. We went right on insulting the dead?"