Study Guide: Fahrenheit 451
As you read each section of the novel, answer the following questions. These questions should act as a study guide and are intended to supplement careful reading of the novel.

Part I: The Hearth and the Salamander (pages 3-68)
1. What do the "firemen" do for a living?
   They help enforce the law in which no books are allowed – they burn the books that are found.
2. In the opening scene, why are the books compared to birds?
   The pages of the book are flapping, similar to the way a bird looks when it is flapping its wings.
3. According to pages 3-4, what does Montag think of his job?
   He enjoys his job and gets pleasure out of burning books.
4. Who does Montag meet on the way home?
   Clarisse McClellan
5. During his conversation, Montag says that "You never wash it off completely" referring to the kerosene. What could this mean symbolically?
   Montag can never escape being a fireman – the smell is always with him, and so are his actions.
6. Why do you think that Bradbury would introduce Clarisse before Montag's wife, Mildred?
   Clarisse has a major impact on Montag, making him consider things he has never thought of before. Clarisse is unique; Mildred is not.
7. Why does Mildred need help when Montag gets home?
   She has tried to kill herself by overdosing on sleeping pills.
8. Describe the help that she receives.
   Two men, handymen, come with two machines. The first slid into the stomach and removed all of the contents of her stomach. The second machine “pumped all of the blood from the body and replaced it with fresh blood and serum.”
9. Is there anything unusual about the way the two men go about helping Mildred? How is it unusual?
   They are impersonal and do not discuss the procedure or how Mildred is feeling with Montag. They are used to the procedure because they get 9 or 10 cases per night.
10. How is life in Montag's house very different from that of Clarisse's house?
    Montag’s house is quiet and dark. Clarisse’s house is bright and full of laughter and talking.
11. How does Mildred react after she wakes up from her previous night's experience?
    Mildred does not know, or acts as if she doesn’t know, what happened the previous night. She is extremely hungry and feels hungover. When Montag confronts her, she says she would do nothing of the sort.
12. What does Mildred do all day?
She watches and interacts with the TV all day.
13. Describe the setup of Montag's TV room.
The rooms has 3 TVs on 3 separate walls – the TVs are as large as the walls.
14. What is Clarisse doing when Montag sees her on page 21?
She was letting rain fall on her face.
15. How is Clarisse different than Mildred?
She thinks, questions ideas she doesn’t understand, is very social, and interacts with Montag,
16. What is the mechanical hound and what is its purpose?
It is a machine that resembles a dog. It is made with brass, copper, and steel; has 8 legs and a 4
inch needle it uses to inject its prey
with morphine or procaine; and then the prey is tossed into the incinerator where it is burned. Its
purpose is to hunt down any prey
that is put into its olfactory system.
17. What is the hound's reaction to Montag?
The hound growled at Montag, rose up, and growled again with his needle extended. Montag left
quickly.
18. Why does society consider Clarisse “anti-social” (page 29)?
She ponders why things are the way they are and she doesn’t do things other teenagers do; so,
she doesn’t have any friends.
19. At the next fire, what does Montag take?
A book from the old lady’s house
20. On pg 40, Beatty reveals something very important about himself & his knowledge. What is
revealed?
He reveals that he knew the piece of literature the old lady quoted before being burnt alive (about
the heretics Latimer and Ridley).
Beatty says he’s full of bits and pieces, which shows that he knows a lot about Literature.
21. What technology does Mildred use to go to sleep?
“seashells” – they’re similar to headphones, but they’re wireless
22. Who is Mildred's "family"?
The TV parlor
23. What has happened to Clarisse? How did it happen?
She died; she was hit by a speeding car.
24. What is unusual about the way Mildred told Montag about Clarisse?
She is very nonchalant when she tells Montag. She didn’t tell him until 4 days after it happened.
It’s like she doesn’t care or have any
emotion about it.
25. Read pages 55-62 very carefully. They contain great truths about our world. List three things
Beatty talks about in his speech to
Montag that are true about our world.
a. technology – The firemen became what they are because of technology. With the invention of
photography, motion pictures, radio, and TV, books became less appealing.

b. mass exploitation – The 20th century sped everything up and people desired a “snap ending.”
c. minority pressure – The bigger the population, the more minorities, and no one wants to be unhappy. So, they tried to please everyone, and that led to books of every type being banned.

Part II: "The Sieve and the Sand" (Pages 71 -110)

26. When was the last liberal arts college shut down?
40 years ago – “for lack of students and patronage”

27. What did Professor Faber think about Montag’s call?
Faber thought Montag was trying to “set some sort of trap”

28. Why did Faber’s fear dissipate when Montag was standing outside his door?
Faber saw the book Montag had under his arm

29. What did Montag want from Faber?
To teach him to understand what he reads

30. T/F: Faber reminded Montag that people who are having fun are reluctant to become rebels. Explain.
True – People were too busy having “fun” and staying entertained by the parlor families, the “White Clown,” and “Mr. Gimmick,” If any would rebel, they would scare too easily. The firemen are “rarely necessary.”

31. How did Montag finally get Faber to consider really helping him?
Montag began to rip out pages of the Bible – this was too much for Faber, so he agreed to help Montag

32. T/F: The Queen Bee analogy underscored Faber’s cowardice. Explain.
True – Faber is too scared to go out into society and rebel; he prefers to stay safe in his home and let Montag do the really dangerous work.

33. What two items were exchanged before Montag left the professor’s house?
Montag gave Faber the Bible and Faber gave Montag the green bullet so they could communicate

34. What is the volcano’s mouth?
The entrance to the TV parlor room

35. What was Faber’s opinion of Montag’s poetry reading?
Faber told Montag he was a fool for reading poetry to the women

36. Which lady was affected by the original intent of the poetry?
Mrs. Phelps was extremely affected – she cried

37. T/F In the late hours of the night, Faber refused to console Montag for foolishly reading poetry to the poor, silly women. Explain
False – Faber consoled Montag by telling him that it wasn’t that long ago when he was just like
39. Listening to Captain Beatty play his harp and needle Montag had what effect upon Guy?
Montag felt confused because he wasn’t used to thinking or having to process thoughts (and what Beatty was saying) so quickly

40. What interrupted the poker game?
An alarm – Beatty said this was a “special case”

41. Captain Beatty drove the Salamander to whose house?
Montag’s house

**Part III: Burning Bright (pages 111-166)**

42. How has Beatty given Montag hints that he is under suspicion?
He has visited Montag’s house and made many comments to Montag about reading books. Beatty also sent the hound to “sniff” around Montag’s house, and the hound has been suspicious of Montag at the firehouse.

43. Who must have brought the books back from the garden?
Mildred

44. Who TURNED IN AN ALARM AGAINST Montag? (3 people)
Mrs. Phelps, Mildred, Mrs. Bowles

45. What happened to Montag’s green bullet?
Beatty took it after he hit Montag and it fell out of Montag’s ear.

46. Why did Montag burn Beatty’s body?
Beatty did keep irritating Montag; however, Montag also says that burning things is the way to get rid of them.

47. What is Montag’s plan to escape?
He’s decided to run to Faber’s house. Faber advises to go towards the river, find the railroad tracks, and meet up with one of the hobo groups.

48. How much money did Montag give Faber?
$100

49. How many scents can the mechanical hound remember?
Up to 10,000

50. Why did Montag want Faber to turn on the air conditioning and sprinklers?
To get rid of Montag’s scent

51. Interpret “Twenty million Montag’s running, soon, if the cameras caught him.”
Montag is going to be on everybody’s TV

52. Why did the search for Montag veer inland?
They lost his scent at the river, so they turned inland to give the audience the “snap ending” they desired.

53. Who died in Montag’s place?
An innocent man

54. What did Granger mean by “Welcome back from the dead.”
Their society thinks Montag is dead, but also Montag has a different chemical complex because of the liquid Granger gave him.

55. When Granger and other like minded people are stopped by authorities, why isn’t any incriminating evidence found? They burn the books after they memorize them.

56. Do you have a sense that there are other “book chapters” in other towns? What proof do you have?

Yes – Granger says so.

57. What does Granger mean by his quote “You’re not important. You’re not anything.”? Granger doesn’t want them to get a big head. He doesn’t want them to be full of themselves because then they are likely to do something that will get them caught