

English I Summer Reading: 2019-20: Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*

As an incoming 9th grader, you will read AND annotate Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*.

Annotation means taking meticulous notes during the reading process. It means stopping each time you encounter a passage that seems significant and marking that passage, either in the margin of the page or in a notebook. It also means underlining unfamiliar vocabulary or terminology so that you can define these new words.

In your Strake Jesuit English classes, you will be assigned reading on a regular basis, and each time you have a reading assignment, you also have an annotation assignment. In other words, reading always involves annotation.

Not all of our students come to us in 9th grade as perfect readers or annotators, and we won't expect this of you either right away. But you ARE expected to strive for this goal on this assignment. You may be aware that part of our mission at Jesuit is to be "open to growth" and ready to embrace new challenges. By the time you leave Jesuit, you will be a highly skilled reader, ready for any challenge that college may throw your way.

While reading Bradbury's novel, pay special attention to the following themes. Mark and annotate any passage that seems to relate to them.

- Totalitarian control and censorship
- The danger of ideas in a repressive society
- Conformity
- The power of the written word
- The role of books in society
- Civilization versus barbarism
- Literature and history
- The contrasts between books and other mass media
- Potential hazards of mass media
- Manipulation of the masses
- Utopia vs. Dystopia

In the first week of school, you will be assessed on a summer reading test. Usually, this will entail an essay written in class. Most likely, you will be given a passage from the novel to contextualize and analyze in relation to one or more of the themes above.

Note: All use of online study aids such as Sparknotes and Schmoop are prohibited in Jesuit English classes. We take academic integrity very seriously, and when given an assignment like this, you are ALWAYS expected to read and annotate on your own. Intellectual laziness or dishonesty will not be tolerated. We strive for the *magis* in all things, and everything we do is for God's greater glory. AMDG