

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Myers Grade: 9-12 School: Olentangy High School

Book Title: Fahrenheit 451 Genre: Science Fiction

Author: Ray Bradbury Pages: 179

Publisher: Random House Copyright: 1979

In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.

Book Summary and summary citation: (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

From the back cover:

The system was simple. Everyone understood it. Books were for burning...along with the house in which they were hidden.

Guy Montag enjoyed his job. He had been a fireman for ten years, and he had never questioned the pleasure of the midnight runs nor the joy of watching pages consumed by flames...never questioned anything until he met a seventeen-year-old girl who told him of a past when people were not afraid.

Then he met a professor who told him of a future in which people could think...and Guy Montag suddenly realized what he had to do!

Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s): (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

Conceptual Understanding

1. Formulate the meaning of unknown words through context clues and the author's use of comparison, contrast and cause and effect. 10AVA

Conceptual Understanding

2. Integrate new vocabulary into writing and conversation by analyzing literal and figurative meanings of words, including how historical events have impacted the English language. 10AVC

Structural Understanding

3. Analyze and apply new vocabulary using knowledge of Greek, Latin and Anglo-Saxon roots, prefixes and suffixes. 10AVE

4. Explain how an author uses rhetorical devices to achieve purpose. 10RAIB

7. Interpret an author's style. 10RALB

8. Analyze the use of figurative language, sound devices and literary

- techniques in literary works. 10RALF
9. Compare and contrast literary elements focusing on plot and conflict, literary styles in diverse literary works. 10RALC
10. Analyze literary elements focusing on sub genres. 12RALC
11. Evaluate plot, character, theme, point of view and setting in varied genres. 10RALA,B, 12RALA
12. Explain how figurative language expresses tone. 10RALF

Pre-Writing

1. Determine a purpose and plan strategies (eg. adapting, focus, content structure and point of view) to address purpose and audience. 10WPA

Drafting, Revising and Editing

2. Establish and use a thesis statement for informational writing or outline for narrative writing. 12WPB
3. Employ independent editing and proofreading to improve the sophistication of writing, (i.e. parallel structures, literary devices and figurative language). 12WPC,D

5. Write well organized responses that reflect insightful interpretation that support judgments beyond specific references to the original texts, to other texts, authors and prior knowledge. 12WAB

7. Write expository essays or reports that include relevant, clear and accurate perspectives, supported by documented sources. 12WAD

8. Write persuasive compositions that establish a clear position with detailed evidence that includes relevant information and cites sources. 10WAE, 12WAE

Grammar and Usage

10. Use correct grammar (eg. verb tenses, parallel structure, indefinite and relative pronouns). 10WCC
11. Use style guides to produce oral and written reports that give proper credit for sources and include a standardized format for source acknowledgment (MLA). 10RD

Listening and Viewing

12. Analyze credibility of speaker, types of arguments, choice of language and delivery styles while applying active listening strategies. 10CB

Include two professional reviews of this title: (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be “cut and pasted” (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

Review #1

Joan Oleck -- School Library Journal, 6/13/2007

Here's a news flash for those who have interpreted Fahrenheit 451 (Ballentine, 1953) as a protest against censorship: Ray Bradbury says that it just isn't so. The author, interviewed last week by the L.A. Weekly, says the novel is actually about how television destroys interest in reading literature. "Useless," Bradbury, now 86, complained to the Los Angeles publication about the ubiquitous tube. "They stuff you with so much useless information, you feel full." He adds that his fear about television—when he first published his book 54 years ago—has been partially confirmed by its effect on the news.

Fahrenheit 451 fans watching widescreen TVs are sure to think back to the book's central character, Guy Montag. The fireman—which in this case means a book burner—begins to wonder why he's burning books to pay for a living room featuring three wall-sized televisions, with his wife pressuring him to buy a fourth. The title, Fahrenheit 451, is stated as "the temperature at which book-paper catches fire, and burns."

As everyone who's ever loved the book (or the 1966 movie starring Julie Christie and Oskar Werner) knows, Guy Montag eventually gives up burning books and considers joining a secret community of book-lovers who "become" their books by memorizing them to pass them down to future generations.

Interestingly, Bradbury's comments are timely. Fahrenheit 451 is, for many communities, this season's National Endowment for the Arts-funded "One Book" selection. Bradbury's publisher, Gauntlet Press, this month also is releasing Match to Flame, a collection of short stories Bradbury wrote as a run-up to Fahrenheit 451.

Bradbury has said that he wrote Fahrenheit 451 on a typewriter in the basement of UCLA's Powell Library and that his original intention in writing the book was to show his great love for books and libraries.

Review #2

The Barnes & Noble Review

Fahrenheit 451 is set in a grim alternate-future setting ruled by a tyrannical government in which firemen as we understand them no longer exist: Here, firemen don't douse fires, they ignite them. And they do this specifically in homes that house the most evil of evils: books.

Books are illegal in Bradbury's world, but books are not what his fictional -- yet extremely plausible -- government fears: They fear the knowledge one pulls from books. Through the government's incessant preaching, the inhabitants of this place have come to loathe books and fear those who keep and attempt to read them. They see such people as eccentric, dangerous, and threatening to the tranquility of their state.

But one day a fireman named Montag meets a young girl who demonstrates to him the beauty of books, of knowledge, of conceiving and sharing ideas; she wakes him up, changing his life forever. When Montag's previously held ideology comes crashing down around him, he is forced to reconsider the meaning of his existence and the part he plays. After Montag discovers that "all isn't well with the world," he sets out to make things right.

A brilliant and frightening novel, Fahrenheit 451 is the classic narrative about censorship; utterly chilling in its implications, Ray Bradbury's masterwork captivates thousands of new readers each year. (Andrew LeCount)

What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?

Title: 1984 Author: George Orwell

Title: Brave New World Author: Aldous Huxley

Title: Feed Author: M. T. Anderson

Title: The Wave Author: Todd Strasser

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Extremely light use of profanity (author uses "Damn" approximately 7 times and uses "God damn" once).

Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)

Gifted/Accelerated Regular At Risk

GRADE LEVEL(S): 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Reading level of this title (if applicable):

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 10/3/2007

Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults