



2026 SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

English I Honors

Mrs. St. Gean

Fahrenheit 451 (ISBN -13: 978-1-4516-7331-9)



Directions: This year's summer read is ***Fahrenheit 451*** by Ray Bradbury. Please be sure you purchase the the 60th Anniversary version which looks like the image above.

Your summer assignment consists of three parts and is due on the first day of class.

1. **Close read and annotate** the Introduction and the three parts of the novel. (50 pts)
2. **Write five journal entries** on the introduction, three novel parts, and ending (50 pts)
3. **Create a journal cover / book cover** for your journal entries. (25 pts)

When we return to class, you'll turn in your journal (journal cover and journal entries) and annotated book. At the beginning of the semester, we will also hold our first Socratic Seminar on the book, and you will need your annotated book and journal to guide you in that class discussion. I'm really looking forward to hearing all your ideas on this relevant book!

Suggestion: Do not wait until the last minute. This is an amazing book! Give it time to sink in. Give yourself time to read and complete this assignment.

*** Please note that the purpose of this summer reading assignment is to interact with the text. As such, the use of AI or other digital aids is not allowed. If used, students will receive a zero on the assignment, a meeting with the Honor Council, and a disciplinary infraction.*

If you have any questions, please email me at hstgean@canterburyfortmyers.org

I am really looking forward to meeting you all at the end of the summer as you start in the Upper School at Canterbury!



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From *Fahrenheit 451*, “Is it true that long ago firemen put fires out instead of going to start them?” (Bradbury 6).

Published in 1953, *Fahrenheit 451* is a dystopian novel set in a futuristic American society where books are outlawed and “firemen” burn any that are found. Written and published not long after the end of WWII, Bradbury explores important themes of censorship, blind conformity, individuality, freedom of thought, and the transformative power of reading and experiencing art. The novel has been seen as prophetic in its predictions of the future, the future that we are now living.

From *The National Book Foundation Website*:

In 2000, The National Book Foundation awarded Bradbury the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, an award given to an individual who has enriched culture with his service and work.

After receiving the award from the hands of actor and presenter, Steve Martin, Bradbury gave an incredible acceptance speech. He shared this great tidbit:

“So when it comes to a novel like *Fahrenheit 451*, I don’t know how many of you know, but I wrote it in the library, the basement at UCLA. This was 50 years ago. I had no money to rent a proper office” (nationalbook.org).”

Once you read *Fahrenheit 451*, you will realize how great this statement is! Surrounded by books, Bradbury thought about how tragic it may have been to see them go up in flames.



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Close Reading and Annotations

50 points

Read and annotate *Fahrenheit 451*. Close reading is interactive, thoughtful, active reading. A student who is annotating is not just highlighting or underlining, but is also connecting to the text and demonstrating active participation through written notes. The reader is having a conversation with the author and the text with insights and questions.

Annotation Guidelines:

- 1) **Read and annotate pages XI-XVI of the Introduction.** (If you purchased a book that does not include the Introduction, you can print off this digital version of it [HERE](#).) At the end of the Introduction, write down what Neil Gaiman wants readers to consider important, along with your prediction for the novel. From what Gaiman presents, what do you think may happen?
- 2) Before the book begins, there is a quote: "If they give you ruled paper, write the other way." **Consider what this quote means, and write your ideas about its meaning or message on that page.**
- 3) **Annotate consistently throughout the book** in the margins and in the lines of the text. This does not mean that every line is annotated, but you should show evidence of thoughtful discussion and interaction in the text for every two open pages. Ray Bradbury has included *symbolism, metaphor, simile, allusion, foreshadowing, alliteration, irony, and motifs* in this book. (We will discuss these examples of figurative language when we return; in the meantime, see what you can find.) Bradbury also creates interesting *characters* and unique *settings*. Pay attention to *turning points* for the main *character* and *themes* that emerge. Make *connections* to other texts, movies, tech, history, real life, etc. Make *personal connections* and react.
- 4) **Summarize the three parts or chapters to the novel** by including a bulleted summary list of the key events, conflicts, or occurrences for each part either at the end or start of each chapter where there is room to write. You should have at least 3 bullet points. For instance, at the end of "The Hearth and the Salamander," in the open space next to the chapter, you would note:
 - Write your first summary sentence here. (This would be the first major thing you believe readers should remember about "The Hearth and the Salamander")
 - Second summary
 - Third summary
- 5) Add **one good, thoughtful discussion question** at the end of the three chapters. This should be an open-ended, thought-provoking question that is not easily answered. It should get other readers thinking and will require the text to answer it. We will use these questions for Socratic Seminar class discussion when we start the year together.



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Five Journal Entries on *Fahrenheit 451* 50 points

On separate pieces of paper, write five detailed journal entries in response to the novel, following the prompts below.

- Your journals should be **hand written**. Please write neatly.
- **Label each journal entry** with the title of the chapter from the book.
- Journal Entries need to be **at least three-fourths to one page per entry, single-spaced**. (If you have big, loopy handwriting, then your entry should be at least one page.) Write neatly and revise for errors. Journals may be longer than one page.
- Journals should **show evidence of close reading**. They should **also show your voice and personality**. Include **personal connections or text-to-world connections as well**. Making connections is a fantastic way to synthesize and comprehend a text. This book will remind you of many real-world things!

Journal Prompts:

1. Entry One the Introduction by Neil Gaiman.	Write to Neil Gaiman as if you are responding to him.
2. Entry Two on <i>Part One: The Hearth and the Salamander</i>	For entries two-four, choose a character from the novel to be your audience. For instance, you may direct your writing to Guy Montag, Clarisse, Captain Beatty, or Faber. Start by introducing a crucial or important idea, theme or concept that is central to this part of the story. Quote a key passage from the book (with page number) and write a personal reflection on its meaning and relevance to this part of the novel, to the world today, and to you. You may also ask a question that you would hope the character could answer. You may use the first person, "I", when you write these entries.
3. Entry Three on <i>Part Two: The Sieve and the Sand</i>	
4. Entry Four on <i>Part Three: Burning Bright</i>	
5. Entry Five after the book ends	Begin this entry by writing out the last line of the book. Then write an entry that adds another page to this story. What happens next after the events and realizations in Part Three? Start with "When we reach the city..." and complete what you think happens next.



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Journal Cover / Book Cover

25 points

Create a visual representation of *Fahrenheit 451* as a cover for your Journal Entries.

Attach the cover to your journal entries. The cover must include the title, author, and lettering that fits the tone of the book. Represent the book visually in color, images, symbols, characters, settings, and other aspects. It should have a clean, finished look (e.g., not finished in pencil or quickly drawn on a torn piece of notebook paper as if it is a rough draft). It should have order and not look chaotic or messy.

Journal Cover must include:

1. **Author and title** punctuated correctly
2. **Colors** that represent the novel
3. At least **three visual elements** (setting, objects, symbols, etc.) that represent the book thematically.
4. A **finished, clean look** that presents as a final copy.
5. Your **name and class period** on the backside of the cover.

Note: This cover needs to be created by hand, not using digital tools.