
Lesson 1

Fahrenheit 451

Reading Assignment 1: *From the beginning to "But it was late and the arrival of his train put a stop to his plan."*

Lesson 1 Directions

Pre-Reading

1. Preview (read through) the study questions for *Fahrenheit 451* Reading Assignment 1.
2. Complete the Vocabulary Worksheet for Reading Assignment 1.

Reading

1. Read *Fahrenheit 451* Reading Assignment 1.
2. Keep your study questions in mind as you read.

Post-Reading

1. Answer all of the study guide questions for Reading Assignment 1.
2. Complete the Reader Response Assignment for Reading Assignment 1.

Vocabulary Reading Assignment 1 Part I

From the beginning to "But it was late and the arrival of his train put a stop to his plan."

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the bold words mean in the space provided.

1. With his symbolic helmet number 451 on his **stolid** head...he flicked the igniter and the house jumped up in a gorging fire.
2. Impossible: for how many people did you know that **refracted** your own light to you.
3. And if the muscles of his jaws stretched **imperceptibly**, she would yawn long before he would.
4. He felt that the stars had been **pulverized** by the sound of the black jets and that in the morning the earth would be covered with their dust like a strange snow.
5. And the men with the cigarettes in their straight-lined mouths, the men with the eyes of puff adders, took up their load of machine and tube, their case of liquid **melancholy** and the slow dark sludge of nameless stuff, and strolled out the door.
6. Light flickered on bits of ruby glass and on sensitive **capillary** hairs in the Nylon-brushed nostrils of the creature...
7. Below, the Hound had sunk back down upon its eight incredible insect legs and was humming to itself again, its **multifaceted** eyes at peace.
8. It's like a lesson in **ballistics**. It has a trajectory we decide on for it.

Vocabulary Reading Assignment 1 Part II

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. ____ stolid | A. Sadness; gloominess |
| 2. ____ refracted | B. The study of the dynamics of projectiles |
| 3. ____ imperceptibly | C. Having or revealing little emotion |
| 4. ____ pulverized | D. Having many faces |
| 5. ____ melancholy | E. Deflected from a straight path |
| 6. ____ capillary | F. Impossible to detect by ordinary senses |
| 7. ____ multifaceted | G. Fine; small in diameter |
| 8. ____ ballistics | H. Reduced to powder |

Study Questions Reading Assignment 1

1. Identify Guy Montag and describe his job.
2. Describe Clarisse McClellan.
3. What smelled like perfume to Montag?
4. Clarisse asked Montag if he was happy. Was he? Explain.
5. Who is Mildred, and what happened to her?
6. Why did Emergency Hospital send technicians instead of doctors to treat Mildred?

Study Questions Reading Assignment 1 (2)

7. What are parlor-walls?

8. Describe the mechanical hound.

9. What did Montag believe had been done to the hound?

10. Why was Clarisse considered anti-social?

11. Who gave Clarisse most of her information about the way life used to be?

Reader Response

You will be writing your response to each reading assignment. Below are some ideas of things you could write about in your entries.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Explain how the story is making sense to you.
Give examples & note page numbers.
Explain the setting, mood, point of view, conflicts,
or character relationships.
Discuss the stated themes.



MAKE INFERENCES

Explain your thoughts about the feelings or
motives of the characters.
Discuss implied themes.



MAKE AND REVISE PREDICTIONS

At the end of each assignment, make a prediction about
what you think will happen next.
After you read, go back and check your predictions.
Tell if you had to revise them, and why.



ASK QUESTIONS

Ask questions about scenes or events that are confusing.
Record the answers when you discuss the questions in
class or if you later find the answer in the story.



GIVE YOUR OPINION

Give your opinion about the literary quality of the work.
Discuss the author's style, use of language, and use of
literary devices.
Tell why you do or do not like the story or a character.
Compare the book with others you have read.



MAKE CONNECTIONS

Think about ways the characters and events relate to your
own life experiences. Put yourself in a character's place
and discuss how you would feel or what you would do in
that situation.



Reader Response Entry Reading Assignment 1

In the space below, write a substantial response to the chapters of the book you have just read.

A Few Ideas (Pick one or create your own.)

- How would you have felt if you were Montag and came home to find Mildred in that condition?
- Do you think you would like to have Clarisse as a good friend? Why or why not?
- Clarisse gives her opinion of school. Do you agree with her? What's your opinion of school?
- Do you know people who just give automatic responses without thinking? How's it make you feel when you talk with them?