

Vocabulary From Literature

Fahrenheit 451

by Ray Bradbury

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Activity I
Matching Definitions
Part I

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary and change any answers that are not correct.

simmered (26)
olfactory (25)
mausoleum (11)

Fahrenheit (cover)
stolid (3)
burnt-corked (4)

mechanical (24)
heritage (33)
contrasedative (16)

1. _____ blackened; charred
2. _____ large building for tombs and burial monuments
3. _____ cooked near boiling point
4. _____ an upper; a stimulant
5. _____ operated by machine
6. _____ indifferent; lacking emotion
7. _____ background
8. _____ temperature scale
9. _____ relating to sense of smell

pedestrian (9)
ballistics (26)
phoenix (26)
slickers (35)
capillary (24)

abstract (31)
trajectory (26)
thunderheads (33)
gilt (38)
amino acids (26)

asylum (33)
cinders (33)
jargon (42)
abyss (41)

10. _____ mythical bird that rose from ashes; it serves as a symbol for eternal life
11. _____ one who travels by foot
12. _____ institution to house the mentally ill
13. _____ rain clouds associated with thunderstorms
14. _____ the study of objects fired or thrown forcefully into the air
15. _____ not specific or concrete; open to interpretation
16. _____ spoken nonsense; lingo specific to a population
17. _____ ashen fragments
18. _____ path of a moving, airborne object
19. _____ raincoats
20. _____ gold-covered
21. _____ bottomless pit; boundless depth
22. _____ resembling a thin tube such as a blood vessel
23. _____ building blocks of protein molecules

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Part II

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary and change any answers that are not correct.

sieve (78)

arsonists (85)

treason (86)

filigree (103)

praetorian (86)

loam (83)

oracle (107)

linguists (86)

cadenced (75)

1. _____ soil with a mixture of sand, clay, and plant matter
2. _____ adorned; relating to delicate ornamentation
3. _____ those trained in language(s)
4. _____ firesetters
5. _____ describing a bodyguard during the Roman empire
6. _____ object used for straining
7. _____ a wise, prophetic person
8. _____ betrayal of country
9. _____ rhythmic; balanced

subaudible (95)

verbiage (107)

phosphorescent (110)

bewildered (102)

discourse (107)

skepticism (84)

folly (107)

tyranny (108)

hotbeds (86)

10. _____ leadership with total power
11. _____ wordiness; verboseness
12. _____ environments given to production and unstable growth
13. _____ barely heard
14. _____ a foolish action
15. _____ confused
16. _____ radiant with light
17. _____ lengthy verbal or written expression
18. _____ doubtful nature; questioning

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Activity I
Matching Definitions
Part III

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary and change any answers that are not correct.

steamshovel (164)

rigidity (114)

yielded (165)

incomprehensible (114)

perpetual (115)

pyre (163)

gobbledegook (115)

concussion (160)

holier-than-thou (114)

1. _____ a mighty jolt or shock
2. _____ steam-powered digging machine
3. _____ bonfire used to cremate bodies
4. _____ wordy, meaningless talk
5. _____ never-ending
6. _____ produced by cultivation
7. _____ smug certainty of one's own thoughts
8. _____ stiffness, firmly fixed
9. _____ baffling; beyond belief

incessantly (162)

sanity (161)

binding (115)

burdensome (115)

aesthetic (115)

penance (121)

obscure (121)

gout (116)

liquefaction (119)

pedant (153)

kneading (125)

airborne (132)

10. _____ legal term for mental fitness
11. _____ cover holding together pages of a book
12. _____ blob
13. _____ demanding; difficult to bear
14. _____ process of changing into liquid form
15. _____ describing a sense of beauty
16. _____ continuously
17. _____ an act of remorse; suffering for sins; attrition
18. _____ mysterious; nameless
19. _____ massaging; pressing
20. _____ transported by flying

Activity II
Writing Synonyms from Context Clues
Part III

Directions: Replace each highlighted word in the following passages with the synonym that best fits the context of the sentence.

1. He watched the dark steaming mixture pour into a collapsible tin cup, which was handed him straight off. He sipped it **gingerly** and felt them looking at him with curiosity. His lips were **scalded**, but that was good. (Pg. 147)
 - A. quietly, reddened
 - B. longingly, opened
 - C. cautiously, burned
 - D. greedily, scabbed
 - E. hungrily, parted
2. They both looked quickly about the house and Montag felt his nostrils **dilate** and he knew that he was trying to track himself and his nose was suddenly good enough to sense the path he had made in the air of the room and the sweat of his hand hung from the doorknob, invisible but as numerous as the jewels of a small chandelier, he was a **luminous** cloud, a ghost that made breathing once more impossible. (Pg. 133)
 - A. widen; radiant
 - B. shut; brilliant
 - C. warm; floating
 - D. tense; cautious
 - E. sniff; airy
3. He was afraid to get up, afraid he might not be able to gain his feet at all, with an **anesthetized** leg. (Pg. 120)
 - A. tingly
 - B. beaten
 - C. healing
 - D. burdensome
 - E. numbed

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Activity III
Writing Definitions and Sentences
from Context Clues
Part III

Directions: For each highlighted word, write a definition that fits the context of the passage. Then, check your answers by looking the words up in the dictionary. Finally, write a sentence using each word. The first one is done for you as an example.

Example: She shoved the **valise** in the waiting beetle, climbed in, and sat mumbling,
“Poor family, poor family, oh everything gone, everything, everything gone now...”
(Pg. 114)

Definition for **valise**: small piece of luggage

Sentence: The airline will allow no more than one **valise** aboard the plane, anything larger must be checked.

1. He saw her leaning toward the great shimmering walls of color and motion where the family talked and talked and talked to her, where the family **prattled** and chatted and said her name and smiled at her and said nothing of the bomb that was an inch, now a half inch, now a quarter inch from the top of the hotel. (Pg. 159)

Definition for **prattled**:

Sentence: _____

2. Now, a full three seconds, all of the time in history, before the bombs struck, the enemy ships themselves were gone half around the visible world, like bullets in which a **savage** islander might not believe because they were invisible; yet the heart is suddenly shattered, the body falls in separate motions, and the blood is astonished to be freed on the air; the brain **squanders** its few precious memories and, puzzled, dies. (Pg. 158)

Definition for **savage**:

Sentence: _____
