

## Approved for use in all levels of English II instruction

### Summary of the Work:

In a futuristic American city, fireman Guy Montag confronts the very laws he is employed to uphold. Rather than putting out fires, firemen in this totalitarian society burn books. Citizens mindlessly follow their hedonistic pleasures with little regard for life. Reading, independent thinking, and sensory exploration are no longer valued. Secretly, Montag begins reading and discovers the value of books and the value of independent thought. He goes on a somewhat reckless crusade to redeem himself from a life of destruction.

### Rationale:

The novel encourages students to explore the very essence of the plot itself – independent thought. Sophomores are in the midst of exploring themselves as independent human beings. The novel’s main character is himself entering a time of self-exploration. He questions the systems and the institutions that created and sustain this dystopian society – a society that punishes those who think for themselves and rewards those who contribute to the status quo.

### Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

William F. Touponce. “Reverie and the Utopian Novel.” *Ray Bradbury and the Poetics of Reverie*. pp., 79-110. Ann Arbor, MI.: UMI Research Press, 1984.

Sisario, Peter. “A Study of the Allusions in Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*.” *English Journal* Vol. 59 No. 2. February, 1970: pp. 201-205.

### Noted Distinction:

- Best Book for Teen readers: Grades 7-10
- Best Books for Senior High School Readers

### Readability:

- Lexile Score: 890
- Readability Level: 5.2

### Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

### Standard Alignment: [\(link\)](#)

### Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

### Notes on the Text:

*(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)*

Students will connect with one of the characters, Clarisse McClellan, a high school student who chooses to be an independent, free-thinking individual who listens to people cares what they think. Additionally, this novel encourages students to think for themselves and even question authority.

### Connection to the Curriculum:

As the sophomore year focuses on critical thinking skills, a novel that focuses on thinking and independent thought falls squarely in the middle of the 10th grade English curriculum.

### Additional Connections:

*(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)*