FAHRENHEIT 451 CHEAT SHEET

Link- PDF Version of F451

Big ideas	 <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> is science fiction. It does not have to be realistic at all points. This book is a warning. It was written soon after WWII and during the "Communist Scare." Bradbury believed governments could control people by controlling the media and censoring books. Each character represents a larger societal group: the government, the rebels, and the brainwashed citizens. Symbolism plays a significant role in this book. Please keep track of them.
Your teacher wants you to know	 The accuracy of the predictions is impressive, primarily since the book was published in 1953. The symbols are a big deal. The allusions (references to historical events or literature). This is a dystopian society. Although not a mirror image of our society, there are countless similarities. Reading this book should open your eyes to issues around censorship and help you better understand the importance of reading certain books (even if they're boring as heck). Clarrise is only in the novel for a short time, but she's essential. Beatty is so much fun to discuss because he's so complex.
Themes	 Individualism v. Conformity: Our freedom is lost when we stop questioning society's rules and expectations. Dangers of technology: Here's a shocker- technology often pulls people apart and distracts them from reality. Censorship: More effective than destroying books is destroying people's desire to read them.

SYMBOLS AND MOTIFS

THE PHOENIX

The phoenix is a mythological that cannot be destroyed. Often they rise from the ashes after a tragedy. You can apply the phoenix to Montag and his rebirth after abandoning his job.

Fire represents destruction

THE SEASHELL AND

WALLS

Both of these represent how

technology separates people from

each other and reality.

but also an opportunity for rebirth. This symbol works closely with the phoenix.

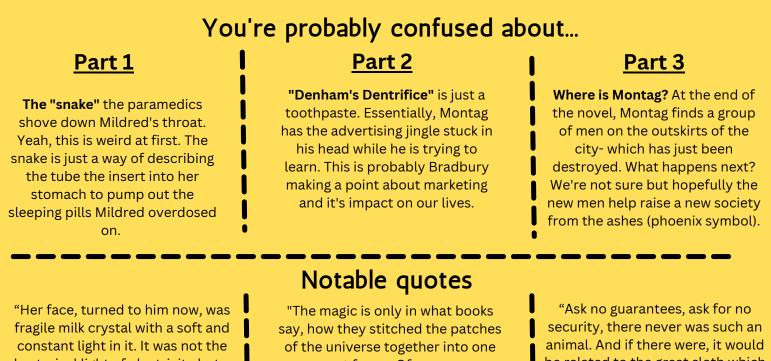
FIRE

SIEVE & SAND

Think of a sieve as a spaghetti strainer. Now imagine what happens if you pour sand into it. This is how Montag feels as he reads more books. No matter how hard he tries, the information slips from his mind.

A few allusions

- Biblical Allusion: Tower of Babel: according to this myth described in the Bible (cf. Genesis, 11:6-8), God created various languages to stop humankind from literally reaching him.
- Literary Allusion: Little Black Sambo/Uncle Tom's Cabin: Harriet Beecher-Stowe published a novel titled Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852), in which she severely criticized slavery. Sambo is a character in Uncle Tom's Cabin. The name was used as a racial insult.
- Shakespearean Allusion: Julius Caesar: Roman emperor; "Remember Caesar, thou art mortal": An allusion to William Shakespeare's play, Julius Caesar.



hysterical light of electricity butwhat? But the strangely comfortable and rare and gently flattering light of the candle." ~ Clarisse McClellan (Characters: Guy Montag as the narrator) (5)

garment for us. Of course you couldn't know this, of course you still can't understand what I mean when I say all this. You are intuitively right, that's what counts. Three things are missing." ~Faber (96)

be related to the great sloth which hangs upside down in a tree all day, every day, sleeping its life away. To hell with that. Shake the tree and knock the great sloth down on his ass." ~Grainger (173)

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