

As you read each section of the novel, answer briefly the following questions. These questions should act as a reading guide and are not intended to replace careful examination of the novel's themes and development.

Part I: The Hearth and the Salamander

Pgs. 3-10

What do the "firemen" do for a living?

In the opening scene, why are the books compared to birds?

What is written on the firemen's helmets? Pg. 3

According to pages 3-4, what does Montag think of his job?

What are the two professional symbols that Montag wears? Pg. 6

What does Montag say he always smells like? Pg. 6

Who does Montag run into on his way home? Pg. 6

During his conversation, Montag says that "You never wash it off completely" referring to the kerosene. What could this mean symbolically?

Why is it ironic that so many people are afraid of firemen? Pg. 7

How do the doors work? Pg. 10

Is there anything unusual about the way the two men go about helping Mildred? How is it unusual?

Pgs. 14 - 17

What are the two machines being used on Montag's wife? What do they do? Pgs. 14 - 17

How does Mildred react after she wakes up from her previous night's experience?

Describe the setup of Montag's TV room.

Pgs. 18 - 20

Explain Montag's toaster. What does it do?

What did Mildred have in her ears?

What kind of program is Mildred going to watch in the afternoon?

Explain Montag's television. What does Mildred want for the television that Montag claims they cannot afford?

Pgs. 21 - 24

What does Clarisse rub under her chin? Why?

What does Clarisse's psychiatrist want to know?

According to Clarisse, how is Montag "not like the others"?

Pgs. 24 - 26

Describe the Mechanical Hound.

What do the firemen bet on dull nights?

How did Montag escape the Hound and get to the upper level of the firehouse?

Pgs. 26 - 28

What is Montag's theory on why the Hound reacted the way it did?

How many times before had the Hound reacted this way toward Montag?

Why has Montag never had any children?

Pgs. 29 - 32

What is different about Montag's laugh?

Explain a school day in the world of Fahrenheit 451.

Why does Clarisse find it odd that people find her to be antisocial?

Pgt. 33 – 35

What happens to people that try to fool the government?

Why was Montag foolish to use the phrase "Once upon a time"?

What is the history of Firemen of America?

How is the fire engine described?

In the next fire, what does Montag take?

Pgt. 36 – 40

What was different at Mrs. Blake's? What did Montag not like about the way things were being done?

What does Montag do with the book that lands in his hand?

Who started the fire at Mrs. Blake's house?

On page 40, Beatty reveals something very important about himself and his knowledge. What is it?

Pgt. 41 – 46

What does Montag cry about?

What does Montag notice about the television shows?

What technology does Mildred use to go to sleep?

Who is Mildred's "family"?

Pgs. 47 - 52

What has happened to Clarisse? How did it happen?

What is unusual about the way Mildred told Montag about Clarisse?

What did Montag imagine being outside his window?

What excuse is Montag trying to use to avoid going to work?

Pgs. 53 - 59

What does Mildred find behind Montag's pillow?

What word became a swear word?

Read pages 55-62 very carefully. They contain great truths about our world. List three things Beatty talks about in his speech to Montag that are true about our world.

Pgs. 60 - 68

Why does society lower the kindergarten age year after year?

What does Beatty say about firemen taking books?

According to Clarisse's uncle, why did the architects get rid of front porches?

About how many books had Montag hidden in the ventilator?

What happens right before Montag and Mildred begin to read the books?