



**CROSSROADS
COLLEGE PREPARATORY
SCHOOL**

500 DEBALIVIERE AVENUE
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63112
TEL 314.367.8085 FAX 314.367.9711
WWW.CROSSROADSCOLLEGEPREP.ORG

World Literature II
Summer Reading 2019
Matt C

Dear World Lit II students:

I look forward to a productive and energetic 2019-20! Toward that end, I would like you to read two novels for our first meetings in August. First, please acquire (and read) Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. This will be the first text we discuss in August.

In addition, please choose one of the following (choice) novels for our second week's discussion:

- Julia Alvarez, *In the Time of Butterflies*
- Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*

Of course, my expectation is that you will have read both novels, & that you'll be prepared to lead energetic discussions of each work in our opening sessions. To that end, I would like you to prepare and share a very short document prior to our first meeting. Because I have consistently found that seminar discussions work best when they are grounded in specific textual passages, I request that you select **two** scenes from both Bradbury and your choice-novel (**30-40 lines** per scene is just fine) -- scenes that, in your view, shed light on one or another of the novel's larger aims. (Very roughly speaking, one scene should come from the first "half" of the novel, one from the latter.) Please identify the opening and closing words of your selected scenes in the following manner:

Bradbury, *F451*: "The sight of it . . . down the street" (39-40).

Choice novelist, *Choice-Novel*: "Once again, Lily felt . . . beyond her understanding" (111-12).

Simple enough, right? Then (I promise, we're almost finished), as an accompaniment to each of your chosen scenes, please provide three sentences that indicate *why* you find these passages of particular interest.

Sample:

Bradbury, *F451*: “The sight of it . . . down the street” (39-40).

While not terribly dramatic, this scene does illustrate one of the key motifs in the novel--namely, how fire can serve as a “spectacle,” a “show.” In fact, I believe that social control is achieved not merely by starting fires but by having those fires *watched*. For this reason, Montag calling attention to the timing of the fires (“Always at night . . .”) is particularly relevant, since such fires will be perceived as “prettier.”

So: Please do something like that **twice** for Bradbury’s novel, **twice** for the novel of your choice, and we should be off to a fine start. That’s a grand total of four scenes/twelve sentences.

If you’ve got any questions whatsoever, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Cheers!

Matt

mattc@crossroadscollegeprep.org