



**CROSSROADS
COLLEGE PREPARATORY
SCHOOL**

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

Tenth Grade Summer Reading 2021

Dear World Lit II students:

I look forward to a productive and energetic 2021-22! Toward that end, I would like you to read Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. This will be the first text we discuss in August.

Of course, my expectation is that you will have read the novel, and that you'll be prepared to lead energetic discussions of it in our opening weeks. To that end, I would like you to prepare and share a very short document on our first day of school.

I know a lot of you had me as your 9th grade teacher, but 10th grade is a big turning point in your academic career. You were given the foundations to be successful in 7th-9th and now it is more expected of you to lead the exploration and discovery in our texts. Because I have consistently found that seminar discussions work best when they are grounded in specific textual passages, I request that you select **three** scenes from Bradbury (**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 "third" of the novel, one from the second 'third', etc.) 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).

Simple enough, right? Then (I promise, we're almost finished), as an accompaniment to each of your chosen scenes, please provide a short paragraph of 5-6 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 **three times** for Bradbury’s novel and we should be off to a fine start.

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

All the best!

Brian

brian@crossroadscollegeprep.org

BOOKS for our course:

- *Chronicles of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (ISBN 9781400034710)
- *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare (ISBN 9780743477109)
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (ISBN 9780141439471)
- *Refugees* by Viet Thanh Nguyen (ISBN 9780802127365)
- *In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez (ISBN 9781565129764)
- *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway (ISBN 9781594483653)