

AP Literature - writing assignment for “Allegory of the Cave”/Fahrenheit 451

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Before you watch “Allegory of the Cave”, please turn to page 74 of Fahrenheit 451. Re-read the top ¼ of the page –this is where Montag and Mildred argue over the value of books. Notice where Montag states that “Maybe the books can get us half out of the cave”.

An allegory is a form **of extended metaphor**, in which objects, persons, and actions in a narrative, are equated with the meanings that lie outside the narrative itself. The underlying meaning has moral, social, religious, or political significance, and characters are often personifications of abstract ideas as charity, greed, or envy. Thus an allegory is a story with two meanings, a literal meaning and a symbolic meaning. The “Allegory of the Cave” parallels the story of Fahrenheit 451. The allegory symbolizes Bradbury’s story.

\*\* Now, having watched the “Allegory of the Cave”, and having read part 2 of Fahrenheit 451, choose one of the following prompts in which to write a AP formatted essay (interesting introduction, clear thesis with main components, components supported with quoted material, and a conclusive ending that does not merely restate the thesis).

- ▶ What is the prisoner’s original truth? Which character from Fahrenheit is most like the prisoner? How?
- ▶ What is the first reaction to freedom? Why? How does this connect to Montag?
- ▶ How do other prisoners react to the “truth” presented by the escaped prisoner? How does that connect to Fahrenheit?
- ▶ Why does the sun burn his eyes? Why is this a metaphor? Connect this to Montag.