

***Fahrenheit 451* SPS 10th Grade Summer Reading Assignment: Character Analysis**

Welcome to 10th Grade English! Over the summer you are required to read a novel and complete the following work. This assignment is due on the first day of school! Please understand that failure to turn in this assignment as you walk into the first day of class will result in a zero.

Before you complete this assignment you must read the novel *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury in its entirety. The assignment below asks you to observe the qualities of a character in the book and measure their changes as the story progresses. You may choose any character that you would like but please consider that the more changes a character goes through, the easier it will be to find supporting quotes.

1. Use the list below to learn about character development:

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: is the act of a character changing in attitude, personality, or beliefs throughout a literary text (physical changes do not constitute development unless the character's personality also changes). Look at the LIST BELOW to help you understand what constitutes change.
IF A CHARACTER...

- a. Behaves in a way they ordinarily wouldn't
- b. Reveals something about themselves
- c. Changes their mind about a serious issue
- d. Understands something they didn't understand before
- e. Changes their opinion about another character
- f. Believes something they once didn't or no longer believes what used to
- g. Or any other difference in personality, belief, attitude, or action

...THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED A
CHANGE

2. **Complete the table below:** be sure to use supporting quotes from the correct sections of the text.

WHICH CHARACTER DID YOU CHOOSE: _____

	Describe a change for each box.	Supporting Quote and page #	Why did this change occur?
B E G I N N I N G			
M I D D L E			
E N D			

3. **ANSWER the following questions in one paragraph or more on the back of this packet:**
- Which characters were most impacted by the above character's development and how were they impacted?
 - Was the character's change positive or negative (did it matter at all?) and why do you think so?

Fahrenheit 451 SPS 10th Grade Summer Reading Assignment: Evaluating Bradbury's Predictions

Before you complete this assignment you must read the novel *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury in its entirety. The assignment below asks you to observe the way that characters of the book interact with futuristic items like television and cars as well as how they react to other forms of entertainment like talking and reading. Consider Ray Bradbury's ideas for the future and the way that we live today. You will evaluate whether or not his predictions were correct.

1. Consider the following term:

- DYSTOPIAN** (dis-tope-ee-an) **NOVEL**: a book written about a future time that depicts a society where people lead undesirable, fearful, or otherwise negative lives.

2. Compare Ray Bradbury's Predictions to today's society: Ray Bradbury wrote his novel *Fahrenheit 451* in the year 1953 before the invention of many technologies that we use today. In the novel he imagines that technology will be the downfall of art, culture, and knowledge. Your job is to complete the table below and examine the author's attitude toward the listed items as well as how we view those things today.

3. ANSWER the following in at LEAST 1 PARAGRAPH for each question on the back of this packet after completing the chart:

- Choose one of the "concepts" in the table: Do you think Ray Bradbury was right about how it would be used in the future?

- In what ways does technology make our society better, worse, or both?

Describe how the novel views it.	Find a quote to support your answer (include page numbers)	CONCEPT	Describe how today's society views it.	Think of an example (commercials, TV, movies, personal experience) to support your answer
		TELEVISION		

		CARS		
		BOOKS		
		TALKING WITH FRIENDS		
		YOUR CHOICE		

Accompanying article to read along with Fahrenheit 451 and respond to in writing:
(directions are located at the bottom of the article)
Heinrich Heine on Burning Books: Connecting the Holocaust to Book Burning

Heinrich Heine on Burning Books

Connecting the Holocaust to Book Burning

By [Austin Cline](#), About.com Guide

Two of the actions which Nazi Germany is most infamous for are probably the burning of books and the burning of people. Are the two connected? Curiously, the idea that the former would lead to the latter was famously predicted more than 100 years before the Nazi takeover of Germany by German author Heinrich Heine. What did he understand that others do not? What is the connection between burning books and burning people?

"That was mere foreplay. Where they have burned books, they will end in burning human beings."
(German: "Das war Vorspiel nur. Dort, wo man Bücher verbrennt, verbrennt man am Ende auch Menschen.")

- Heinrich Heine, *Almansor* (1821)

The first point to consider is *why* people would burn books at all. The Nazis didn't burn just any books, they burned the books of Jews, communists, socialists, and other "degenerates." They didn't simply burn books which they found disagreeable, but the books which advocated ideas which they believed would undermine the health, safety, and welfare of the German nation.

People don't burn books simply because they disagree with the message of the books, they burn books because the message of the books is a *threat* — a serious threat, in fact, not something remote and theoretical. No one goes around burning the books of fringe groups which don't pose a realistic threat. Burning books, however, doesn't eliminate whatever threat they might pose. Books are merely the means by which a message is communicated; eliminating them may slow the growth of the message, but it certainly can't eliminate the message itself.

To be fair, it's unlikely that a message could ever *really* be eliminated, but people who burn books probably won't believe that. If they truly want to eliminate a message which they perceive to be a serious threat, they will have to go to the *source* of that message — the people responsible for the books. Shutting down publishing houses is one step to take, but shutting down the authors themselves will be necessary at some point.

Is it enough to simply lock these authors up and prevent them from talking to others? That's expensive and it isn't permanent — after all, they didn't take the books and shut them up in a warehouse. Permanent elimination of the message requires permanently eliminating the authors of the message. If books can be burned to destroy them, why not burn people to destroy them as well? This eliminates the message and all trace of the messenger as well.

Burning books and burning people are connected because both stem from a desire to eliminate ideas that are a threat to the some group or ideology which is in power. Heinrich Heine recognized that such a connection could exist and perceived that once people could be persuaded to burn books, then at least some of them could be persuaded to take the further step of burning those responsible for the creation of those books. Perhaps they could even burn all those connected in any way with the degenerate ideas in these books which, if allowed to propagate, might threaten the nation itself.

Most people probably don't think about or see these connections, but they must recognize that something sinister is going on when books are burned. Perhaps it's simply that such an action reminds people of Nazi Germany, but many appear to be repulsed by reports of books, music, or other media being ceremoniously burned by self-righteous groups. Maybe if the connection between burning books and burning people were made more explicit, the general social condemnation would be louder, making it more difficult for people to choose to burn books in the first place.

Using proper grammar and essay form, write a 250 word+ reflection of your thoughts about the article. Use direct quotations to support your responses, and claim, data, warrant paragraphs (state, support, explain) paragraphs. Here are some questions to help you out:

- What is the author's purpose of this article?

- Who is his intended audience?
- How might the author's comments about book burning be reflected in what we have read so far within *Fahrenheit 451*?

Is there something inherently sinister about burning books?