

Brief Reading Guide to Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* **NSHS English Department 2008**

1. Context

Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury, was published in 1953. It is set in the future in an unspecified city.

2. Essential Questions

In what ways is the world in *Fahrenheit 451* like ours? How is it different?

What does it mean to be a thinking person? Furthermore, what makes you think, and what gets in the way of your thinking?

3. Important Characters & Terms

Fahrenheit

Firemen

Guy Montag

Clarisse McClellan

Mildred (Millie) Montag

The Mechanical Hound

Captain Beatty

Denham's Dentrifice

Professor Faber

Mrs. Phelps & Mrs. Bowles

Granger

4. Sparknotes Comparison

Study guides such as Sparknotes are valuable resources, but literature and study guides serve different purposes. Compare a section of Sparknotes' summary and analysis with the pertaining section in the novel. Read the first summary section available online at <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/451/section1.html>. Then read the corresponding section of the novel. What differences do you notice? Is there anything important that Sparknotes omits? Are there any interpretations made on the Sparknotes that you disagree with based on your reading of this section of the text? What are the advantages and disadvantages of reading each format?

5. Online Resources

Additional reading comprehension questions are available online at:

http://www.krucli.com/fahrenheit_questions.htm

<http://www.barrsenglishclass.com/451.htm>