

# FAHRENHEIT 451

Comprehension Guide by Ned Bustard

> Illustrations by Matthew Clark



Copyright ©2004 Veritas Press, Inc. www.VeritasPress.com ISBN 978-1-932168-19-8

All rights reserved. Permission is granted to make unlimited photocopies of this entire manual for the school or homeschool that purchased this manual. Otherwise, no part of this book may be reproduced without permission from Veritas Press, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review; nor may any part of this book be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission from Veritas Press.

Printed in the United States of America.

#### FAHRENHEIT 451 How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help you study, understand, and enjoy *Fabrenbeit 451*—a book over half a century old that itself is the phoenix reborn from the ashes of an earlier work entitled *The Fire Man* which told the story of a municipal department in the year 1999 that came to your house to start fires instead of to put them out.

You might ask if a guide is really necessary to read a book. Is the student not just working to improve reading skills while being taught to enjoy reading a book? Certainly, it is the case that the more a child reads, the more he should improve his skills, but quantity is not the only issue. Once a child has received adequate phonetic training, he should learn how to read a book. Most educators using this guide will be teaching children in the upper grammar stage, generally understood to be during the later elementary years in a classical education. (For a thorough understanding of classical Christian education we recommend reading Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning or The Case for Classical Christian Education, both by Douglas Wilson.) The basic goals of reading in the grammar stage are as follows:

The student should be able to:

- 1. Fluently read a given selection orally.
- 2. Show an increased desire for reading.
- 3. Show comprehension on a literal and inferential level.
- 4. Demonstrate an increased vocabulary.
- 5. Identify basic Biblical values in the literature being read.
- 6. Identify various styles (myths, poems, fantasy, fiction, nonfiction, etc.)

This book is an excellent tool to transition children into the dialectic stage. There are questions and projects that will cause students to look at the big picture and connect their worldview, rather than just answering comprehension questions.

Answers to the questions are found in the back of the guide. Although the answers in the guide appear in abbreviated form, the students' answers should be in complete sentences, and they should restate the question in their answer.

#### Example:

**Question:** How old does Clarisse claim to be? **Answer:** Clarisse claims to be seventeen.

Such writing practice trains the student to answer thoroughly, completely, and with proper grammar. Another reason is to encourage integration. We want students to understand that how they write something is as important as what they write.

You may wonder how to grade the student's work in this guide. Keep it simple. Unless otherwise indicated you should assume that each question is worth five points.

Using this guide to teach *Fabrenbeit 451* can be done in two ways. There is a project breaking up the questions into ten sections for a two week study, or you can devote five days to each of the three sections of the book and stretch the unit to run over fifteen days. Use the guide as best suits your students, adding or deleting projects and questions as needed.

1. Describe the uniform of the fireman.

2. How did Montag go down the pole, and what might this say about his personality?

3. How did Clarisse's appearance contrast with the appearance of Montag?

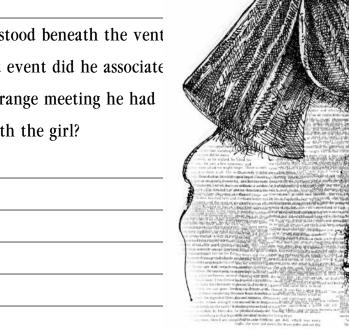
- 4. How old did Clarisse claim to be?
- 5. What strange assertion did Clarisse make about those who were part of Montag's career in the past?

6. Why did Montag's laughter puzzle Clarisse?

7. For what was Clarisse's uncle jailed two days?

8. What last question did Clarisse set that stopped his laughing?

9. As Montag stood beneath the vent grille, what event did he associate with the strange meeting he had just had with the girl?





Fahrenheit 451 6

10. "The bedroom was indeed empty." How was this a true and a false thought for Montag to mull on?

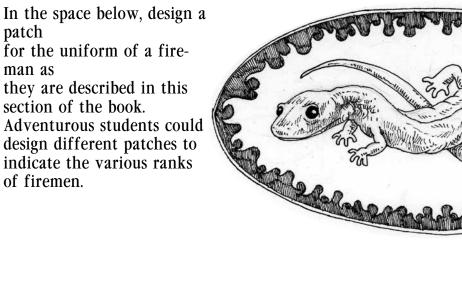
11. What screamed in the sky for Montag when he found the empty bottle under the edge of his bed?

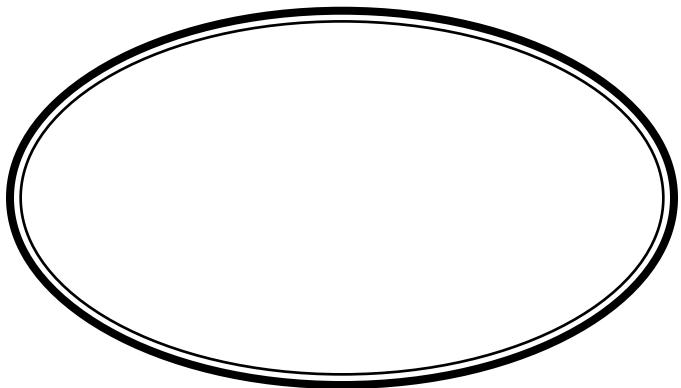
12. What did the machines that were brought by the emergency hospital operators do to Mildred?

13. Why were the technicians that were sent not medical doctors?

14. List what constituted the "storm" that fell on Montag before he took a sleep lozenge?

## FAHRENHEIT 451 The Hearth and the Salamander—Patch Project





Г		Montag, in shock, awaits Beattys Explanation innocents v	
Γ.	AHRENHEIT 451	"Don't you see the beauty, Montage Quheverneadone woul- them. Not one book, not one chapted not one shaged thus b not one paragraph. I do play with invikes, book the forest	
ΤI	be Hearth and the Salamander	have thousands of books and never thick's dive, forcurry, 1 grun your back on the lot and say: No. Bield'skibyhäving avere no c house full of beautiful women and/i multing/heat Now it's touching one. So, you see, 1 m nd/bib/trim/Wall at all pose you If you ever catch me <i>reading</i> one, #sgetlien turn me in! But this place is as pure as a twelve?Yabolid imgare any mor grifs cream-white summer night bib/diomal/staryson lido walls. I j not give them sustenance, no hopewith haidsofterseys. And me	
15.	How had Mildred become an expert at reading lips?	or tongue. They are no better than duik finake sense. And I wa Montag protests, "I don't see howbywat and whont-Fread." "Tempted?" cries the Fire Chief. Polyerthanamade Monta long ago. The apple is eaten and goñblothadikakakhaget shaker returned to its tree. The garden haorgtown of woredhands?" and rust." "I don't know. We have "Once—" Montag hesitates, then/oppim/des, 'Gonzen't happ you must have loved books very mudioXed around. The only th	
		Touche <sup>11</sup> the Fire Chief respondar/Betwork the books. I'd hom On the chin. Through the heart. Ripping lithenguith@ks might h look at me, Montag. The man who lovied beekknpatess romat the boy who was wild for them, instance fites deeth where not se climbed the stracks like a chimparuscopic exact forthe thing	
		them. The same things could be T are them like salad, books wereottys-säldwishdoftnimite d lunch, my uffin and dinner and midgredu-methologh the tore out the pages, at them yith sakendorved allowers not hose with relish, gnaved on, <i>ife</i> <u>justoms</u> , <i>ijustoms</i> , <i>ijus</i>	
16.	What was Mildred's response to the suggestion that she had	overdosed for years Philosophyset destors paire conductions	
		and Confucius and Thomas Love Percock and Thomas Jefferson and Mr. Lincoln, fr your please. We are also Manthew, Mark, Luke, and John.	
		phanes and Mahatma Candhi and Cagtan, Buddha	
		at mit of the provide the provident of	
		Since I wavesettikenerse averaged/mittexets_lseretpi /mittexetpi /mittexetp	
17.	What did Mildred nag Montag to buy for their house?	itman. Ficks whadkness to known provide sets to deput the set of t	
		.Yoo, Hougestra-mutuons heen meanwayedneem (or [Linui) a for it: [exturing how to ploce oil the things that are set if Strange. Procedurate thuird through the activities and the set	
		d to burn by Develater and Betweneethed Interneenton "11 ເຊັ່ງການ ມີ the filmershap in trace to scatter back He laughted with some request to k on - She glanced Rhiteby Werk and Ryberter How "ສະລະການ" She glanced Rhiteby Werk and Ryberter How "ສະລະການ"	
18.	What was Clarisse doing in the rain when Montag met up with herein and the product of the rain when Montag met up with herein and the product of the rain when Montag met up with herein and the product of the rain when Montag met up with herein and the rain when herein and the rain when Montag met up with herein and the rain when herein and the rain wherein herein and the rain when herein and the rain wherein and the rain wherein herein and the rain wherein herein and the rain wherein and the rain wherein herein and the rain wherein and the rain wherein herein and the rain wherein and the rain wherein herein and the rain wherein herein and the rain wherein and the rain wherein herein and the rain wherein and the rain wherein herein and the rain wherein herein and the rain wherein and the rain wherein herein and the rain wherein and the rain wh		
	0 0 1	'too LuggionBainshike's (Bains' (Bains' and Sense'), Ecological and the stopped characteristic set on the stopped characteristic operation of plants' plants' (Linux) is the stopped characteristic operation of plants' plants' (Linux) is thing at the Bains' Bains' (Linux) is the stopped characteristic operation of the stopped characteristic operation op	
		11 don't media serve yournel subjects being and the people construction of the people of the people of the tech people construction of the people of the people of the 'Pell, doesn't print of the people of the people of the people is numerals 451 suitched on the yournel of the people is numerals 451 suitched on the yournel of the people is numerals 451 suitched on the yournel of the people	
		and Birds Acteen "Move of the set	
		Laborate Christian Cheville Constraints and the state of	
19.	What did the dandelion show to Clarisse?	Beatty grabbed Montag's Array the beede blasted away and hit seventy Array (fruit, far down the street, gone. There was a crash like the the transformed a dream	
		climbed in, and sat mumbing. A stighteeff from the family of everything gone, everything gone, everything gone, now	
		She ran past with her body still, by the past with powder, her mouth gone, without y and the past of t	
		the clear of an effect run or a before run of an effect r	
20.	What did Clarisse find peculiar about Montag?	under state of the	
		- Arieland - Arie	
		as Light Greature different of the capital dered und different of the capital dered und down of the capital down of the capita	
		be hit a contract of the standard of the stand	
		i to tuo liv @oddathuita https://www.mind.orange.fireworks. // broyedikey.2ml/phi/d burthers workine music composed almost and , tased bonhphi/el/tidy f trap drums, tom-toms, and cymbals. grinth r=mfer_stikgath, moved and she was saying something but wob bilz mgike what@affered it.	

21. Describe the Mechanical Hound.

- 22. What was the response that the beast had to Montag?
- 23. Why did Montag think someone at the station might have programmed the Hound to threaten him?

24. What occurred every day of the following week?

25. What change did Clarisse observe in Montag when they resumed the conversation about billboards?

#### FAHRENHEIT 451 The Hearth and the Salamander—Project 2, Sci-Fi or Fact?

This book was first published in 1953, well before the age of music television and flat screen wall television units. List the things imagined by Ray Bradbury in the pages of this science fiction story and the equivalent real thing Bradbury correctly predicted in our culture today. You may want to revisit this project periodically as you read the entire book.

Sci-Fi Description

Contemporary Reality


#### FAHRENHEIT 451 The Hearth and the Salamander, Project 3—Book Binding

In the Afterword, Bradbury shares how he wrote new scenes for the book to be performed as a two-act drama. In that version of Fahrenheit 451 we learn how Beatty became the Fire Chief. When he takes Montag home to his apartment, it turns out to have thousands upon thousands of books lining the walls in a hidden library. Montag turns and cries out to his superior:

"But you're the Chief Burner! You can't have books on your premises!"

To which the Chief, with a dry light smile, replies: "It's not owning books that's a crime, Montag, it's reading them! Yes, that's right. I own books, but don't read them!"

Montag, in shock, awaits Beatty's explanation.

"Don't you see the beauty, Montag? I never read them. Not one book, not one chapter, not one page, not one paragraph. I do play with ironies, don't I? To have thousands of books and never crack one, to turn your back on the lot. . ."

Beatty insists that his collection of books is "no better than dust," then recounts his own history when, as a boy, he was consumed with them until the tragedies of life happened to him. Then, when he looked to books for answers, he opened the pages of his library books and found the pages were empty.

"Oh, the words were there, allright, but they ran over my eyes like hot oil, signifying nothing. Offering no help, no solace, no peace, no harbor, no true love, no bed, no light."

In this project, you will make a "book" that is actually blank.

#### Materials

copier paper

thicker art paper

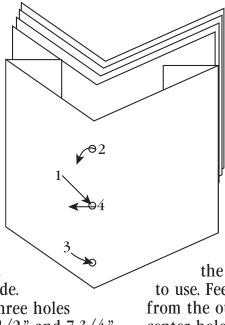
ribbon, yarn, or twine

push pin

#### Directions

1. Cut the art paper to 9" x 14". Holding the sheet lengthwise, fold in half and fold in 1-1/4" from either side. Open the paper and make three holes along the spine at 1-1/4," 4-1/2," and 7-3/4."

2. Fold four sheets of copier paper in half and insert one into the other until you



have a little booklet. Open and make three holes entirely through all four sheets along the spine at 1," 4-1/4," and 7-1/2."

3. Put the set of folded and pierced copier sheets inside the cover and insure that the holes line up. Work the tip of a pencil or pen in the holes to make them large enough for

the ribbon, yarn, or twine you plan to use. Feed the ribbon, yarn, or twine from the outside of the book through the center hole, up and back out the top hole, down the outside and into the bottom hole, finally back through the center hole again and tie the two ends off in a bow or square knot.

- 29. What did Montag realize as he reflected on the appearance of the other firemen as they played cards together?
- 30. What incriminating phrase did Montag use to begin his inquiry into the history of firemen?
- 31. Who was the first fireman in America?
- 32. What was the first thing the old woman at 11 No. Elm, City, said to the fireman before Captain Beatty slapped her?

33. How had the police "slipped," spoiling the firemen's ritual?

34. What did Montag's hand do while magazines "fell like slaughtered birds?"

35. Besides the law, what common sense "truth" did Beatty appeal to while trying to get the old lady to come out of the house?

- 36. What did the old lady possess that made the firemen drop all their dignity and run out of the house?
- 37. What did Captain Beatty do that so startled Montag and Stoneman that they missed their turn to return to the firehouse?

- 38. Unlike his wife swallowing "poison" in the form of an overdose of sleeping pills, how and where was Montag infected by a "poison?"
- 39. Regarding their relationship, what question that Mildred was unable to answer troubled Montag?

40. What did Montag finally decide had come between him and his wife?

41. What happened to Clarisse four days earlier?

a trepphing and ing the work es grinding one upon th

