

GUIDED IMAGERY

for *Fahrenheit 451*

by Ray Bradbury

Purpose: Guided imagery is a prereading activity used to get students interested in a book by allowing them to personally connect with an idea presented in that book.

Rationale: This strategy allows students to listen to a passage of *Fahrenheit 451* read aloud and let their minds form images. After having made this connection with the book, students will be more excited to read it.

Steps:

1. Give basic background information on the section of the book that will be read. “The main character, Montag, is being chased by a mechanical hound because he has broken the law and read books. Luckily, he makes it to the river before the hound reaches him.”
2. Give instructions for the task they are about to do. “Now clear everything off your desks except for a piece of blank paper and a pen or pencil. I am going to read you a passage of text from *Fahrenheit 451*, the book we are about to start reading. While I read, I want you to just close your eyes and relax, allowing images to form in you mind. It isn’t necessary for you to be acting out what I am reading in your head, but pay attention to the words and images presented.”
3. Turn off half the lights and play worldless music (Enya) quietly while reading the excerpt from *Fahrenheit 451*.
4. Turn the lights on and ask the students to write what they thought about while the passage was read. Allow students 5-7 minutes to respond.
5. Ask if anyone wants to share his or her response. Don’t make anyone feel pressure to respond as some students may have very personal responses.



Ann Genho, BYU, 2002