

Story Grammar: *Fahrenheit 451*

Story: *Fahrenheit 451*

Plot: A fireman in a futuristic world must decide between following society's decision to burn books or live his life trying to fight against the majority.

Themes: Importance of Literature, Love, Society Weaknesses, Decision making

Setting: Futurist technology based civilization without books, true families, or memory of history.

Characters: Guy Montag (protagonist), Mildred Montag, Captain Beatty, Professor Faber, Clarisse McClellan, Granger, Mrs. Phelps, Mrs. Bowels, Stoneman, and Black

Chain of Events:

Initiating Event: Guy Montag meets Clarisse, a 17-year-old girl who enjoys being with her family and talking. After spending time with Clarisse, Guy realizes there is something missing in his life. Guy's wife then attempts to commit suicide, he watches a woman choose to be burned alive with her books, and then learns that Clarisse has been killed.

Internal Response: Guy feels that there must be something important in books to make people love them so much. He also realizes that there is a lot missing in the sensationalized world he lives in.

Attempt/Outcome: Captain Beatty makes Montag burn his own house, and then arrests him. Montag kills Beatty and runs away with the hound on his tail. After visiting with Faber, Montag runs to the river to escape the hound. He floats downstream and then follows a railroad track, where he meets up with a group of homeless individuals who memorize literature for future generations.

Resolution: The city is destroyed and Montag and his companions return to the city to try to help any survivors.

Reaction: *Fahrenheit 451* is an interesting book that raises many questions as to the importance of literature. It also brings up the issues of true emotion and feeling versus sensationalism. Although it addresses powerful issues, the book is rather accessible because the language isn't very difficult.

Ann Genho, BYU, 2002