

## Year 11 English

### Spoken Language



In World War Two, the Nazi regime ordered book burnings, where thousands of books were lit on fire.

Discuss with a trusted partner: why would they do such a thing? Why might books be considered 'dangerous'? Can you think of a world without books? What might be the impact of this?

### Reading

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury 1953

*This extract is from the opening of a novel by Ray Bradbury. Published in 1953, the novel is set in the future. In this section Guy Montag is a fireman who is in charge of the burning of books. As you read, make notes on your feelings towards the character Montag.*

It was a pleasure to burn. It was a special pleasure to see things eaten, to see things blackened and changed. With the brass nozzle in his fists, with this great python spitting its venomous kerosene upon the world, the blood pounded in his head, and his hands were the hands of some amazing conductor playing all the symphonies of blazing and burning to bring down the tatters and charcoal history. With his symbolic helmet numbered 451 on his stolid head, and his eyes all orange flame with the thought of what came next, he flicked the igniter and the house jumped up in a gorging fire that burned the evening sky red and yellow and black. He strode in a swarm of fireflies. He wanted above all, like the old joke, to shove a marshmallow on a stick in the furnace, while the flapping pigeon-winged books died on the porch and lawn of the house. While the books went up in sparkling whirls and blew away on a wind turned dark with burning.

Montag grinned the fierce grin of all men singed and driven back by flame. He knew that when he returned to the firehouse, he might wink at himself, a minstrel man, burnt corked, in the mirror. Later, going to sleep, he would feel the fiery smile still gripped by his face muscles, in the dark. It never went away, that smile, it never ever went away, as long as he remembered.

He hung up his black-beetle-coloured helmet and shined it, he hung his flameproof jacket neatly; he showered luxuriously, and then, whistling, hands in pockets, walked across the upper floor of the fire station and fell down the hole. At the last moment, when disaster seemed positive, he pulled his hands from his pockets and broke his fall by grasping the golden pole. He slid to a squeaking halt, the heels one inch from the concrete floor downstairs.

He walked out of the fire station and along the midnight street toward the subway where the silent, air-propelled train slid soundlessly down its lubricated flue in the earth and let him out with a great puff of warm air and to the cream-tiled escalator rising to the suburb.

Whistling, he let the escalator waft him into the still night air. He walked toward the corner, thinking little at all about nothing in particular. Before he reached the corner, however, he slowed as if a wind had sprung up from nowhere, as if someone had called his name. The last few nights he had

had the most uncertain feelings about the sidewalk just around the corner here, moving in the starlight toward his house. He had felt that a moment before his making the turn, someone had been there. The air seemed charged with a special calm as if someone had waited there, quietly, and only a moment before he came, simply turned to a shadow and let him through. Perhaps his nose detected a faint perfume, perhaps the skin on the backs of his hands, on his face, felt the temperature rise at this one spot where a person's standing might raise the immediate atmosphere ten degrees for an instant. There was no understanding it. Each time he made the turn, he saw only the white, unused, buckling sidewalk, with perhaps, on one night, something vanishing swiftly across a lawn before he could focus his eyes or speak.

Fahrenheit 451 Text-Focused Questions:

1. What are your first impressions of Montag? Use evidence to explain your ideas.
2. Find a simile within the text. What is the effect here for the reader?
3. Re-read the final paragraph. How does the writer create tension here? Use evidence to explain your ideas.
4. Why do you think Montag finds pleasure in burning books?
5. What would a life without books look like? Include your own ideas but also think about how the world might operate differently if people did not have access to read.

Writing

In the extract above there are lots of adjectives for effect: blackened, venomous, faint, fiery, silent, golden etc.

Complete the task below on adjectives.

Circle the adjectives.

eager	quiet	scrawny	phone	jump
low	horse	castle	famous	clever
play	handsome	odd	driver	shallow
ocean	rich	long	gentle	thankful

Complete the sentences using the adjectives from above.

1. The bird with short wings is \_\_\_\_\_ looking.
2. Bob is \_\_\_\_\_ to get his new puppy.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ actor is in a new movie.
4. A person has to be \_\_\_\_\_ to solve puzzles.
5. Some fish prefer to swim in \_\_\_\_\_ waters.
6. The runt of a litter of puppies is the \_\_\_\_\_ one.
7. The man who lives in the mansion is \_\_\_\_\_.
8. My brother was \_\_\_\_\_ that he got a new game.
9. We were tired after the \_\_\_\_\_ soccer game.
10. I like to have \_\_\_\_\_ time to read books.
11. My grandmother says I am a \_\_\_\_\_ boy.
12. The tall man hit his head on the \_\_\_\_\_ branches.

Circle the adjectives.

Word bank:

clumsy	fatigue	island	pleasant	timid
curious	heavy	koala	precious	tiny
dirty	hungry	long	eye	trouble
envy	important	mark	strong	vision

Complete the sentences using the adjectives from above.

1. The pleasant man helped the woman cross the street.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ papers were left on the table.
3. Mark was talking with his \_\_\_\_\_ neighbour.
4. Is it true that a \_\_\_\_\_ mouse can scare an elephant?
5. Leave your \_\_\_\_\_ shoes on the mat by the door.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ baby was crying for his bottle.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ players scored many goals.
8. Lydia left her \_\_\_\_\_ backpack at the bottom of the stairs.
9. Teddy is so \_\_\_\_\_ and he tripped on the sidewalk.
10. Jenna placed her \_\_\_\_\_ doll carefully on her dresser.
11. The students were looking forward to the \_\_\_\_\_ summer break.
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ girl refused to sing in front of the crowd.

