



# Freshman Class Summer Reading, 2020-21

## Poplar Campus

Dear Future Freshmen and Parents of The City School,

I hope you have a wonderful and restful summer break. Included in this letter is your summer reading assignment for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. The purpose of this assignment is to keep your mind sharp, prepare you for the upcoming school year, and to be a source of enjoyment for you! When we allow them to, books have the power to transport us to other worlds, worlds which satisfy our desire to be entertained and teach us truths about the world God has given us.

For this year's summer reading assignment, **rising freshmen will be assigned one book collectively.** Students are by no means limited to one book, and we encourage students who want to be fully prepared for the next level of English to read more than the minimum requirement.

As an entry point into the often confusing and highly emotional experience commonly known as high school, each freshman is asked to read a wonderful book, *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury. After you have read the book, you are responsible for answering the questions enclosed with this letter. (Also, be prepared to take a reading test upon your return to school.)

We look forward to seeing you on campus and have a wonderful summer!

### ***Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury (required reading)**

**For *Fahrenheit 451*, please answer the following questions in detail.**

**For this assignment, "detail" means at least one full paragraph (6-8 complex sentences) per question.**

1. Why would society make "being a pedestrian" a crime? (Clarisse tells Montag that her uncle was once arrested for this.)
2. Captain Beatty quotes history, scripture, poetry, philosophy. He is obviously a well-read man. Why hasn't he been punished? And why does he view the books he's read with such contempt?
3. Beatty tells Montag that firemen are "custodians of peace of mind" and that they stand against "those who want to make everyone unhappy with conflicting theory and thought." How well are the firemen accomplishing these objectives? Are conflicting ideas the only source of unhappiness in their society? What other sources might there be? Can conflicting ideas exist even without books that have been destroyed and outlawed?
4. Granger, spokesperson for the group on the railroad tracks, tells Montag, "Right now we have a horrible job; we're waiting for the war to begin and, as quickly, end...When the war's over, perhaps we can be of some use in the world." Based on what you've read of the world these men live in, do you believe that the books they carry inside themselves will make a difference? Might this difference be positive or negative? Point out episodes in *Fahrenheit* to support your response.
5. Although Ray Bradbury's work is often referred to as science fiction, *Fahrenheit* has plenty to say about the world as it is, and not as it could be. As you review the book, list textual examples of themes, with some example themes mentioned below to get you thinking. Discuss how you feel about the stands the author or characters take in *Fahrenheit*.  
*Example Themes:* 1. Alienation and Connection or 2. Individuality and Conformity.

