



Studies in Dystopian Literature
Summer Reading 2019
Ms. Lisa Conyer

Students entering *Studies in Dystopian Literature* will read Ray Bradbury's ***Fahrenheit 451*** for summer reading. Active readers “engage with the text” by highlighting and annotating passages that describe characters, settings, symbols, or themes.

Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*. (1951). New York: Simon and Shuster, 2012. Print.
ISBN# 978-1-4516-7331-9

1. Dystopia: A futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Where do you recognize these characteristics in the novel?

Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system. What criticism was Bradbury making *about his present-day society* in this novel?

2. Characteristics of a Dystopian Society:

- Propaganda is used to control the citizens of society.
- Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted.
- Citizens of the society worship a figurehead or concept.
- Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
- Citizens live in fear of the outside world.
- Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
- The natural world is banished and distrusted.
- Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.
- The society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world.

3. The Dystopian Protagonist:

- Often feels trapped and is struggling to exist.
- Questions the existing social and political systems.
- Believes or feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives.
- Helps the audience recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian world through his or her perspective.

Have a safe, relaxing, fun summer and READ, READ, READ (that’s the practice of English).

For Questions Contact:
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