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Fahrenheit 451

Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury, is a book set in the future people do not read books, enjoy nature or think independently. In this society firefighters start fires instead of stopping them. The protagonist of *Fahrenheit 451* is Guy Montag and he is a firefighter. Guy has been a faithful firefighter for many years, but throughout the book his views change and he begins to save books instead of burning them.

*Fahrenheit 451* is divided up into three main sections, which each end with a fire. In the first section Guy Montag is told to burn the books of Mrs. Hudson. When Mrs. Hudson says she would prefer to die than give up her library, Guy is intrigued by the idea that life is not worth living without books, and saves some of her books.

In the second section of *Fahrenheit 451*, Guy begins to read Mrs. Hudson’s books and becomes disenchanted with the society that he lives in. He becomes so upset that he seeks counseling from a retired professor named Faber, whom he once let go on a reading charge. During the counseling Guy and Faber agree to start copying a salvaged Bible. Guy’s boss Beatty begins to notice Guy’s strange behavior and interrogates him.

In the third and final section of *Fahrenheit 451*, Guy begins to think independently. He is called to perform his job at his own house after Mildred betrays him and sounds an alarm. Beatty arrests Guy after he burns down the house. Guy then kills Beatty and makes a run for the countryside. When Guy reaches the countryside he meets a resistance group of readers, who memorize books in order to preserve them for future generations. At the end of *Fahrenheit 451* Guy sees the city he once lived in being bombed by planes, and sets out with the resistance to search for survivors and rebuild civilization.

*Fahrenheit 451* is a book dealing with many themes and motifs. Two of these themes are censorship and ignorance vs. knowledge while paradoxes and religion are two motifs. These themes and motifs are present throughout the book and Ray Bradbury does a wonderful job of weaving them together with the plot to deliver a memorable story that is still popular today.