

### **Fahrenheit 451 Discussion Questions:**

1. Why was the government shown in this film afraid of people reading books?
3. What was the reason that this society gave for eliminating books?
4. What do you think of the reason the government gave for eliminating books?
5. What were the negative effects of the decision by the society shown in the film to eliminate books? What, if any, were the positive effects of that decision?
6. What was the role of television in the wife's life?
7. This world seems very strange to us, but put yourself back in 1900 and list ten of the most important changes that have occurred since that time. In light of that list, is the society envisioned by this movie so farfetched?
8. Compare the role of drugs in Montag's society and alcohol (a mind altering drug) in the former Soviet Union. Did you know that one of the first reforms of Gorbachev, the man responsible for dismantling the Soviet state, was a package of laws designed to discourage the consumption of alcohol?
9. What would life be like if there were no books?
10. The German poet Heinrich Heine said, "Where books are burned, they will also ultimately burn human beings." What did he mean by this?
11. If all of the books that have been written over the centuries suddenly disappeared and all computer memory that had copies of books were destroyed, what would we have lost?
12. Did Montag have to kill the captain in order to escape? What is the literary significance of burning the captain?
13. There is no real threat in modern society that books will be destroyed wholesale. Instead, certain people and organizations would ban certain books or types of books. Do you agree or disagree with the proposition that banning any book is bad? What about "Mein Kampf?" What about a book that described how to make an atomic bomb and that extolled the misguided ideology of the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center hijackers? What about a book aimed at teenagers that falsely, but convincingly, argued that a dangerous drug, for example Ecstasy, could be taken without a risk of harmful effects? If you come out on the side of banning any books, describe who would set the criteria to determine which books should be banned and who would decide if, for any particular book those criteria applied.

**Social-Emotional Learning Discussion Questions:**

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

See Handout on Alcohol and How it Affects Us

1. Why did the society shown in this film supply the wife with drugs?
2. What was the role of television and drugs in the society shown in this film and how did they support each other?
3. How would interactive computer games fit into the world of "Fahrenheit 451"?

## Moral-Ethical Emphasis Discussion Questions (Character Counts)

Discussion Questions Relating to Ethical Issues will facilitate the use of this film to teach ethical principles and critical viewing. Additional questions are set out below.

### RESPECT

(Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule; Be tolerant of differences; Use good manners, not bad language; Be considerate of the feelings of others; Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone; Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements)

1. Did this society respect the opinions of its people? Describe the reasons for your answer.