

Ray Bradbury *Fahrenheit 451*

Discussion Handout

Please use specific details and page numbers from the text.

- 1) When does the story take place? What country?
- 2) Describe the main characters:
 - a) Montag
 - b) Clarisse
 - c) Mildred
 - d) The Hound
 - e) The Family
 - d) Captain Beatty
 - e) Faber
- 3) Describe various human relationships in the book? How do people interact with each other?
- 4) What is the internal, psychological state of people in the book? Describe specific people.
- 5) Describe the social and political environment. What kind of society does the book portray? Why?
- 6) What is the relationship between individuals and their society? What does the author have to say about the “majority?” How has the social community composed of pleasure seeking individuals influenced the political environment?
- 7) What do “firemen” do? Describe in detail. Why do “firemen” have these jobs?
- 8) Why are books forbidden?
- 9) How did books become forbidden?
- 10) Even though books are forbidden, why do people smuggle books and keep them in their homes?
- 11) Why are books important? What do books do? What can they not do?
- 12) Why does Montag keep books?
- 13) What do Montag and Faber hope to do? What is their plan?
- 14) Why does Montag not stick to the plan? Why does he kill the captain?
- 15) Why are there wandering scholars in the woods? What do they say to Montag?
- 16) Is there any hope for the human future in this novel?