

Name: _____

Fahrenheit 451: The Sieve and the Sand

1. Explain the symbolism of the sieve and the sand.
2. What is Denham's Dentifrice? Why does it make Montag angry?
3. Why does Faber consider himself a coward?
4. According to Faber, why are books "hated and feared"?
5. According to Faber, what "three things are missing" that would make books meaningful?
6. What does Montag suggest might be a "plan worth trying"?
7. Faber says, "Remember, the firemen are rarely necessary." Why is this so?
8. How does Montag get Faber (against his will) to help?
9. After Montag leaves, how does Faber read to him? *What* does he read? (Extra credit for Biblical scholars: Why is this appropriate?)

**Faber's Lecture: What's wrong with media?
*Tablets, devices, and phones! Oh my!***

"...Who has ever torn himself from the claw that encloses you when you drop a seed in the TV parlor? It grows you any shape it wishes! It is an environment as real as the world. It becomes and is the truth. Books can be beaten down with reason. But with all my knowledge and skepticism I have never been able to argue with a one-hundred piece symphony orchestra, full color, three dimensions, and being in and part of those incredible parlors..." (Faber, p. 84).

Prompt: Smart phones, TV, computers, portable music players, gaming systems, watches, tablets, etc., are inescapable in our society. They serve as our lifeline and our window on the world as well as our primary form of entertainment. Two-thirds of Americans now own a smartphone (2015), and all these technologies are having profound effects on society, some positive, many not so. Various modern technologies have been said to cause social isolation, lack of social skills, obesity, depression, poor sleep habits, pollution, increased bullying, lack of privacy, higher level of deceit, warped sense of reality, stress, lack of social/sexual boundaries, constant distraction, neck and head pain, shortened attention span, addictive tendencies, lack of empathy, violence, developmental issues in children, neurosis, loss of hearing and eyesight, and loss of social bonds. There must be something "wrong" with devices that could be blamed for so many social ills. What is it?

Identify/Quote some of Faber's concerns. What claims does he make about the "TV parlors" in *Fahrenheit 451* that also seem to be true of our modern technologies? Show how these modern technologies illustrate Faber's concerns by providing examples from your own experience and observations. Consider these questions: Is it the technologies themselves that are the problem, or is it the media content? Where do you draw the line between too much media exposure and not enough? Is it reasonable to expect that people in the modern world will never access the Internet, use a smart phone, or watch videos on YouTube? Conversely, is it reasonable to expect that people will put the gadgets away when other human beings are around? Where are we to draw our technological and media boundaries? More importantly, who should decide these things? Many people say, "There's a lot of crap on TV/Internet/Social Media/etc.! Too much bad content!" But not everyone defines "bad" the same way. Is it the existence of "bad" content that is the problem, or is it something else?

Develop your ideas in a written response of 500-1000 words. (You won't be able to fit it on this paper, Armando!) **Address the question as well as the counterclaims. Explain your reasoning clearly and completely.**