

### ***Fahrenheit 451: Into the Fire!***

Review the following passages in the novel, each of which includes some fire imagery. By tracing the different ways in which fire is presented in the story, you can trace Montag's character development and identify the symbolism of fire in the novel. For each passage, write a short response that describes how fire is used or described and how Montag responds to the fire. The first one is done for you.

Page 3: "It was a pleasure to burn...."

In this passage, fire is a destroyer. Montag, with a "fierce grin," is burning books, and he loves his job! He is compared to a conductor in a symphony bringing down "the charcoal ruins of history." It is an uncomfortable passage for the reader because Montag is doing something so destructive, but he enjoys it so much. Fire represents power and control to him.

Page 7: "He saw himself in her eyes..."

Page 11: "He glanced back at the wall...."

Page 39: "An ordinary kitchen match."

Page 51: "No, not water; fire....."

Page 76: "He could hear Beatty's voice...."

Page 89: "The old man nodded...."

Page 115: "What is there about fire that's so lovely?"

*Continued on back*

Page 116: “A great nuzzling gout of fire leapt out...”

Page 119: “Montag only said, ‘We never burned *right*.’”

Page 140: “He saw the moon low in the sky now....”

Page 145: “The fire was gone, then back again.....”

Page 162: “Someone struck a match....”

Page 163: “There was a silly damn bird called a Phoenix....”

Final Exam: Using the responses you wrote above, write a *very good paragraph* (topic sentence, numerous supporting details and examples, conclusion statement) describing how Montag’s changing conception of fire symbolizes the change in his character.