FAHRENHEIT 451 READING CHECK QUESTIONS

Throughout Novel:
1. As you are introduced to characters, write down their names and details about them.
   Physical description, if given
   Role - effect the character has on Montag
2. Describe the setting
   Don't just describe the city in general
   Jot down notes about specific places
3. What is the main conflict of the novel?
   What type of conflict is it?
   What smaller conflicts contribute to the main conflict?
4. Comment on some aspect of Bradbury's world and how close we are to it today.

Day 1
1. What is Montag's job? What is the purpose of his job?
2. Why do Montag and Clarisse find each other strange during their first meeting?
3. Montag's uniform has a salamander and phoenix symbol - what do these represent?
4. What metaphor does Montag use to describe his bedroom? -to describe Mildred's music?
5. Montag hears what sounds like the sky being ripped apart - what is it, why does it happen?
6. What does Mildred's incident suggest about the society? Why does Montag hate the men?
7. Describe the Mechanical Hound. What is foreshadowed about the Hound and Montag?
8. Referring to Clarisse's conversation about school, is this what teen life is like today?
9. What changes did the conversations with Clarisse inspire in Montag (more than one)?
10. When Montag asks Captain Beatty about firemen's history, he thinks of "the ventilator grill at home" and "himself in a green park talking to an old man" (31). What literary device is this?

Day 2
1. What horrible occurrence happens when the firemen are called to a house with books?
2. What did Montag do during the raid?
3. "Play the man, Master Ridley..." - Where did this recited quotation come from?
4. What sort of relationship do Montag and Mildred have? Do they know each other at all?
5. Why does Montag get frustrated with the TV? Who does he call "relatives"? Why?
6. What happened to Clarisse? What does Mildred's response tell you about the society?
7. Why does Montag feel ill? What is Mildred's response? Why doesn't he want to call Beatty? How does Beatty know Montag was going to call the night off?
8. Montag says, "We need to be really bothered once in a while... About something important" (49). What does he mean - what does this have to do with books?
9. Explain Beatty’s monologue in your own words. What was the chain reaction? Why does Beatty call Montag and himself the Happiness Boys?
10. What was Montag keeping in the ventilator grill? Why does he show Mildred?

**Day 3**
1. Why do the books Montag reads to Mildred all seem to point to Clarisse?
2. What do you think is at the door?
3. Mildred says, “Books aren’t people” but her “family’ is people” (69). Is that really the difference between books and TV?
4. Why are the bomber jets constantly flying around?
5. Who was the old man in the green park? Why did that memory stick with Montag?
6. What is Montag trying to say with the “sieve and sand” metaphor?
7. What does the constant jingle “Denham’s Dentifrice” represent?
8. Why does Montag go to Faber? What does he need?
9. Montag thinks books are the missing links to real happiness. Does Faber agree?
10. Faber says 3 things are missing - what are they? Why do we need each one?
11. Faber says to wait to rebel. Why - wait for what?
12. What gadget does Faber give to Montag to help him? What else does Faber offer to do?

**Day 4**
1. What doubt does Montag have about listening to Faber through the Seashell?
2. As Montag eats super, he describes Mildred and her friends vividly (89). What does he say? What two devices does the author use in the description?
3. What makes Montag unplug the parlor walls? How does Mildred react to the same sight?
4. What is the outlook on death and family in Montag’s conversation with the women? For example, what do the women think of their husbands, death in war, having children?
5. Mildred says, “Let’s talk politics” (93). What do they talk about?
6. What is the significance of the poem? How does it relate to Montag’s situation?
7. When Montag loses it and yells at the women, what does he tell them to do?
8. Why does Beatty recite lines and describe the dream?
9. Why is the alarm during the card game a special case?

**Day 5**
1. What had been at the door as Montag read to Mildred?
2. Who called in the alarm?
3. What is ironic about Beatty’s description of fire just after he criticizes Montag?
4. Montag burns his own house. What does Montag go for first? Why does he enjoy it?
5. What metaphor does Bradbury use to describe people coming to watch the firemen?
6. What pushed Montag to murder - two possibilities? Why did Beatty provoke him?
7. What news does Montag hear as he cleans up at a gas station?
8. Why is it so dangerous to cross the boulevard? Whom does Montag think is trying to hit him? Whom is it really?
9. What does Montag do with the books he managed to grab from his house?
10. What do the police do to try to catch Montag - two tactics?
11. How does Montag escape?

Day 6
1. What does the river represent? Compare it to the city.
2. Why does Bradbury spend so much time describing what Montag
   sees/hears/smells/feels while floating? Why do we have such a long break from plot
   while Montag thinks?
3. What do the train tracks represent - and the act of walking along them?
4. Montag comes upon a group of old men. What is unusual about their fire and their
   silence?
5. Why did the Hound and helicopters turn back at the river? What do they do for TV
   audience?
6. What were the old men? How does their lifestyle now compare to the past?
7. What do they do now? WHY? How do they get away with it?
8. Why does Granger tell Montag about his grandfather? What philosophy does he share?
9. What happens to the city? Why does say Granger say Man is like the Phoenix?
10. Granger tells Montag to “hold onto one thought” (156) - what is it?
11. What is Montag thinking about as they walk back to the city? What does it mean?
12. Why was the final section named “Burning Bright” - two ideas?