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## *Fahrenheit 451*

BY RAY BRADBURY



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All references come from the Ballantine/Del Rey Edition of *Fahrenheit 451*, copyright 1953, 1981.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pre-Reading

### Theme II

**Objective:** Understanding the importance of theme in a literary text

#### Activity

In *Fahrenheit 451*, firefighters burn books to destroy knowledge, while the Book People burn books, after they have memorized the contents, to preserve knowledge. Research and write a short report on the practice of burning books. You may use the Internet or resources in a local or school library. Include answers to the following questions:

- Where and when did the practice begin?
- Why did people resort to burning books?
- What famous books have been burned?
- What historical events surround book burning?
- Is it still practiced today? If so, where?
- Is the practice similar to that of banning books? How so?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

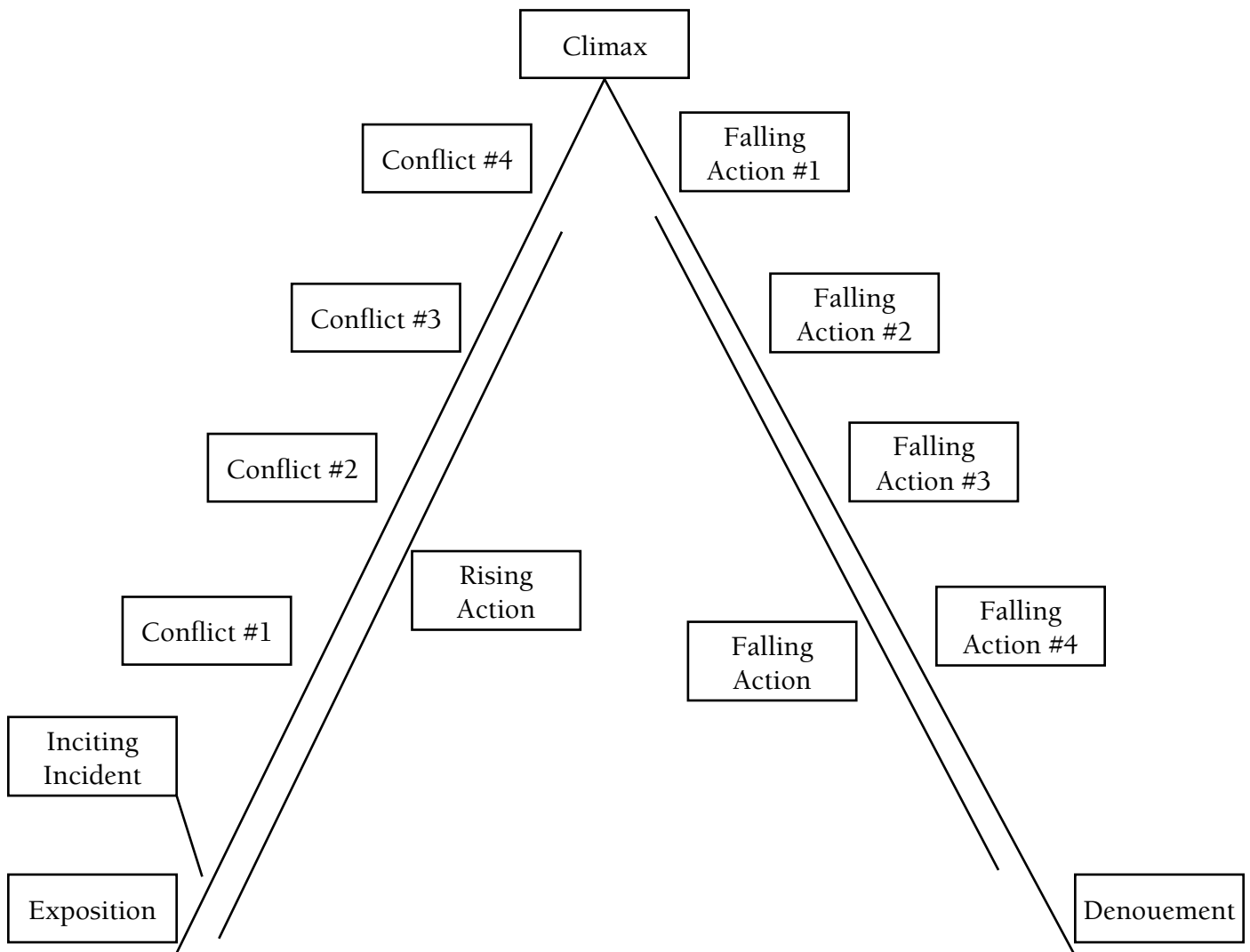
**Pre-Reading**

**Plot**

**Objective:** Identifying key points in a plot

**Activity**

Complete the following plot diagram for *Fahrenheit 451*. Add the incidents of the plot, which correspond to each entry on the diagram. You should be able to choose three or four conflicts for the rising action and the same for the falling action. Label the events next to the boxes.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part One: The Hearth and the Salamander

### Setting II

**Objective:** Understanding the author's use of setting to create meaning in a literary text

#### Activity

An author creates setting through detailed descriptions of places, objects, time references, and backgrounds. Setting in science fiction may be natural or manufactured, but may have no specific time or place reference. Authors use setting to lend verisimilitude, or an air of realism, to a literary work. They also use setting to emphasize the importance of place and time on a character's ability to grow and change.

Write a rough outline describing the setting Ray Bradbury uses in *Fahrenheit 451*. Make sure to answer the following questions:

- During what time in history does the action take place?
- Where does the action take place?
- During what time of year does the action take place?
- Is the setting natural or man-made?
- Is the setting realistic?
- Does it include places and objects from everyday life [verisimilitude]?
- Does the author employ imagery to create the setting? If so, what type?

A. Time: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Place: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Time of year: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Natural/Man-made: \_\_\_\_\_

E. Realistic: \_\_\_\_\_

F. Verisimilitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Examples: \_\_\_\_\_

G. Imagery: \_\_\_\_\_

Examples: \_\_\_\_\_

Use your outline to help you create a visual representation of the setting in the novel. You may choose one of the following:

- A Collage
- A Mobile
- A Poster
- A PowerPoint Presentation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part Two: The Sieve and the Sand

### Irony

**Objective:** Understanding how an author's use of irony enhances meaning in a literary text

#### Activity

Irony refers to a particular kind of tone, which expresses the author's attitude toward elements of the story. **Verbal irony** refers to language that states the opposite of what is intended. Hyperbole and understatement are two examples of verbal irony. **Situational irony** refers to an emphasis on a character's powerlessness. While **dramatic irony** refers to the placement of characters in a state of ignorance.

Complete the chart by identifying the types of irony Ray Bradbury uses in this section of *Fahrenheit 451*. Explain your choice.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Three: Burning Bright****Point of View**

**Objective:** Understanding how the use of point of view adds meaning to a literary text

**Activity**

Point of view refers to the voice the author uses to tell the story. In *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury uses the third-person omniscient point of view.

Examine how a different point of view would change *Fahrenheit 451*. Choose a character from the novel to narrate the story. It may be Montag himself, one of the Book People, or anyone else you think could tell the story. Write a paragraph detailing the differences someone else's point of view makes to the story. Then begin the story from that point of view.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Wrap-Up

### Critical Reading

**Objective:** Supporting critical reading of a literary text

#### Activity

Create a new cover for *Fahrenheit 451*.

- The front cover must include symbols from the story, the title of the novel, and the author's name.
- The inside front flap must include a brief summary of the novel that does not give away the ending.
- The inside back flap must include information about Ray Bradbury, his awards, and his other works.
- The back cover must serve as a review of the book. It may be written in paragraph form or in the form of several quotes from classmates about the book.
- Try to do some sort of illustrating, especially on the front cover.

The French director Francois Truffaut made *Fahrenheit 451* into a film in 1966. It starred Oscar Werner as Montag and, somewhat mysteriously, Julie Christie as both Mildred and Clarisse. In a plot change that Ray Bradbury was pleased with, Truffaut brought Clarisse's character back and located her safely with the Book People.

Imagine you are Ray Bradbury, and you must convince a producer to make *Fahrenheit 451* into a movie. Write the producer a persuasive letter in which you answer the following questions:

- Who would you cast in all the different roles, and why?
- How would you recreate the setting?
- Where would you shoot the movie?
- Would you include The Mechanical Hound?
- Would you use computer-generated images?
- How would the characters dress?
- How would you recreate the billboards, the cars, and the parlor families?
- What scenes would you cut?
- Would you change the ending?

Use the letter you have written to the producers to create a persuasive movie poster or a movie trailer (advertisement).