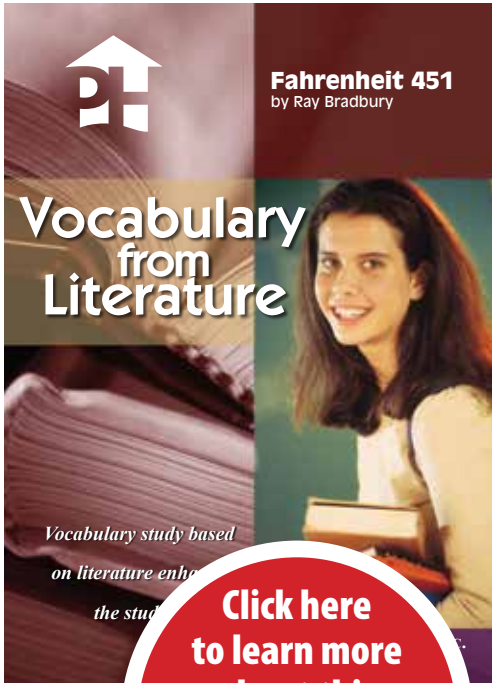




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Fahrenheit 451

by Ray Bradbury

Written by Crista Miles

Edited by Paul Moliken

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Information for Instructors

The activities in this Unit are designed to help students increase their vocabulary by studying the meanings of words selected from Ray Bradbury's novel *Fahrenheit 451*. All definitions provided in these activities are based on the contexts in which the vocabulary words appear, which may not always convey the words' conventional usage.

It is the goal of this Unit to familiarize students with vocabulary words that they will re-encounter in life and other readings. The words are carefully selected to meet this goal.

Rather than matching *Fahrenheit 451*, chapter-for-chapter, we have divided the book into segments depending on the number of vocabulary words from each chapter. While all of the activities may be completed by students individually, we have had the best results when students worked on them in pairs or small groups. The following activities are provided for each segment.

While the words in this reproducible do represent those necessary for a better understanding of the text, our primary concern is that we select words not only pertinent to the literature, but also useful in other aspects of the students' lives.

All page references come from the Ballantine Books edition of *Fahrenheit 451*, copyright 1953.

Activity I

Objective: Finding and interpreting definitions

Activity II

Objective: Deciphering the meaning of vocabulary words using context clues
Replacing the vocabulary word with appropriate synonym(s) and definition(s)

Activity III

Objective: Writing definitions, synonyms, and sentences based on context clues

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Part I

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary and change any answers that are not correct.

simmered (26)
olfactory (25)
mausoleum (11)

Fahrenheit (cover)
stolid (3)
burnt-corked (4)

mechanical (24)
heritage (33)
contrasedative (16)

1. _____ blackened; charred
2. _____ large building for tombs and burial monuments
3. _____ cooked near boiling point
4. _____ an upper; a stimulant
5. _____ operated by machine
6. _____ indifferent; lacking emotion
7. _____ background
8. _____ temperature scale
9. _____ relating to sense of smell

pedestrian (9)
ballistics (26)
phoenix (26)
capillary (24)

abstract (31)
trajectory (26)
thunderheads (33)
amino acids (26)

asylum (33)
cinders (33)
jargon (42)

slickers (35)
gilt (38)
abyss (41)

10. _____ mythical bird that rose from ashes; it serves as a symbol for eternal life
11. _____ one who travels by foot
12. _____ institution to house the mentally ill
13. _____ rain clouds associated with thunderstorms
14. _____ the study of objects fired or thrown forcefully into the air
15. _____ not specific or concrete; open to interpretation
16. _____ spoken nonsense; lingo specific to a population
17. _____ ashen fragments
18. _____ path of a moving, airborne object
19. _____ raincoats
20. _____ gold-covered
21. _____ bottomless pit; boundless depth
22. _____ resembling a thin tube such as a blood vessel
23. _____ building blocks of protein molecules

Activity III
Writing Definitions and Sentences
from Context Clues
Part I

Directions: For each highlighted word, write a definition that fits the context of the passage. Then, check your answers by looking the words up in the dictionary. Finally, write a sentence using each word. The first one is done for you as an example.

Example: Nobody knows anyone. Strangers come and **violate** you. Strangers come and cut your heart out. (Pg. 16)

Definition for **violate**: do harm to, purposefully disturb

Sentence: There is a stiff penalty for those who **violate** the new school grounds.

1. Laughter blew across the moon-colored lawn from the house of Clarisse and her father and mother and the uncle who smiled so quietly and so **earnestly**. (Pg. 17)

earnestly:

2. Montag heard the voices talking, talking, talking, giving, talking, weaving, reweaving their **hypnotic** web. (Pg. 17)

hypnotic:
