Study Questions for Fahrenheit 451

Directions: As you read each section of the novel, answer the following questions.

“Part I: The Hearth and the Salamander”
1. What do the “firemen” do for a living?

2. In the opening scene, how are books compared to birds?

3. Who does Montag meet on the way home?

4. During his conversation, Montag says that, “You never wash it off completely” referring to the kerosene. What could this mean symbolically?

5. Why do you think that Bradbury would introduce Clarisse before Montag’s wife, Mildred?

6. Why does Mildred need help when Montag gets home?

7. Describe the help that she receives.

8. Is there anything unusual about the way the two men go about helping Mildred? How is it unusual?

9. How is life in Montag’s house very different from that of Clarisse’s house?

10. How does Mildred react after she wakes up from her previous night’s experience?

11. What does Mildred do all day?

12. Describe the setup of Montag’s TV room.

13. How is Clarisse different than Mildred?

14. What is the mechanical hound and what is its purpose?

15. What is the hound’s reaction to Montag?

16. Why does society consider Clarisse “anti-social”?

“Part II: The Sieve and the Sand”
1. In the beginning of “Part II: The Sieve and the Sand,” Montag remembers Clarisse. Explain his comments about her.

2. Why is Mildred worried about being caught with the books? What does this tell you of her character?

3. What is the meaning of the title of Part II?

4. What is the importance of the dentifrice commercial? (What is being contrasted? Why? Does the commercial exemplify some aspect of society?)

5. Explain why Montag goes to see Faber.

6. What does Faber tell Montag about the books?
7. What are the three things Faber says are missing from society? Tell how each is indeed missing from the society in *Fahrenheit 451*.

8. How does Faber define the job of firemen? How does this differ from Beatty’s definition?

9. Explain Faber’s statement: “Montag, go home…Why waste your final hours racing about your cage denying you’re a squirrel.”

10. Describe the device Faber provides for Montag to help him with Captain Beatty.

11. Faber considers himself a coward. What do you think?

“**Part III: Burning Light**

1. Why do you think Mildred turns Montag in?

2. What feelings does Montag have about the burning of his house?

3. What thoughts does Montag have about Beatty after he murders him?

4. Do you think that Beatty wanted to die? Explain.

5. How does Montag get out of the city?

6. How do the wanderers “become” books?

7. Why do the police stop chasing Montag?

8. What book of the Bible does Montag decide to become?

9. What happens to Montag’s city?