

Fishbowl Discussion Questions: *Fahrenheit 451*

Name:

Period:

Directions: In preparation for the fishbowl discussion, answer these guiding questions with your thoughts, opinions, personal experiences, and evidence from *Fahrenheit 451*. ***Most responses should include at least 1 quote/event from the text to support your answer.***

- 1) What is this novel intended to teach or reveal about life?
- 2) Are there any circumstances where censorship might play a beneficial role in society? Are there some books that should be banned?
- 3) How did the government of this society gain control over the people? Explain using evidence from the novel.
- 4) The Captain says about the Mechanical Hound, " 'It doesn't think anything we don't want it to think,' " and Montag says " 'That's sad . . . because all we put into it is hunting and finding and killing' " (Bradbury 27). How does this reflect the society in the book, especially the Firemen? Is the society as adept at "programming" its members as programming the dog?
- 5) What is the significance of Montag having a book for himself? Would you have seen him doing this at earlier parts in the book seeming his job is to burn the books?
- 6) Montag says, " 'We need to be really bothered once in a while. How long is it since you [Mildred] were *really* bothered?' " (Bradbury 52). What are some ways by which being "really bothered" can make a person better? Does being bothered help you, personally, put things into perspective? Why do you think the novel ended the way it did?
- 7) In what ways is use of technology in *Fahrenheit 451* similar in today's society? Does technology help or hurt people? Use examples from the text to support your answer.
- 8) Are there any truly happy characters in *Fahrenheit 451*? If so, what sets them apart; how are they different? What makes their lives "rich and full"?
- 9) Have interpersonal relationships changed for the better or for the worse due to technology?

