

May 2018

**Dear Rising Ninth Grade Students and Parents,**

Welcome to High School!!! You are in one of the top two high schools in the state, and in accordance with ATC's mission of providing a college preparatory education, all ATC students have an assigned reading every summer. **The SUMMER READING for 9<sup>th</sup> grade** is the following:

***Fahrenheit 451*, a classic novel  
by Ray Bradbury -- the founder of science fiction**

Please allow yourself the time to enjoy Ray Bradbury! He is one of the most famous American writers ever. The story includes action, violence, depth, psychology, politics, deception, and the possible creepy future of our world.

**What do I have to do?**

1) Read the novel.

Understand it well enough to pass a test on it when you come back to school.

The test will have quotes on it from the novel that you need to be able to recognize and understand, so do not just read online notes. Read the book!

2) Written response

This year, your assignment is a creative writing response. You have a choice:

- A. Write an alternative ending to the story.
- B. Write a chapter that is missing from the story -- but it needs to be from the last third of the novel.
- C. Write an extra chapter at the end of the story, like a sequel.

Your chapter needs to meet these requirements:

- a. Printed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman or Arial. MLA format.
- b. At least 4 pages
- c. Match the style of Ray Bradbury's writing as best you can.
- d. Keep the characters recognizable.
- e. No sudden changes to plot or genre.
- f. Dialogue -- well-crafted dialogue reveals aspects of a character (indirect characterization)
- g. Imagery -- describe what you want the reader to see, hear, smell, taste, and touch. Consider using imagery to build suspense, or using metaphorical imagery.
- h. Suspense -- your use of well-chosen, precise diction and imagery establishes a mood that builds dramatic tension or suspense.
- i. Verb tense needs to be consistent.

Over →

**How long does it take to read this book and do the assignments?**

Reading: 6 hours if read aloud, according to the audio versions

Written assignments: 3 or 4 hours -- but you may need a week to allow your creativity to surface.

We suggest that you complete this in 2 hours a day for 5 days.

**But I'm busy and I'm going to be away and I don't have internet and I don't WANNA and, and, and... What happens if I don't read the novel and do the assignments?**

You will not be prepared for weeks of assignments. This unit is 2 to 4 weeks long and will vary depending on the teacher to whom you are assigned, but following is a general idea of how grades will be distributed:

Grade 1: Your creative writing from the summer

Grade 2: Test on the novel

Grades 3, 4, and 5: Class discussions, vocab work, and other novel study

Grade 6: Essay

Grade 7: Socratic Seminar(s)

You can see that if you don't do the work over the summer, you may fail the first seven assignments of first quarter, and you will certainly feel lost, so it is important that you are prepared. Think about it: if you cannot or will not read a book in three months, you are not ready for a college-prep high school.

**Where should I get a copy of the book?**

ATC does not own enough copies of this book to hand them out, so we recommend that you buy the book. You can also find a copy at the public library, but **you will need the book through the first month of school**, so do not return it to the library before then. Amazon sells used books, often for as low as \$2.50. If you cannot afford to buy a book, and you cannot find one at the library, please have your parent/guardian send in a signed note, and we will loan you a copy (we have a small number).

**Be very careful -- plagiarism or copying results in a zero that you cannot make up -- do not paraphrase stories or information from the internet or from a classmate.**

Use correct sentence structure, paragraph structure, punctuation, and spelling. PRINT the paper before school starts, and use spell-check. Margins follow MLA format (1 inch each margin).

Reading issues? You can **listen to the whole book for free** on youtube at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UMFI-SyaEo> or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUzMFko--fA>

or with a woman's voice if you prefer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MSMlcC4EoY>

Is there something you don't understand? Google it. Google any new vocabulary.

Please also get lots of fresh air, sunshine, exercise, and nature. We look forward to working with all of you next school year!

Sincerely,

*The English Department at The Academy for Technology and the Classics*

**Due date: the first day of school – bring the book and your printed story with you!**