

May 2019

Dear Rising Ninth Grade Students and Parents,

Welcome to High School!!!

In accordance with ATC's mission of providing a college preparatory education and to help you extend your learning over the summer, all ATC students have an assigned reading every summer. The reading for 9th grade is the following:

***Fahrenheit 451*, a novel by Ray Bradbury**

Please allow yourself the time to both read and enjoy Ray Bradbury! He is one of the most famous American writers ever and is said to be the founder of science fiction.

In addition to reading the book, you must complete the assignments below that are **due on the first day of school**. You will also be writing an essay, having discussions or a Socratic seminar, and studying the novel *during* our first unit, so it is important that you are prepared for the first few weeks.

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, a used bookstore, through Amazon.com, etc. Amazon sells used books, often for as low as \$2.50. If you buy the book on Amazon through atcschool.org, ATC will earn a percentage. 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.

Summer assignment due date: The first day of school – bring it with you!

This assignment is required. Students who do not do the assignment will be starting the year with several failing grades that they will then need to overcome. If you cannot or will not read a book in more than two months, you are not ready for a college-prep high school.

Be thorough in your responses to each of the following questions. **Also, include only your own work. If you can find something on the internet, so can we.** Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and a discipline referral. We want your thinking, insight, and wisdom. When citing page numbers from the novel, use MLA format, just as you did in 8th grade:

Label each response with the supplied heading.

1. **PURPOSE:** What do you think is Bradbury's main **purpose** in writing this novel – to persuade, to inform, or to entertain? Thoroughly explain your assertion. Elaborate. Provide at least three specifics from the novel to support your assertion.
2. **THEME:** What do you feel is the main **theme** of the book? Explain and provide a minimum of three examples from the text to support the theme. Remember that theme is not merely an abstract idea (like love, or fear, or technology) but is a statement of truth about that idea as presented in the text.

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3. **QUOTES:** Choose three of your favorite quotes from the novel. Write out the quotes and explain why you choose them. How does each quote relate to the larger meaning of the work as a whole? (Remember to cite the page numbers.)
4. **CONFLICT:** What is the main **conflict** in the novel? Is it internal (inside of one person) or external (the conflict comes from outside of the person)? Both? Explain, and provide evidence from the text for your assertions. Is the conflict resolved? How?
5. **CHARACTER FEARS:** One way we get to know characters is to think deeply about them and make inferences based on their actions and on what they and others say about them. Through a person's actions we can learn what they fear and what they want to most avoid. Select a character and make a claim about what you think he or she fears the most. Provide and analyze evidence from the novel to support your assertion.
6. **NEW ACQUAINTANCE:** Select a character from the novel and choose a famous person – living or dead – that you would like your character to meet. Why did you make this choice? What would you want the character to learn from the new acquaintance?
7. **POEMS:** Write two poems in response to the novel. The poems can be about characters, themes, or settings. They should provide insight and reflection about your experience with the novel's topics. The poems do not have to take a specific form or meter or even rhyme. You have creative freedom to show the depth of your understanding.

Be thorough and thoughtful in your answers. Use proper paragraph structure and correct punctuation and spelling.

This will not take a big part of your summer: even if read aloud, the novel will take six hours. The written assignment might take three hours.

Please also get fresh air, sunshine, exercise, and nature!

We look forward to working with all of you next school year!

Sincerely,

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