

## Honors English II

- Required Summer Reading:

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

- Required Reading during the semester:  
(You do **NOT** need a personal copy).

*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

*Night* by Elie Wiesel

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

- Materials Needed:
  - College-ruled notebook paper
  - Large three-ring binder and five dividers
  - Pens (blue/black)
  - Jump drive

- Summer Reading Assignment:

The assignment is due on the first day of school regardless of which semester you are scheduled to take the class. On the back of this sheet, you will find two research-based questions and a few discussion questions. Answer each of the questions in paragraph form. I would prefer your answers to be typed. If you choose handwritten, your answers must be neat and legible. Please give your paper a heading that contains your name, semester enrolled, and class block. Make sure that your answers demonstrate thoughtful reading and reflection on the novel.

English II Honors is an advanced course for college-bound sophomores. The focus is on American literature, including poems, short stories, dramas and novels. You will also be responsible for independently reading two other novels of your own choosing. There will be various writing assignments, including essays, narratives and a research paper. Honor students are expected to read outside of class as well as complete creative projects.

On the first day of school, you will turn in your reading assignment for *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. A test over the novel will be given in the first few days of class. Make sure that you have thoroughly read the book and come to school prepared! A final grade of 85 or above is required in order to continue on to Honors English III.

Have a great summer! I hope you enjoy the book.

Diane Kimmons

## Fahrenheit 451

### Research questions:

1. Write a brief biographical paragraph on Ray Bradbury
2. It is important to have an understanding of the time period when a book was written. America of the 1950s was quite different from America of today. Research McCarthyism and black listing. Write a paragraph explaining what these terms meant to the people of the 1950's.

### Discussion questions:

3. Consider the impact of technology on relationships in the novel. For example, Mildred is more concerned with her TV "family" than her marriage. In today's world, how does technology enhance your own relationships, and how does it isolate you from others? Use specific examples from your own experience to support your answer.
4. Unlike Mrs. Hudson, Montag chooses not to die in his house with his books. Instead he burns them, asserting even that "it was good to burn" and that "fire was best for everything!" Are these choices and sentiments consistent with his character? Are you surprised that he fails to follow in her footsteps?
5. Becoming a man, or coming of age, is not always a chronological event such as one's twenty-first birthday. Explain the ways in which Montag, at the end of the novel, is a more complete man than when he was first asked by Clarisse if he were happy.
6. Are there any circumstances where censorship might play a beneficial role in society? Are there some books that should be banned? Explain your opinion.
7. If you had to memorize a single book or risk its extinction, which book would you choose? Why?