**Hot Seat Discussion Questions for Fahrenheit 451**

**Part I: “The Hearth and the Salamander”**

1. What two things are against the law? And what does this say about the society in which they live?
2. Give examples from the novel that illustrate character’s disconnect with the rest of society. Compare with today’s society.
3. Why do you think Bradbury has named Part One “The Hearth and the Salamander”? What could the significance be?
4. How does Guy Montag’s view of his job transform from the beginning of Part One to the end? What or who serves as a catalyst for this change?
5. Name a mechanical thing (or two) in Part One that the reader could compare to the character of Mildred. How might one compare the mechanical thing to her?
6. Give two examples from the text in Part One that show how there is a disconnect in some way with the characters.
7. What items does the author symbolize with fire, cleansing, and re-birth?
8. How does Bradbury convey Clarisse’s curiosity?
9. What line of text in Part One doe you feel is more important and why?
10. Why is it significant that Montag feels Clarisse “refract[s] [his] own light [into him]?” (Bradbury 11).
11. What does it mean on p. 12 when Montag is describing walking into his master bedroom and says, “The room was indeed empty?”
12. According to the text, is their society better off than the one we live in?
13. On p. 28, there is a paragraph that begins with the sentence “One two three four five six seven days. And as many times he came out of the house and Clarisse was there somewhere in the world.” Why does the author use this particular STYLE (running everything together in this entire paragraph) when talking about Clarisse?
14. Bradbury uses animal imagery often in his novel. Why do you suppose he writes “They fell like slaughtered birds” the burning of books on p. 37?
15. “We need not to be let alone. We need to be really bothered once in awhile” (Bradbury 52). How is this quote significant to both Bradbury’s dystopian society and the society that we live in?
16. Explain Beatty’s theory on how a book is a “loaded gun” (Bradbury 58).
17. Why does the author introduce the character of Clarisse before the character of Mildred?
18. What is the mechanical hound, and what is its purpose?
19. Why does the society consider Clarisse “anti-social” and how is this ironic?
20. Describe the relationship between Montag and Mildred.
21. What is the purpose of Beatty’s visit?
22. What does Guy Montag have hidden behind the ventilator grille at home that makes him so nervous?
23. What things do the McClellans do that cause them to be classified as peculiar?
24. What final question does Clarisse ask Montag on the night of their encounter? AND why is this question important to the plot?
25. Find two similes Montag uses to describe Clarisse. Do the similes serve any purpose other than to characterize her?
26. What does Clarisse say people talk about? Find some examples of representative conversations throughout Part One.
27. What does Montag think his feelings would be if his wife were to die?
28. What does Montag think about the old woman and all the books he has destroyed?
29. What is the secret Montag is keeping? AND what does he blame on his hand?
30. Ray Bradbury foresaw many aspects of the future in his novel. Discuss 2 or 3 predictions Bradbury made that seem to have come true today. Clarify with details from the novel that make the prediction and then identify how this prediction has become a reality in today’s society.