

MS. MILLER

8TH GRADE ELA

SUMMER HOMEWORK

NOVEL: FAHRENHEIT 451

BACKGROUND:

Bradbury penned 451 in the 50's before cell phones, reality TV shows, big screen TVs, personal computers, Blue Tooth, and a news media that focused on facts rather than sensationalism and entertainment for profit.

SYNOPSIS:

This novel is set in a futuristic totalitarian society, Guy Montag is a fireman in a society where firemen burn books. Montag's lives in a world where technology has replaced passion for the simple things in life, and "one size fits all" has replaced the once valued intellectual thinking. When Montag meets a young neighbor girl, she causes him question his values and he begins to question his personal values and the values of a decaying society. Written in the mid 50's, Bradbury has accurately predicted where our society is today in terms of the media influence, censorship, thought control, the adverse effects of technology and the lack of intellectual development in our society.

Vocabulary:

dissident/dissenter:

genocide:

utopia:

status quo:

hedonism:

totalitarian:

taboo:

heretic:

heresy:

Writing Prompts: Please choose one prompt from the list and write a 5 paragraph argumentative essay in support or against. Use textual evidence to support your reasoning.

- Agree or disagree? Ignorance is bliss.
- Agree or disagree: Although technology appears to improve our lives, in the end, it is ultimately destructive.
- Agree or disagree: Watching more than two hours of television per day is harmful. (Be sure to cite from the text)
- Agree or disagree: The social media causes more harm than good.
- Does Faber accurately portray our society?
- Agree or disagree: The “political correctness” (PC) movement is an infringement on the 1st amendment.
- Agree or disagree: Our society has become desensitized to human suffering?
- Agree or disagree with Faber: “The most dangerous enemy to truth and freedom is the majority.

Beatty

Fabor

Fahrenheit 451 is *littered* with symbols. As you read, make note of any object you feel might be a symbol (mark page numbers!). When you list an item or object, state what you think it may be symbolic of, or represent, and explain why you believe so.

Item/ Object Page number	It might represent...	Because...

Below are enough writing prompts to keep you busy all summer! You should have a minimum of eight pieces of completed writing when school begins in September. (That does not mean write eight times the last week of August!) Choose from any of the topics below. You do not have to write them only on that specific day or during that week (For example, it's okay to write about a July topic in August.) Use the attached pages to turn your writing into your teacher in the fall, and of course it's okay to have more than eight pieces of writing!

Remember:

"Do not rush through these writing assignments. Each piece should be an example of quality work. Always reread your work, then reread it again!" If a prompt says to write a paragraph, remember to start with an introductory sentence, include 3-5 detail sentences and end with a concluding sentence. That means a minimum of five sentences!

WRITING PROMPTS:

June 14

Today is Flag Day. Visit this site, <http://www.usflag.org/history/flagday.html> to learn a little about the history of this holiday. Write a paragraph explaining

June 15

Did you know today is World Smile Power Day? Make a list of ten kind acts you could do today to make someone smile. Try at least three of the things you wrote down. In your journal write down how people reacted to your efforts. How did it make you feel when you made people smile?

June 16

Today is Father's Day! Make a card for your dad or another special person in your life that tells him how you feel. Use your best effort to show you care. Draw a nice picture on the front and write your message inside.

June 17

June is "National Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month," and today is "Eat Your Vegetables Day." Some kids don't enjoy eating fruits and vegetables. Write a persuasive letter to a friend who does not like vegetables convincing them of the importance of consuming the daily, recommended amount of fruits and vegetables. Give them three reasons for eating their vegetables and give them at least two ideas of delicious ways to eat vegetables. Remember to have a greeting and a closing on your letter.

June 18

On this day in 1983, Sally Ride became the first woman in space. What would you like to be the first to do? Go into the future and write a newspaper article that tells the world the who, what,

when and where of your great accomplishment as "The very first person to ever..." Include quotes from yourself and other people who know you.

June 19

Today is known as Juneteenth. This special day commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States in 1865. Write a speech about what freedom means to you. Perform the speech for someone at your home or tape the speech and become your own audience.

June 21

Today is the first day of summer! What is your favorite summer activity? Write a paragraph telling what you like to do best during the summer. Remember paragraphs have an introductory sentence, 3-4 detail sentences and a concluding sentence.

June 23

On this day in 1868, the typewriter was patented. We have come a long way since the first typewriter. Use a Venn diagram (two intersecting circles) to compare and contrast the typewriter and a laptop computer. How are they the same; how are they different? If you have never seen a typewriter, you may need to do some research to complete this activity!

June 24

Today is "U.F.O. Day." The first documented UFO sighting was on this day. Do you believe in UFOs and/or life on other planets? Write a short story about what happened to you one day when you were on your way to school and you saw a spaceship land on your school's playground. Tell about the adventures you had after coming face to face with an alien!

July 1

July 1 is "International Joke Day." Many people love to tell jokes. Create several jokes of your own to share with your family. You may want to read a few different types of jokes to help you get started. Write down your five favorite jokes. They can be ones you made up, or ones that you have heard or read somewhere.

July 2

On this day in 1900, the first Zeppelin (blimp) flew. This ship, named after Ferdinand von Zeppelin, was initially used as an experiment for regular airship travel. While in existence, the ship flew more than one million miles with a perfect passenger safety record. Today we often see blimps, or zeppelins, flying over sporting events. Would you like to travel in an airship like this? Explain why or why not? Then design a blimp decorated any way you like.

July 4

On July 4, 1776, the United States declared its independence from Britain. Every year we celebrate this holiday with fireworks. How do you think this tradition came to be? Do some

research to find out why we use fireworks on the 4th of July. Write a paragraph explaining what you discovered.

July 8

On this day in 1835, the Liberty Bell cracked while being rung at the funeral of John Marshall, the longest serving Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1801-1835.) Using books or resources on the Internet, write down five (5) facts about the Liberty Bell that you find the most interesting. Make sure you include (at the end) where you found your information.

July 14

Today is Bastille Day, a national holiday in France. It also happens to be National French Fry Day in the United States. Do you think that is a coincidence? Anyway, think about French Fries. They are the most popular side dish in the United States. The average American eats 29.5 pounds of French fries every year. Do you like French Fries or would you rather have another side dish with your hamburger or hot dog? Your job here is to write about French Fries—write anything you want to write. Tell me how you like to eat them, tell me your favorite restaurant for French Fries (I like McDonald fries with ketchup!) Maybe your grandma makes the best fries in the world and you want to write about that. Go for it!

July 15

July is "National Picnic Month." If you could plan the ideal picnic for your family, what would it be like? Write a paragraph that includes who would be at your picnic, where it would be at, what you would eat and what activities you would do before/after you eat.

July 16

On July 16, 1969, Apollo 11 lifted off for its voyage to the moon. Do you think we will ever live on the moon? Why or why not? Would you like to live there? What do you imagine life would be like on the moon? Write a paragraph answering all of these questions.

July 18

July is "National Ice Cream Month." First, describe your favorite flavor of ice cream. Next, create a new flavor of ice cream. What ingredients are in your favorite flavor? What name will you give your ice cream?

July 20

Today is "Moon Day" to mark our first landing on the moon. There are many character traits an astronaut must possess. Write a paragraph describing what traits you think an astronaut should have. What do you think is the most important trait of these traits for an astronaut? Why did you select this trait?

July 21

Today is "National Junk Food Day." Think about your favorite type of junk food and how often you are allowed to eat this food. Do you think you think kids should be allowed to eat

their favorite foods as much as they want? Write a paragraph taking a stand on this question, and give at least three reasons to support your opinion.

July 22

Imagine you could become invisible whenever you wanted to. What are some of the things you would do if you were invisible? Write a story about what one day in your life would be like as an invisible person.

July 24

Today is "Amelia Earhart Day" in honor of her birthday in 1897. Earhart was the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean. Using resources in the library or on the internet (with your parent's permission) learn five facts about Amelia Earhart and summarize them in your own words in a paragraph.

July 27

Pretend that television, computers, the Internet, smartphones, ipads, and video games had never been invented. How would you spend your time on a rainy summer afternoon. Write a paragraph describing what you would do without any technology.

July 30

Write a one page personal narrative describing your best day ever!

July 31

On this day in 1790, the first U.S. Patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins. A patent "provides exclusive rights to make, use, import, sell and offer for sale the invention for up to 20 years." Why do you think having patents is important? What might happen if someone didn't have a patent for their invention?

August 4

On this date in 1901, musician Louis Armstrong was born. Armstrong was an amazing jazz trumpeter. If you could play any instrument, which instrument would you want to play and why? If you already play an instrument, why did you select that instrument?

August 6

Today is Friendship Day. What makes a great friend? What characteristics does a friend have? What is a friend willing to do? Create a "want ad" that could go in a newspaper looking for a "Great Friend."

August 7

Describe your favorite trip to the ocean. If you have not been to the ocean, explain why you would or would not like to go to the ocean.

August 8

On this date in 1899, a man by the name of Albert T. Marshall received the patent for an "automatic refrigerating apparatus," better known as the refrigerator. In at least one paragraph, explain why you think the refrigerator was such an important invention. How would life be different without refrigerators.

August 10

Herbert Clark Hoover, the 31st President of the United States was born on August 10, 1874. Would you like to be President of the United States? Why or why not? What would be the most challenging thing about being the President of the United States?

August 12

On this day in 1981, IBM announced a new personal computer (PC) for home use. How do you think computers have helped our lives? How do you think computers have possibly harmed our lives?.

August 14

Describe a time that you had to solve a problem with a friend or family member. What was the problem and how was it resolved? This should be a one-page narrative.

August 15

Today is "National Relaxation Day." Write a paragraph that describes one way you have relaxed and had fun during this summer vacation.

August 16

August is National Eye Exam Month. We often take our eye sight for granted. Sit for two minutes with your eyes closed - maybe in your backyard, on your front porch, in your kitchen, outside, any location - and notice what it's like to not "see" anything. How was this similar or different to sitting in this same location with your eyes open? Write a paragraph about how you used your other senses when your eyes were closed. What did you hear, smell, touch?

August 20

Benjamin Harrison, our 23rd President, was born on this date in 1833. Using available to you, write a list of every single United States President in chronological order and the years they were president. (Chronological means in order by date, from first to last.) Begin with George Washington and end with Barack Obama.

August 21

Plan a scrumptious dinner for your family that includes all of your favorite dishes. What will you serve for an appetizer, main course, dessert and drink? Make a one page menu showing what you will be serving that night. Decorate it any way you like.

August 22

Today is "Be an Angel Day." Describe a time that you were an angel to another person, or a time that someone was an angel to you. This should be a one page narrative.

August 24

On this day in 1932, Amelia Earhart flew across the United States. Write a paragraph about the type of character traits you feel Amelia needed to have to reach this goal of hers? Write a second paragraph telling about a goal that you have and what you will need to do to reach your goal.

August 27

Mother Teresa was born on this day in 1910. Mother Teresa dedicated her life to helping others. Write a list of ten things you can do to help others today or this week. After that, write a paragraph describing what you did and how it helped someone else.

August 28

On this day in 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream was for all people, no matter what their skin color, to be treated equal. What is your dream? Write a speech that describes your dream.

August 30

On August 30, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast of the United States. This was a Category 4 hurricane. What types of natural disasters affect our region? Ask your family what your family plan is in case of a tornado or fire. Or Today is also "National Toasted Marshmallow Day." Write a poem about this tasty treat.

Summertime IXL for incoming 8th

L-8 Solve percent equations: word problems

M-9 Multi step problems with percents

O-6 Convert between customary and metric systems

P-4 Distance between two points

R-11 Solve equations using properties

Z-14 Identify Linear and Nonlinear functions

Q.5 Side lengths and angle measures of similar figures

EE.5 Compound events: find the number of outcomes