



Fahrenheit 451

the temperature at which paper burns

By: Ray Bradbury

NOVEL

BACKGROUND

Central Unit Question

IS RAY BRADBURY'S
DYSTOPIA COMING
TRUE?

utopia

an ideal society. The ideal republic towards which we should all strive. As such, it offers a commentary on what's wrong with society — what should be improved or changed.

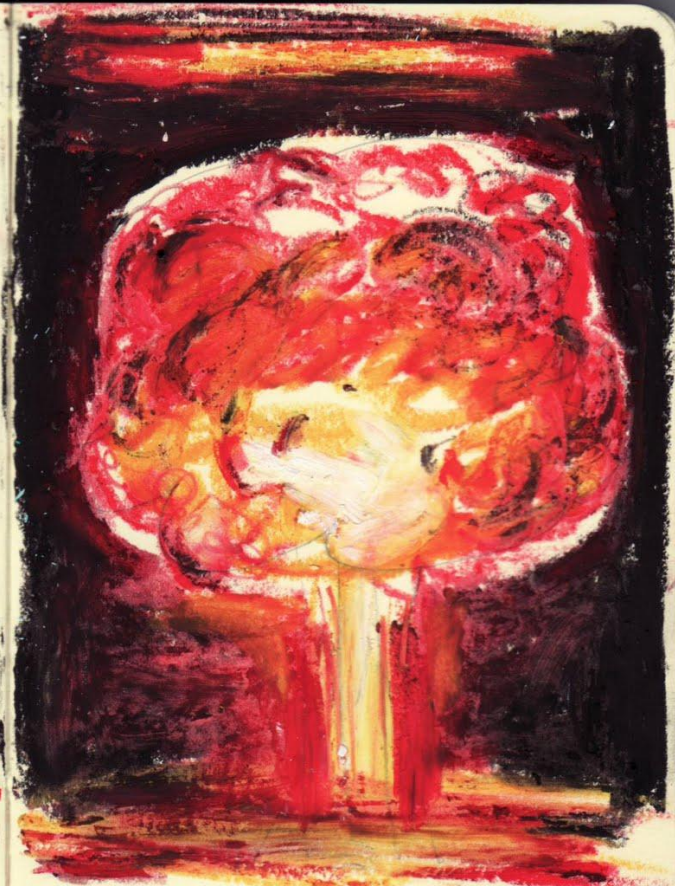
dystopia

a thought experiment that isolates and exaggerates certain social trends in order to highlight their most *negative* qualities. In so doing, it too offers a critique of society.

In which genre would you expect a dystopian story to be? Why?



UTOPIA



DYSTOPIA

dylan, 10

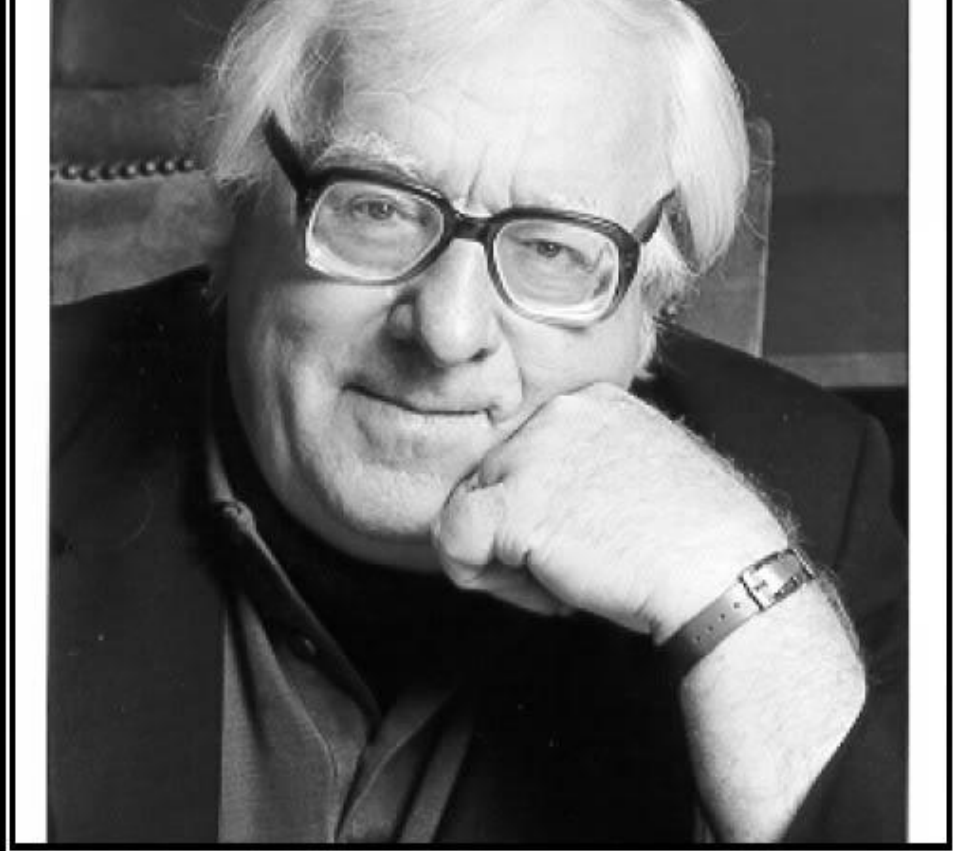
Author
Background:
Who was Ray
Bradbury?



Biographical Information

Born in 1920, Bradbury was around the age of the main character in Fahrenheit 451 when he wrote the story.

He grew up in suburban Illinois, and his novels are more imaginative and dramatic than his life ever was.



RAY BRADBURY (1920-2012)

"Stuff your eyes with wonder. Live as if you'd drop dead in ten seconds. See the world. It's more fantastic than any dream made up or paid for in factories."

Ray Bradbury's Predictions

Technology is isolating.

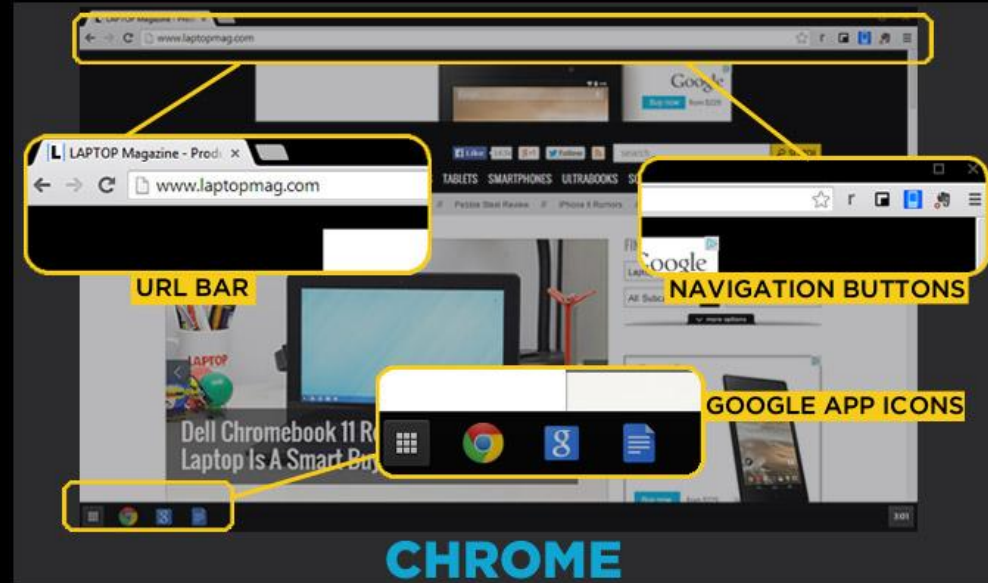
-Libraries have a sensory experience that the Internet cannot match.



Ray Bradbury's Predictions

Too much stimulation
isolates people.

Constant advertisements,
fast cars, and loud music
create a world where it is difficult to concentrate or
connect. *People look for dumbed-down, shorter versions of information.



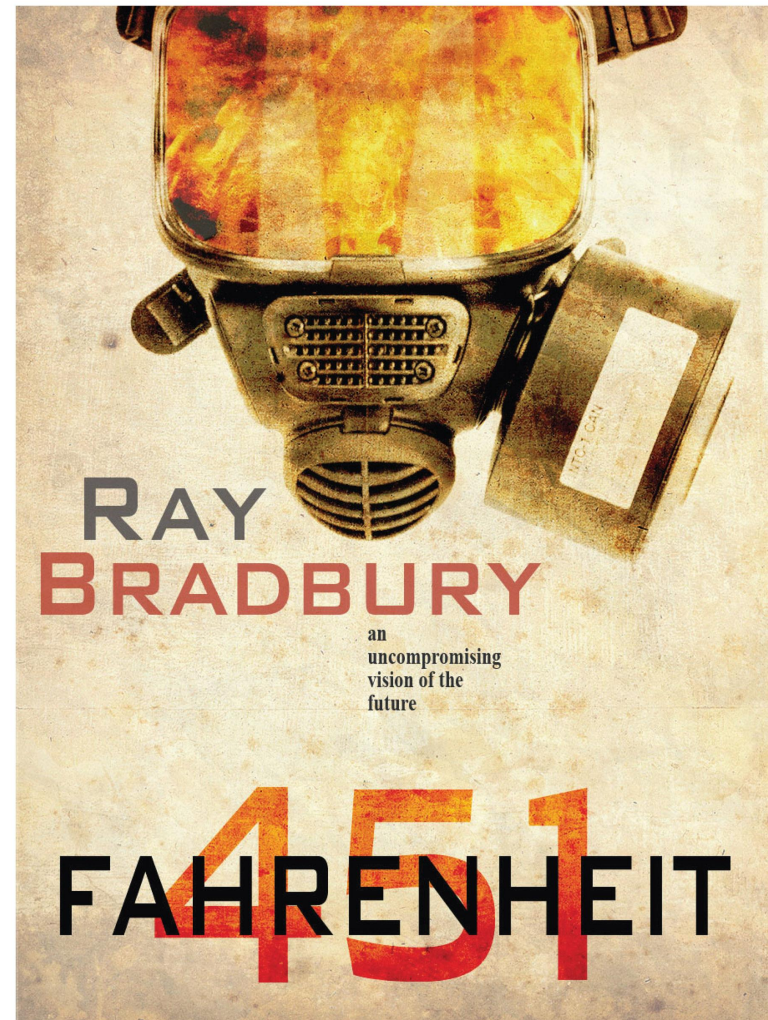
Historical Backdrop for Fahrenheit 451

- Written in 1951 (the year that televisions were introduced to households)

The novel was written a time when the world was threatened by nuclear war, new technologies were emerging, and the world was getting smaller.

The novel is set in the 24th century (2301-2400) and tells the story of protagonist, Guy Montag.

He is 30-years-old and his job is to SET fires, not put them out.



The novel was inspired by real life events that impacted the author's life:

- "McCarthyism" – Fear of Communism
- 1950s lifestyle
- The Cold War

His writing "reflects America's anxieties in the early 1950's: the threat of nuclear war, the longing for a simpler life, reactions against racism and censorship, and the fear of foreign political powers."

1950s- McCarthyism

U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy begins a televised anti-communist witch-hunt. This became known as “McCarthyism”. Basically, the Cold War revolved around this issue:

- ❖ The USA was a Democratic country where people could do what they want, become rich, and have freedoms.
- ❖ The Soviet Republic (USSR) was Communist, which meant people listened to the government, lived equally and shared resources.

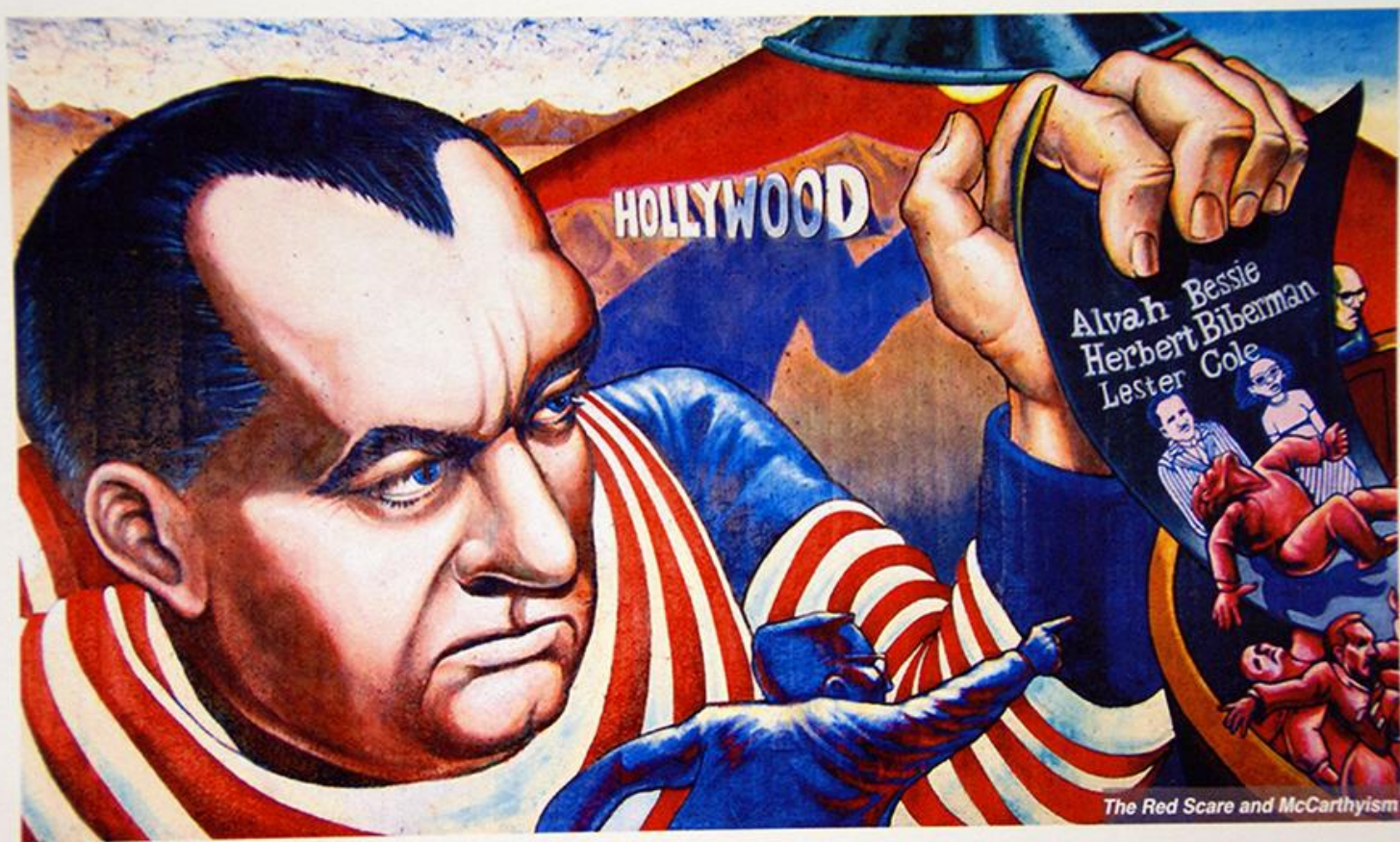
McCarthyism

The United States declared Communism countries to be enemies. The US government wanted everyone to think Communists were evil so they spread around hate propaganda.

McCarthy accused random people he didn't like of being Communists, which basically ruined their lives.

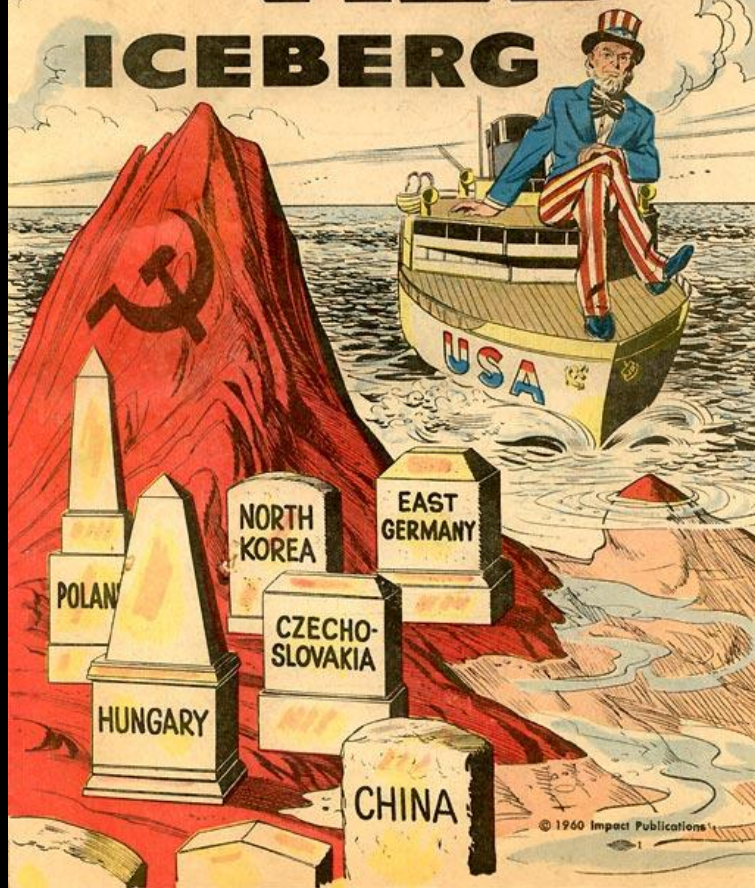
What about Constitutional rights?





10¢

THE **RED** ICEBERG



© 1960 Impact Publications

IS THIS TOMORROW



AMERICA UNDER COMMUNISM!

AUTHOR PURPOSE

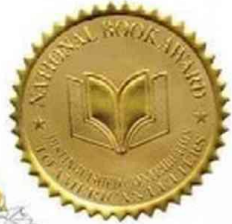
As the 1950s and the Cold War progressed Ray Bradbury saw the government taking a great deal of power over the people and this worried him.

Ray Bradbury saw the world changing quickly and dangerously so this is why he wrote *Fahrenheit 451* – to warn people of what would happen if society continued down what he believed was a dangerous path...

IMAGINE

Imagine a world where everything is sped up, where billboards are five times bigger than ours because the speed limit is so high, where everything you see from a car is a blur, and where pedestrians don't exist.

**RAY
BRADBURY**



**FAHRENHEIT
451**

IMAGINE

Imagine a future populated by non-readers and non-thinkers, people with no sense of their history, where a totalitarian government has banned the written word.

Totalitarian government: a centralized political system has ABSOLUTE CONTROL over all aspects of life; individual freedoms, cultural expressions, and opposing political groups are suppressed.

FAHRENHEIT

451

RAY BRADBURY

Totalitarian government: a centralized political system has ABSOLUTE CONTROL over all aspects of life; individual freedoms, cultural expressions, and opposing political groups are suppressed.

What are the potential dangers of a totalitarian government?

What might be potential advantages to giving government complete control?

It is illegal to read or own books!

Theme: It is dangerous to suppress thought through censorship.

Censorship: the act of limiting speech, media, or other communication which may be considered objectionable, harmful, or inconvenient as determined by a controlling body.

Be A Good American!



Censorship: the act of limiting speech, media, or other communication which may be considered objectionable, harmful, or inconvenient as determined by a controlling body.

THE WORST
THING ABOUT
CENSORSHIP
IS [REDACTED].

OneHansBlog.com/Signs



Censorship in China...

This past year, to avoid negative commentary during the anniversary of Tiananmen Square, the Chinese government shutdown Twitter.

Do we have censorship in the United States?
Defend your position.

Genre- Science Fiction

-imaginative content, often making a prediction about the future

“Science fiction is the history of towns and cities yet unbuilt, ghosting our imaginations and lifting us to rise up and find hammers and nails to build dreams before they blow away.”

- Ray Bradbury

Purpose: WHY might the author have chosen this genre to voice his point-of-view?



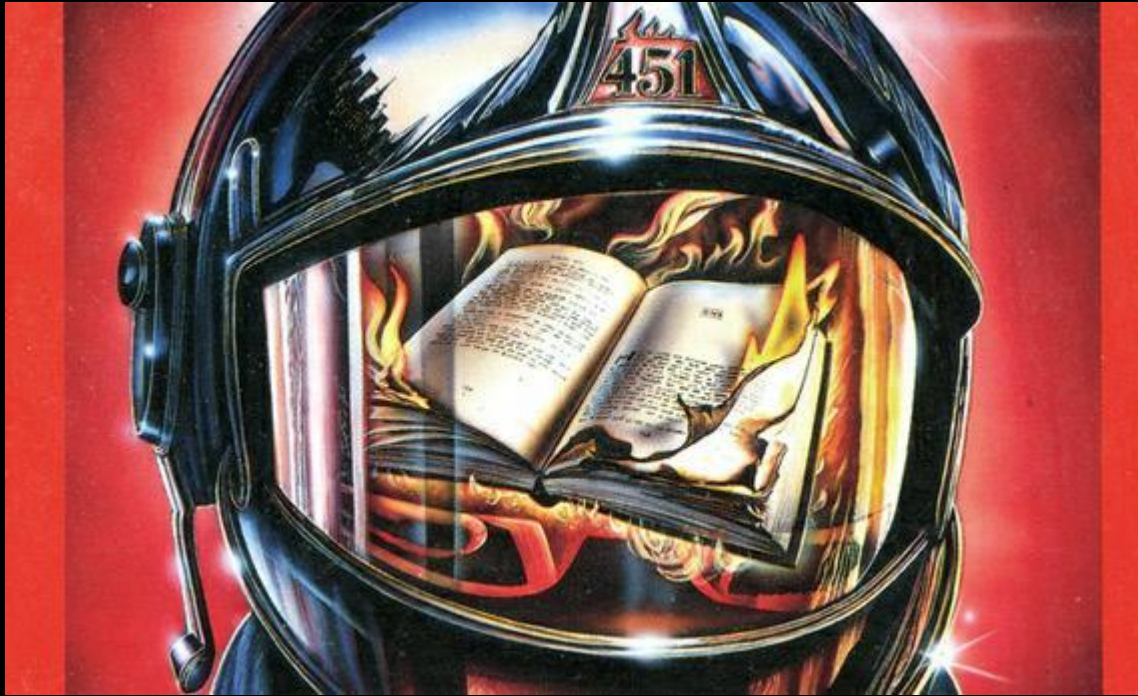
I have never listened to
anyone who criticized my
taste in space travel,
sideshows or gorillas.
When this occurs, I pack
up my dinosaurs and
leave the room.

- Ray Bradbury (1920-2012)

Symbolism in Fahrenheit 451

FIRE

- Books are burned physically and “ideas are burned from the mind”



Symbolism in Fahrenheit 451

THE SALAMANDER

- Part one of the book is entitled *The Earth and The Salamander*; a salamander is known to endure fire without getting burned.
 - Montag thinks he can escape the government, like a salamander (without getting burned)



Symbolism in Fahrenheit 451

The Phoenix

The mythologies of many Mediterranean cultures include the story of the phoenix, a bird that is consumed by flames but then rises from the ashes. The phoenix is a symbol for renewal, for life that follows death in a cleansing fire.



Symbolism in Fahrenheit 451

The Phoenix

If people keep books, which preserve the past and allow people to learn the lessons of prior tragedies, can humanity remember the suffering caused by destruction and avoid destroying itself in the future?

Central Unit Question

IS RAY BRADBURY'S
DYSTOPIA COMING
TRUE?

Similarities between the novel and our society...

- technologically advanced
- prevalent violence
- fast-paced, busy world



In Fahrenheit 451, society has abandoned books in favor of shallow entertainment and instant gratification.

Can you think of any shows that fit that description in our culture?



In Fahrenheit 451, every room has a wall-sized television.



Is this scene uncommon in households across America?

Startling Statistics

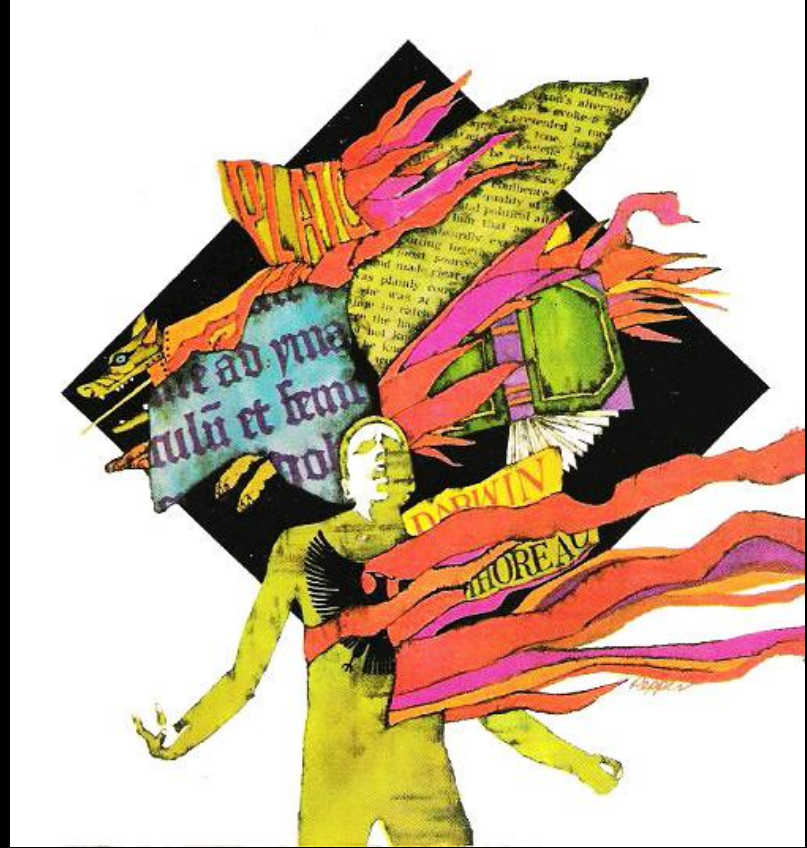
60+ years after Fahrenheit 451 was published...

...33% of high school graduates never read a book again the rest of their lives.

...80% of U.S. families did not buy or read a book last year.

...57% of new books are not read to completion.

...70% of U.S. adults have not been in a bookstore in the last 5 years.



According to Ray Bradbury, the government is not responsible for destroying books. Citizens are.

- people want faster mediums to get information

- books make some feel inferior if they do not understand them.

In a way, destroying books equalizes people.



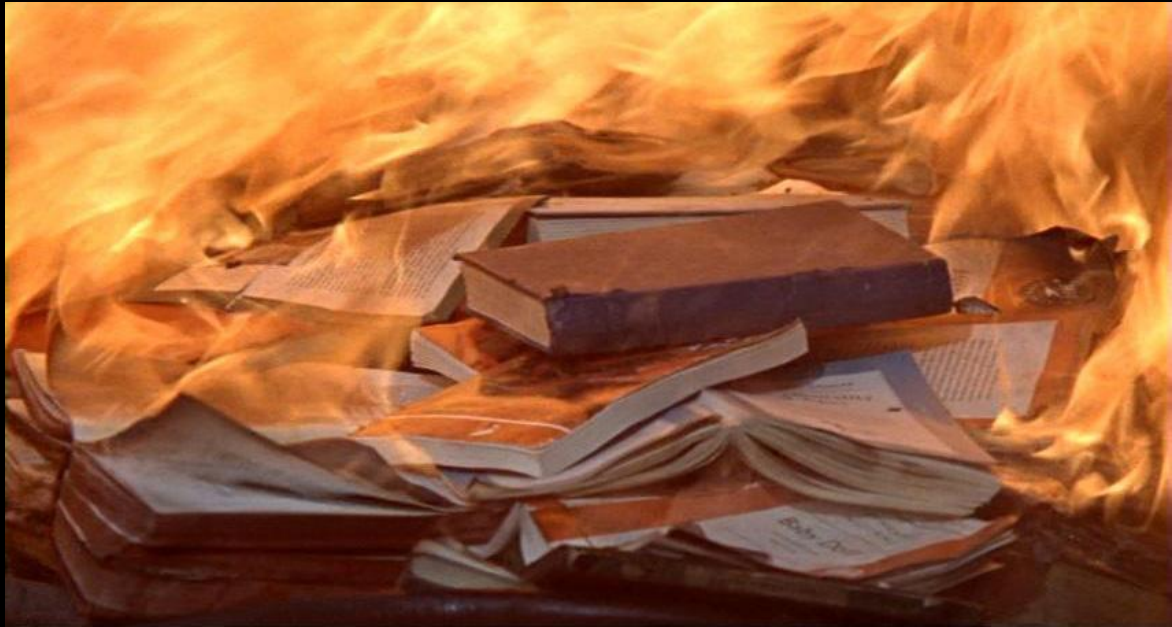
Do any of these statistics surprise you?

Each day in the U.S., on average, people spend 4.7 hours watching TV.

In an average 65-year life, the average person will have spent 9 years glued to the television.

The number of 30-second
television commercials seen
by the average child this year
is...

GUESS!



The number of 30-second
television commercials seen
by the average child this year
is...

20,000

Quick! Convert that to hours...

**You don't have to burn
books to destroy a
culture. Just get people
to stop reading them.**

Ray Bradbury

August 22, 1920 - June 6, 2012

R.I.P.

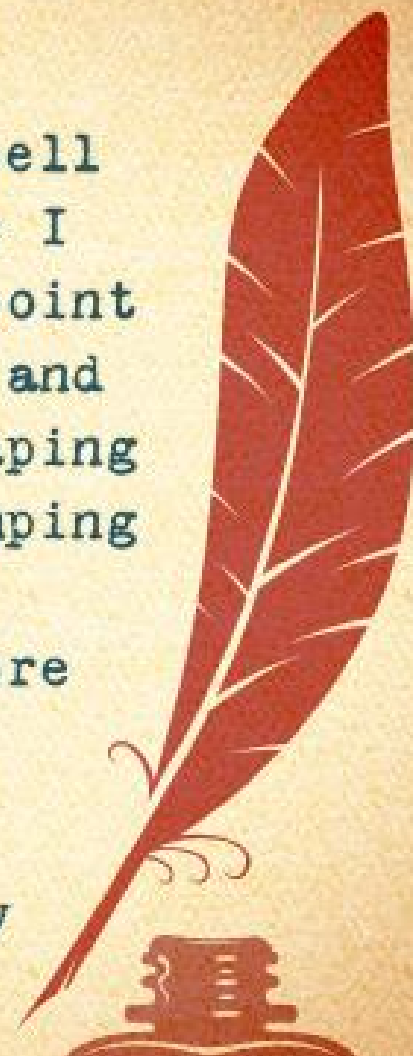


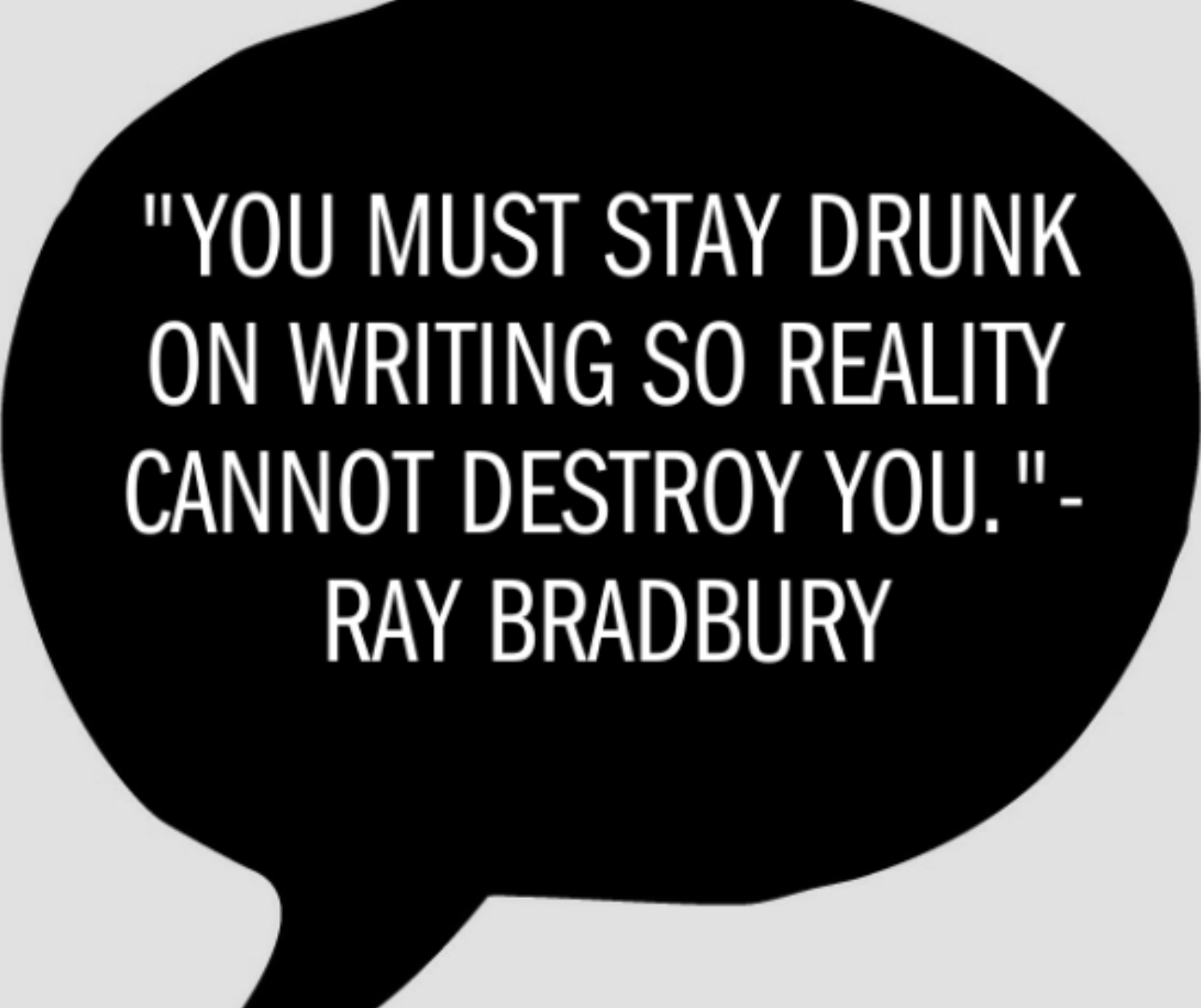
**Without libraries,
what do we have?
We have no past and
no future.**

Ray Bradbury

"I have never had a dry spell in my life, mainly because I feed myself well, to the point of bursting. I wake early and hear my morning voices leaping around in my head like jumping beans. I get out of bed quickly, to trap them before they escape."

~ Ray Bradbury





"YOU MUST STAY DRUNK
ON WRITING SO REALITY
CANNOT DESTROY YOU." -
RAY BRADBURY



"Don't think. Thinking is the enemy of creativity. It's self-conscious, and anything self-conscious is lousy. You can't try to do things. You simply must do things."

Ray Bradbury

An aerial photograph of a valley. In the foreground, a dark, rocky cliff edge is visible on the right side. Below the cliff, a town with several buildings is nestled in a valley. The background shows rolling hills and fields under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

**IF WE LISTENED
TO OUR INTELLECT,
WE'D NEVER HAVE A LOVE AFFAIR.
WE'D NEVER HAVE A FRIENDSHIP.
WE'D NEVER GO INTO BUSINESS,
BECAUSE WE'D BE CYNICAL.
WELL, THAT'S NONSENSE.
YOU'VE GOT TO JUMP OFF CLIFFS
ALL THE TIME AND
BUILD YOUR WINGS
ON THE WAY DOWN**

RAY BRADBURY

Do what you love and love what you do.
Don't listen to other people.

They don't know your heart and soul.

You know your heart and soul.

You write about what you care about
and you tell people to get the hell out of the way,
and do your work and love what you do.

-Ray Bradbury



At the center of
religion is love. I
love you and I
forgive you. I am
like you and you
are like me. I love
all people. I love
the world. I love
creating.

Everything in our
life should be
based on love.

Sensory Details- Use sensory details to create imagery with respect to the abstract term “happiness”.

“Happiness” looks like...

“Happiness” sounds like...

“Happiness” tastes like

“Happiness” smells like

“Happiness” feels like

Place an adjective in this sentence to clarify your tone of this topic.

It is _____ that all of us have different images of happiness.