Ray Bradbury: Author Study

Directions: In order to completely understand Ray Bradbury, we must understand his life and his motivation for writing.  Watch the video and answer the following questions. Please use complete sentences in your response.

[NEA Big Read: Meet Ray Bradbury](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLuDOEuwwso&t=332s)

1. Ray Bradbury believes strongly in one particular idea; “The things that you do should be the things that you love; things that you love should be things that you do.”  Explain what he means by this statement.
2. Bradbury began reading at age three, starting first with comic books, then moving on to fairy tales and fantasy books.  He then saw his first films, “The Hunchback of Notre Dame”, “The Phantom of the Opera” and finally, a movie about dinosaurs.  How did his love of these movies help him write the screenplay for the movie “Moby Dick” at age 33?
3. Name five famous authors who inspired Ray Bradbury.
4. Bradbury believes that a library can help one discover himself/herself.  How is this possible?
5. What famous author and his novel helped to inspire the structure of Bradbury’s collection of short stories entitled, *The Martian Chronicles?*
6. How did the library help to educate Ray Bradbury?
7. Explain how Bradbury discovered the ability to live forever.

**Censorship, Book Burning, and Democracy**

1. How did the burning of books in Nazi Germany affect Bradbury?
2. What was happening in Russia during this same period?
3. Why did the leaders of Germany and Russia fear books?

***Fahrenheit 451***

1. What was the original title of this novel?
2. How did Bradbury come up with the new title for the novel?
3. Describe the following characters in the novel, *Fahrenheit 451*:

Fire Chief

Clarisse

Fabers

4. We will be reading Bradbury’s short story, “The Pedestrian”.  Describe what happened to inspire this short story.

5. Aldous Huxley, author of the science fiction novel, *A Brave New World*, calls Bradbury a poet after reading his book of short stories, *The Martian Chronicles.*How is Bradbury a poet?

6. Clarisse McClellan is a character in Bradbury’s novel, *Fahrenheit 451.*How is Clarisse related to Bradbury?

7. Explain why Charles Dickens’ novel, *A Christmas Carol*, is one of Bradbury’s favorites.

8. Bradbury owns seven copies of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novel, *Tender is the Night.*  What does Bradbury do when he is in Paris and reading this novel?

9. What is Bradbury’s advice to the viewer on marriage?

10. In Bradbury’s view, why is his writing popular?

11. What is Bradbury’s epitaph (poem or verse to be put on a tombstone)?

12. What t-shirt does Bradbury want to design?