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Period 2

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Fahrenheit 451

This isn’t our world that we know and love, this is Montag’s. Montag is a fireman, and he burns books. Books are banned in this world, so they burn then. at 451°F books burn. And that is why this book is called “Fahrenheit 451.” Montag’s world is different than ours. Very different. In Guy Montag’s world, fireman aren’t are heroes. They don’t stop fires, they start them. Instead of reading books, and enjoying nature, enjoying alone time and well, thinking for themselves, they drive really fast, watch way too much television on enormous screens, and listen to radios attached to their ears.

Montag meets a girl named Clarisse. Clarisse opens Montag’s eyes, and he can see the empty void of his life with her bright glow and more ‘human’ interactions with nature and people. Over the next few days, Montag’s life has some tragic events. First his wife, Mildred, tries to kill herself by swallowing a bottle of sleeping pills. Then, when he responds to an alarm that an old woman has a stash of hidden literature, the woman shocks him by choosing to be burned alive along with her books. Sadly, a few days later he hears that Clarisse was hit and killed by a speeding car. Montag begins to question everything and burns all the books he’s told, but keeps 1 or 2 and stashes them. Eventually his ‘buddies’ at the fire station search his home, and find all his books. He runs for his life after Beatty tries to give him a large dose of anesthetic and gets rescued. He finds a community of people who decide to memorize a book. All the people in this community introduce themselves to each other by the book they’ve chosen to memorize.

This was a wonderful read. It was short and quick, but really good. At only 192 pages, it has a lot of meaning. Which is why I think everyone should read this book. Most people could read this in a couple days, some even just one. This book really gives you another perspective on life, and really gets you to enjoy nature, books, and life more. It makes you realize that TV and Video Games, will just absorb you. This doesn’t their all wicked and we should hold up crosses every time we walk past a screen, but that we shouldn’t spend all of our time watching TV like the people in this novel do.