Philip Dumaresq

English: Professional Milieu

Jessica Langston

Essay outline

**Thesis:**

Ultimately, Bradbury is arguing that individualism is critical to people’s sense of themselves and therefore their mental state and ability to live comfortably.

**Body paragraph 1:**

Talk about Mildred and how she’s constantly distant, depressed and completely conformist. Mildred is depressed.

Main idea 1:

Mildred is the epitome of a conformist. She spends all of her time in front of the TV watching soap operas, and if she’s not doing that, then she’s listening to the radio on her seashells. She even refers to the characters in the soap operas as her family.

Main idea 2:

Mildred is horribly depressed, and we only first see this when she attempts suicide. She tries to kill herself, and then buries it down, acts like it never happened because she’s so caught up in trying to be happy that she doesn’t want to approach reality and talk.

**Body paragraph 2:**

Discuss Clarisse and how she’s a complete contrast to Mildred. She’s curious, passionate, and very unique as a person. Clarisse lives completely opposite of Mildred and is happy.

Main idea 1:

Clarisse represents everything about individualism. She completely breaks off from the social norm and thinks about what it means to be happy, and she challenges that in others, trying to make others around her happy as well.

Main idea 2:

Clarisse, unlike most other characters in the book, is actually happy. She’s a complete contrast to Mildred in personality and she’s happy while Mildred is depressed. I think that this says something about how Bradbury wanted to portray happiness and individualism being very tightly coupled.

**Body paragraph 3:**

Talk about Montag and his transition from his earlier conformist self to an individualist thinker and appreciates the world around him.

Main idea 1:

In the beginning, Montag was like everyone else. He went about his life unquestioning and just doing his job. When Clarisse challenged his happiness, his way of thinking changed. He became like her, questioning everything around him in life.

Main idea 2:

While we never get to truly see Montag happy in this story, we know that the need to conform to the social norms was making him unhappy, even if he didn’t realize it. Once he realized that thinking for himself was so important to him, he began immediately to fight for that right, for himself and for everyone around him because he know that it was the path to actually being happy.