



Canterbury High School
Grade 9 Introduction to Genres
Summer Reading Questions

All incoming freshmen are required to complete study questions, which will be graded, about their required readings before the first day of class on Wednesday, Aug. 22.

For Fahrenheit 451: Address these guiding questions, and take notes on the action that takes place, as you read. You should also consider what Ray Bradbury takes from the world we live in today. You will take a gobbet test and write your first essay on this novel during the first two weeks of the term. You may use your notes and responses on that test.

For Endurance: Address these guiding questions as you read. Use the text to prove your points where quotations are appropriate, and plan to write 50- to 150-word answers to each question below (except Question 6, which will require 250-350 words).

There are no “right” or “wrong” answers, but written responses should show that you have read the work closely and thoughtfully. Typed responses are strongly recommended. You may hand-write your answers, but be prepared to transfer your writing to an electronic document for submission to www.turnitin.com.

If you have questions about this assignment, [email Mr. Stephens](mailto:stephens@canterburyhs.org).

Fahrenheit 451

1. Describe what Ray Bradbury must have seen 60 years ago that made him feel a cautionary tale was necessary.
2. In his speculation, Bradbury writes what could happen if what he saw became bigger and all-pervasive, changing the way we think and behave. In a 50- to 100-word paragraph, explain how close he came in his speculation of 1951 to present day.
3. As you read, find a scene that best illustrates each of the following characters. For each character’s name, reference the scene, and write a 25- to 50-word synopsis of the sort of person the character is.
 - a. Beatty
 - b. Clarisse
 - c. Faber
 - d. Mildred
 - e. Montag

4. Authors often work with the principle that we want good things to happen to good people, and we want bad things to happen to bad people. Is Montag a good person? As you consider this question, remember what he does through the course of the novel. In a 50- to 150-word paragraph, support your answer with detail from the novel.
5. In this cautionary tale, do you walk away with a new perspective? Write a 50- to 150-word paragraph about what you thought about as you finished the novel.

Endurance

1. The book opens with: “The order to abandon ship was given at 5 p.m.” We must wait for some critical information. What is the effect of the writer starting the story in the middle, rather than with a “normal” beginning? What missing information do you want to know as you read the first chapter?
2. In Chapter 2, the narrator tells us something about Ernest Shackleton’s character, concluding with a statement from one of Shackleton’s men: “He was the greatest leader that ever came on God’s earth, bar none.” As you read through the book, track things Shackleton says and does that support this description. Use quotations (with page numbers) to support your ideas.
3. Do an Internet search to bolster your understanding of the story’s setting. Though the book has maps, you will want to use Google Earth, or a similar tool, to get a better sense of places like the Weddell Sea, the Larsen Ice Shelf, the South Shetland Islands, the Drake Passage and others. Write down your impressions of these places.
4. As you read, you will undoubtedly encounter new (or new-ish) vocabulary words, such as “brogue” on page 8 (of the Basic Books paperback edition), or “audacious” in Chapter 2. Start a collection of new words. Write them down, along with your best guess at the meaning based on the context. Then, look up their definitions and write those down. By the book’s end, you should have at least 25 new words.
5. “Because it’s there” is the famous reason one adventurer gave for risking his life to reach an unknown point. Do you think this is a reasonable response? Why do you think humans are so driven to push the boundaries of our knowledge of the world?
6. After you have finished the book, write a reflection in which you discuss these ideas, giving as much supporting detail as possible:
 - What makes a leader great? Who has helped you through a dangerous experience?
 - How would you have held up under the conditions Shackleton and his men faced?

- Which hardship do you think would have been the least bearable for you?
- What is the hardest adventure you have ever experienced? Describe it in detail.