

*Memo to:* Incoming Tenth Grade English Honors Students

*From:* The Tenth Grade Honors Teachers

*Re:* Your Summer Reading Assignment

*Date:* June, 2019

Dear Students,

Welcome to Honors English 10. This letter describes the work you are required to complete *prior to* the first full day of class. Please read it carefully. The summer work is a significant part of your first marking period grade, so failure to complete this work will be a detriment to your grade.

Sophomore Honors students must read Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. Set in the near future, the book depicts a society where books and the reading of books has become illegal. Bradbury explores how this circumstance came to be and what effects it has on the larger society. *Fahrenheit 451* is a dystopian novel, meaning a novel that examines "a community or society that is undesirable or frightening." Though dystopian novels like *Brave New World*, *1984*, *The Hunger Games*, and *The Giver*, are set in the future, they can draw attention to real-world issues we presently face regarding environment, politics, economics, religion, psychology, ethics, science, or technology.

There will be a test on your comprehension of *Fahrenheit 451* during the first full day of class. The test is comprised of two sections: twenty objective questions that require a detailed knowledge of the book and an essay about the novel's themes. You would be wise to read this slender volume just before your return to school, so that it will still be fresh in your mind when you tackle the test. (If you want to assure yourself an "A" on the test, you might do what some past students have reported doing: read the book a second time to pick up details / understandings you might have missed the first time around or, alternately, refresh your prior reading by spending an hour or more carefully paging through the book to bolster your memory of the characters and events portrayed therein.)

There is no written work attached to your summer assignment. You are asked only to comprehendingly read this book so that you will be able to do well on the test you'll take during your first day back. Having a good sense of the book will help us have some interesting conversations about how it relates to issues in our own society. Happy Reading!