Farenheit 451

Reading to Comprehend Questions

Part 1

1. What is the main conflict at the outset of this novel? With whom is the reader expected to sympathize? What does the character do to make him a sympathetic character?
2. The main characters in Part 1 of the novel are Clarisse, Montag, Mildred and Beatty. What are their character types? How do these character types contribute to the development of the conflict?
3. The three themes in this novel are censorship, technology usage, and ignorance. Provide one example from the text where these themes converge. Alternatively, provide three examples from the text; one for each of the themes. Ensure you quote these examples.
4. What is the significance of Clarisse’s disappearance at the end of part one? What does it do to Montag and Mildred? How does Beatty’s reaction to her disappearance Motivate Montag?

Part 2

1. How is the main conflict carried through into the second part of this novel? How is Montag changed by his experiences in part one and what is his new Motivation? Why is the section title “The Sieve and The Sand?”
2. In the Housewives scene, the reader discovers that most people are unaware of the effects of major political events. War, for example, is brushed off as something that does not matter. What does this scene show the reader about the society in this novel?
3. Faber is what kind of character? He could also be very significant in a connotative way – how?
4. What do we find out about Beatty in his final conversation with Montag? What does Beatty say and why is it significant?
5. Montag is introduced to a defining character moment when the Salamander arrives at his house. What does he do and how does it define him in relation to the society in which he lives?
6. Why doesn’t Beatty stop Montag when he likely has the power to do so?

Part 3

1. How is the main conflict carried over into the third part of this novel? Where are we in the average plot diagram? Why is the section titled “Burning Bright”?
2. How does Montag escape the other Mechanical Hounds? Why is this a significant act?
3. Faber meets with Montag one last time, why is it important that Faber and Montag have a final encounter?
4. After his escape, Montag meets a man named Granger in the forest. What do Montag and Granger discuss? Why is their conversation significant toward the development of all three themes?
5. Granger says “Grandfather’s been dead for all these years, but if you lifted my skull, by God, in the convolutions of my brain you’d find the big ridges of his thumbprint.” (Bradbury 157) What does he mean by this? Why is it important to note at the end of the novel?
6. What happens after Granger and Montag finish their conversation? In what ways is this act symbolic? It what ways is it inspiring?
7. Is this story dystopian or utopian? Explain.