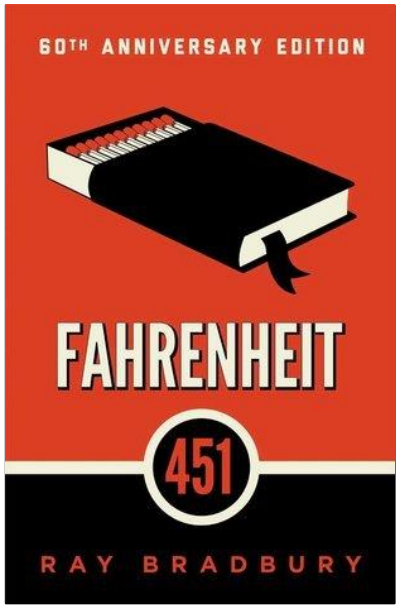
Prison Reading Groups
25 years
1999-2024

Book Talk

Fahrenheit 451
By Ray Bradbury
Number of pages: 172



Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, being the source of all discord and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy, returning every day to his wife Mildred, who spends her time absorbed by her television 'family'. He has never questioned the nature of his job before, or the destruction that he has caused, but when he meets a new and eccentric neighbour, Clarisse, this begins to change…

Bradbury's classic novel offers a powerful warning about the potential of technology to destroy human connection, and the power that social conformity has to do the same.

We recommend this book if you enjoyed ***1984*** by George Orwell, or ***A Brave New World*** by Aldous Huxley.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you sympathise with Montag?

2. Do you see any similarities between the way Mildred interacts with technology and the way we do now?
3. What do you think makes Clarisse and her family so different from other characters in the book?

4. To what extent do you think Clarisse is responsible for Montag's changing views?

5. What do you imagine happened to Montag after the book ends?

6. Has this novel changed your views on books / reading?

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