

Open-ended Responses—*Fahrenheit 451*

1. How is the plausible future envisioned in this novel? Specifically, do you think the author provides a convincing account of how technology became a vital part of life in this novel? Explain and provide evidence from the text to support your answer.

2. Despite his clear understanding of books and what they contain, why do you think Beatty hates books? Explain and provide evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. How is Clarisse a catalyst for the change in Montag? Discuss why you think his definition is accurate or not. Explain and provide evidence from the text to support your answer.

4. What does “Burning Bright” symbolize in the third book? Explain and provide evidence from the text to support your answer.

5. The author of *Civil Disobedience* encourages citizens to resist government policies they do not agree with completely; moreover, Henry David Thoreau explains in this essay several ways that the government has failed him and the American people. How does Thoreau believe the American government has failed to serve the role for the people? Explain your answer and provide evidence.

6. Many leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. have used the ideas Thoreau presented in *Civil Disobedience* as a guiding force of political movements in India and the southern United States respectively. In the above cartoon, Howard Zinn, a United States historian and political scientist, provides his interpretation of Thoreau's ideas. How does Zinn's political cartoon relate to or further explain Thoreau's idea's from *Civil Disobedience*? Explain your answer and provide evidence from both the text and the political cartoon.

7. Patrick Henry gave this eloquent and highly patriotic speech to the Second Continental Congress in hopes of creating a desire in those attending to raise arms against Britain. What is the specific attitude about colonial rights and the British crown's interference in those rights? Explain your answer and provide evidence.

8. In "The Man Without a Country," the reader discovers the power of a choice and the impact of consequences. What is one consequence Benedict Arnold learns as a result of his actions? Explain your answer and provide evidence.

9. In "Fable For When There's No Way Out" and "Caged Bird," the bird is a symbol. What does the bird symbolize in each poem? Explain your answer and provide textual evidence from both selections.

10. William Blake's "The Tiger" relates to a particular character from Fahrenheit 451. Which character is connected to this poem and why? Explain your answer and provide textual evidence.

11. Shakespeare uses an extended metaphor in "All the World's a Stage." What is his purpose in the use of the extended metaphor? Explain your answer and provide textual evidence.

12. Choose one of the cartoons or graphic advertisements. What is the author's purpose in the use of the illustrations used in the cartoon or graphic advertisement? Explain your answer and provide textual evidence.

13. Using the drama scene of Montag's initial contact with Clarisse, how is their encounter as described in the novel different from the scene portrayed in the play excerpt? Explain your answer and provide textual evidence from both selections.

14. Using the drama scene of the old lady that is burned during a book raid, the reader gets a clearer glimpse of the character of the old lady. Why does the playwright provide this characterization of the old lady? Explain your answer and provide textual evidence.

15. Using the play excerpt and the last few pages of the novel, compare the effectiveness of the conclusions. Which ending is better and why? Explain your answer and provide textual evidence from both selections.
