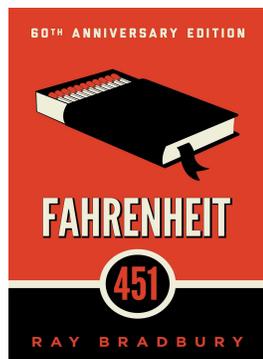


## Proposed Core Literature Titles

The following summary is provided by the California Department of Education's "Recommended Literature List", and the top three Google searches of the book title and author name (e.g. Refugee by Alan Gratz) that produced a description of the title.

### **Fahrenheit 451**

Proposed Grade Level: 8



Title: **Fahrenheit 451**  
Author: **Ray Bradbury**  
First Published: **1951**

Proposed Grade Level: **8**

#### **California Department of Education, Recommended Literature List:**

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/rl/>

An official in a future fascist state who burns books finds out that they are a vital part of a culture he never knew. He clandestinely pursues reading, until he is betrayed. As more and more scientific discoveries are made, this book lends itself to relevant discussions about the importance of freedom of thought or open science investigation and the role of censorship in today's society.

#### **Descriptions From Top 3 Google Searches:**

<https://www.amazon.com/Fahrenheit-451-Ray-Bradbury/dp/1451673310>

Ray Bradbury's internationally acclaimed novel Fahrenheit 451 is a masterwork of twentieth-century literature set in a bleak, dystopian future.

Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden.

Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television.

When Mildred attempts suicide and Clarisse suddenly disappears, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known. He starts hiding books in his home, and when his pilfering is discovered, the fireman has to run for his life.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13079982-fahrenheit-451>

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fahrenheit\\_451](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fahrenheit_451)

Fahrenheit 451 is a dystopian novel by American writer Ray Bradbury, first published in 1953. It is regarded as one of his best works.[4] The novel presents a future American society where books are outlawed and "firemen" burn any that are found.[5] The book's tagline explains the title: "Fahrenheit 451 – the temperature at which book paper catches fire, and burns..." The lead character, Guy Montag, is a fireman who becomes disillusioned with his role of censoring literature and destroying knowledge, eventually quitting his job and committing himself to the preservation of literary and cultural writings.

The novel has been the subject of interpretations focusing on the historical role of book burning in suppressing dissenting ideas for change. In a 1956 radio interview,[6] Bradbury said that he wrote Fahrenheit 451 because of his concerns at the time (during the McCarthy era) about the threat of book burning in the United States. In later years, he described the book as a commentary on how mass media reduces interest in reading literature.[7]

In 1954, Fahrenheit 451 won the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature and the Commonwealth Club of California Gold Medal.[8][9][10] It later won the Prometheus "Hall of Fame" Award in 1984[11] and a "Retro" Hugo Award, one of only six Best Novel Retro Hugos ever given, in 2004.[12] Bradbury was honored with a Spoken Word Grammy nomination for his 1976 audiobook version.[13]