

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Fahrenheit 451 Vocabulary*  
Set 1

**PART ONE**

1. **venomous** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) in this story, best described through synonyms as malevolent, caustic, poisonous

*“With the brass nozzle in his fists, with this great python spitting its **venomous** kerosene upon the world, the blood pounded in his head, and his hands were the hands of some amazing conductor playing all the symphonies of blazing and burning to bring down the tatters and charcoal ruins of history.”*

location: 7

2. **stolid** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) showing little or no emotion

*“With his symbolic helmet numbered 451 on his **stolid** head, and his eyes all orange flame with the thought of what came next, he flicked the igniter and the house jumped up in a gorging fire that burned the evening sky red and yellow and black.”*

location: 7

3. **compressed** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) pressed together; forced into less space

*“Or was the atmosphere **compressed** merely by someone standing very quietly there, waiting?”*

location: 9

4. **transformed** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) to have become different in nature, form, attitude

*“One time, as a child, in a power failure, his mother had found and lit the last candle and there had been a brief hour of rediscovery, of such illumination that space lost its vast dimensions and drew comfortable around them, and they, mother and son, alone, **transformed**, hoping that the power might not come on again too soon...”*

located: 11

5. **peculiar** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) odd and unusual; curious and unfamiliar

*“My uncle was arrested another time—did I tell you?—for being a pedestrian. Oh we’re most **peculiar**.”*

located: 13, 27

6. **conscience** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) a personal awareness of right and wrong that you use to guide your actions to do the right thing.

*“‘What?’ asked Montag of that other self, the subconscious idiot that ran babbling at times, quite independent of will, habit, and **conscience**.”*

location: 15, 31, 41

7. **gaze** (\_\_\_\_\_) to look at something in a steady, intent, often thoughtful fashion

*“The impersonal operator of the machine could, by wearing a special optical helmet, **gaze** into the soul of the person whom he was pumping out.”*

location: 18

8. **melancholy**(\_\_\_\_\_) sorrow and depression / (\_\_\_\_\_) describing a sad and joyless feeling

*“And the men with their cigarettes in their straight-lined mouths, the men with the eyes of puff adders, took up their load of machine and tube, their case of liquid **melancholy** and the slow dark sludge of nameless stuff, and strolled out the door.”*

location: (noun) 20, 65 / (adjective) 59, 102

9. **pawn** (\_\_\_\_\_) a person or thing manipulated and used by others

*“The **pawn** was then tossed in the incinerator.”*

location: 29

10. **drone** (\_\_\_\_\_) a low, continuous unchanging sound, such as an endless humming that never changed pitch or volume

*“The flutter of cards, motion of hands, of eyelids, the drone of the time-voice in the firehouse ceiling ‘...on-thirty-five, Thursday morning, November fourth...one thirty-six...on thirty-seven A.M....’”*

location: 36

11. **proclivities** (\_\_\_\_\_) a natural tendency to do something(s) or to habitually present oneself in a certain way(s)

*“These men were all mirror images of himself! Were all firemen then picked for their looks as well as their **proclivities**.”*

location: 37

12. **abyss** (\_\_\_\_\_) a bottomless pit; a huge chasm, cavity, canyon between two things

*“He held his pants out into an **abyss** and let them fall into darkness.”*

location: 45

13. **ravenous** (\_\_\_\_\_) very eager or greedy for food, satisfaction, or gratification

*“His hands were **ravenous**. And his eyes were beginning to feel hunger, as if they must look at something, anything, everything.”*

located: 45

**14. cacophony** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) harsh and loud sounds all at once that go together in an unpleasant fashion

*“You drowned in music and pure **cacophony**. ”*

located: 49

**15. pantomime** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) to express, represent, describe something through gestures, and no words or sound

*“He could only **pantomime**, hoping she would turn his way and see him. ”*

located: 50

**16. radical** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) someone who speaks out for significant political or social reform

*“He was a **radical**. ”*

location: 54

**17. rational**( \_\_\_\_\_ ) a kind of thought and/or opinion based on facts and logic and reason; not based on emotions or feelings

*“She was as **rational** as you or I, more so perhaps, and we burnt her. ”*

located: 55 (67 as a verb in a different form)

**18. exploiters** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) those who make use of things for their own selfish purposes

*“Whirl man’s mind about so fast under the pumping hands of publishers, **exploiters**, broadcasters that the centrifuge flings off all unnecessary, time-wasting thought. ”*

located: 59

**19. neglected** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) To pay little or no attention to; To fail to care for or attend to properly

*“’School is shortened, discipline relaxed, philosophies, history, languages dropped, English and spelling gradually gradually **neglected**, finally almost completely ignored. ”*

located: 59