

SUGGESTED ANSWERS

FARHENHEIT 451 STUDENT ACTIVITY

ESTABLISHING NEW NORMS

 5:08–7:02

A group of young students are educated about what is right and wrong, and that books are a threat and must be burned.

DISCUSS

- What are the characteristics of this **dystopian** world as shown in this scene of the film?

Children are taught that books need to be burned because they are a threat to happiness and order.


People are taught to be on the lookout for people who preserve books and turn them in to the authorities.

The leader of the firemen says that simplified versions of the Bible, To the Lighthouse, and Moby Dick are all children need to know. “Anything else will make you sick, crazy,” he says.

- What does the **protagonist** Guy Montag mean when he says “Stay vivid on The Nine. If you see something, say something”?

The Nine is the future version of the Internet. “Stay vivid” means be on the lookout for people posting illegal material and turn them in to the authorities.

CHANGING HISTORY

 15:35–17:00

The two main characters, Captain Beatty and Montag—both firemen—confront rebels who are trying to preserve the truth.

DISCUSS

- What happens in this scene that shows there is no more in-depth news coverage?

The rebel says there were once journalists and newspaper articles. But people stopped reading and they just have headlines.

- What historical fact about Ben Franklin has been changed?

Ben Franklin started the first fire brigade to put out fires, not burn books.

- Why are the news, facts, and ideas dangerous to society, according to Beatty?

Beatty says that words made people unhappy, and millions of opinions led to civil war.

ERASING THOUGHT

 47:58–48:52

Montag visits Clarisse’s apartment to get a better understanding of truth.

DISCUSS

- Why has the Ministry been wiping away language, according to the lead female character, Clarisse McClellan?

To wipe away thought.

- Why does the Ministry want one language, according to Montag?

To create better connection and happiness for all “natives.” Natives are law-abiding citizens who follow the government rules. The “Eels” are rebels who are trying to preserve literature and other materials.

- Clarisse says that people are to blame for the way things are, that they demanded a world like this. What do you think she means?

People prefer quick headlines over in-depth reporting. They prefer entertainment over books and stopped reading. Thus, the government created a world that reflected what people wanted.