

Advanced English 9 Summer Reading Assignment 2017

We are pleased that you will be enrolled in the advanced English program at Auburn Junior High School next year. You will need to read the following two books this summer in preparation for the class: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury and *Anthem* by Ayn Rand.

You may purchase individual copies of these books at Books-a-Million, Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com, etc., or you may choose to read the novels on-line at the links provided below:

Fahrenheit 451:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/19RYtY-dvWJJy--I5yZtlqllRMmkOWLZSA_41DzGVzF0/edit

Anthem:

<http://www.anderson5.net/cms/lib02/SC01001931/Centricity/Domain/222/Anthem%20by%20Ayn%20Rand.pdf>

Read the novels carefully. Included below are guiding questions for each novel. These are optional, yet highly recommended. While you will not turn your responses in for a grade, using these questions will help you understand the novels more thoroughly. They will also prepare you for the test, which you will take on your first day in Advanced English 9. This test, which will be worth 100 points, will be your first grade as a freshman.

Your summer reading is your first responsibility as a ninth grade student. Take it seriously, and get started with it right away. Your first day of school will be here before you know it!

We look forward to meeting you.

Happy summer.

The 9th Grade English Department

Anthem by Ayn Rand

“Imagine yourself in a future where individuality has been eliminated. Every human being exists only to serve the greater collective of mankind: the ‘great WE.’ You have no say over how you live, who you spend time with, what you study, or what job you get. You can't smile or laugh without reason. Every hour of the day is scheduled, managed, and policed by society. You're never allowed to be alone. And you're never, ever allowed to use the word ‘I,’ which means that you're always stuck using the royal ‘we.’

Yes, this is the world you'll find yourself in if you read *Anthem*. Does it sound like a nightmare? It's meant to be. But the frightening thing is that, according to Ayn Rand, we're getting closer to that world every day. Intrigued? Excited? Concerned? All of the above? Then check out *Anthem*, and find out why Ayn Rand remains one of the most controversial authors read today.”¹

Anthem Study Questions

The following questions are designed to guide you through your reading of *Anthem*. You will not turn your responses in for a grade.

Chapter I

1. In what is Equality writing? (i.e., what format is he writing?)
2. Describe Equality's physical appearance.
3. What is Equality's curse?
4. Compare the Home of the Infants, the Home of the Students, and the Home of the Street Sweepers.
5. Why was Equality pleased with his Life Mandate?
6. Describe a typical day in Equality's life.
7. What is ironic about the Social Meeting?
8. Why are friends forbidden?
9. What is Equality's crime?
10. Why does Equality feel no shame in committing his crime?
11. Describe the government and institutions where Equality lives.

Chapter II

1. What does Equality mean when he says, "They"?
2. Who is Liberty and what does she do?
3. What is a Transgression of Preference? How did Equality commit such a transgression or transgressions?

4. What is the Time of Mating? Why does Equality think of being sent to the Palace of Mating as being a "shameful matter"?
5. How are children raised in Equality's society?
6. Why doesn't Liberty want Equality to be one of her brothers?
7. Why does Equality care about Liberty's age?
8. What is wrong with Equality's brothers?
9. Why is Equality afraid of the Uncharted Forest?
10. What are the Unmentionable Times?
11. What is the punishment for speaking the Unspeakable Word?

Chapter III

1. What has Equality discovered and what has he learned from it?
2. Why does Equality think that the Council of Scholars is blind?

Chapter IV

1. What name has Equality given to Liberty? Why?
2. Shmoop Editorial Team, "Anthem Summary," *Shmoop University, Inc.*, Last modified November 11, 2008, <http://www.shmoop.com/anthem-ayn-rand/summary.html>.
3. What name has Liberty given to Equality? Do you think that the name is appropriate? Why or why not?
4. What is Liberty's Life Mandate?

Chapter V

1. What did Equality intend to do with his discovery?
2. What is the World Council of Scholars and why is it significant?
3. Why does Equality now feel the need to guard his tunnel?
4. Why does Equality want, for the first time, to know what he looks like?

Chapter VI

1. Why was Equality put in the Palace of Corrective Detention?
2. How was he treated in the Palace?
3. Why was he able to escape from the Palace, and why was it suddenly necessary to escape?
4. Why did Equality not try to escape earlier?
5. In this chapter, how does Equality refer to the pages that he has been writing?

Chapter VII

1. Why does Equality say, "We are old now, yet we were young this morning . . ."?

2. What happened when Equality presented his discovery to the World Council of Scholars?
3. Ayn Rand writes, "For their eyes were still, and small, and evil." What does she really mean?
4. Why is the World Council of Scholars concerned about Equality's discovery?
5. Where does Equality go and why?

Chapter VIII

1. Why does Equality experience a pride in eating?
2. What else does Equality discover in the Forest?
3. Why is he not concerned about being one of the Damned?

Chapter IX

1. Who follows Equality into the Forest and why?
2. What discoveries do they make in the Forest?
3. Explain the importance of the following statement: "There is no danger in solitude."

Chapter X

1. What discovery do they make in this chapter - left over from the Unmentionable Times?
2. What does Equality seem to be searching for? Why does he keep writing?

Chapter XI

1. "I am. I think. I will" What is the significance of those words? Explain fully.
2. Discuss any three of the precepts which Equality adopts as his guide to life.
3. Explain what Equality means by the creed of corruption.

Chapter XII

1. Why does Equality believe that people require names?
2. What name does he choose for himself and why?
3. What name does he suggest for Liberty and why?
4. How is Equality able to learn so much in the House in the Forest?
5. What did Equality learn about slavery and freedom? Why did men give up their freedom once they earned it?
6. What is the sacred word and why is it so important?

Concepts to Know:

1. Individualism vs. Collectivism (Understand each philosophy in relation to *Anthem*.)
2. The Great Truth

3. The Blackest Transgression

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

The following study questions are either Level 1 (basic plot questions) or Level 2 (complex, analysis questions); both types of questions will be incorporated into your AP tests. The page numbers listed may not match the version of the book that you have purchased, but they can be used as a guide.

PART ONE “The Hearth and the Salamander”– Section One (Pages 3-24)

Level I Questions

1. Who is Montag? How does he feel about his job?
2. Instead of water, what does the fire hose spray?
3. Who does Montag meet on his way home?
4. For what “crimes” has Clarisse’s uncle been arrested? What does this tell you about this society?
5. What makes Clarisse’s family different from the others in the neighborhood?
6. What is Clarisse’s face like?
7. Before going inside, what final question does Clarisse ask Montag?
8. Describe the atmosphere inside Montag’s house.
9. What had Mildred done?
10. How does Mildred pass the time?
11. The next day, what disturbing statement did Clarisse make?

Level II Questions

1. What metaphor does Bradbury use to describe the burning books?
2. Describe the sounds and scents associated with Clarisse.
3. What kinds of powers did Clarisse seem to have immediately over Montag?

4. What do you think Montag has hidden in his house?
5. Compare the “handymen” at the hospital with today’s health-care workers. From their conversation, can you tell if suicide attempts are common? What could be the reason for this?
6. Do you think Montag is in love with Mildred? If so, what proof can you give?
7. Clarisse describes herself as “insane.” Does she seem insane to you?
8. Bradbury was describing a type of conflict when he wrote that Montag “felt his body divide.” What is this kind of conflict called?

PART ONE “The Hearth and the Salamander” – Section Two (pages 24-48)

1. Who is the mascot of the fire department? Describe who its victims are and how they are killed. (See page 25)
2. How does the Hound react to Montag? What is Montag afraid of?
3. What kinds of things does Clarisse do that seem so pleasant? (See page 28)
4. How do the conversations Montag has with Clarisse differ from those he has with Mildred?
5. Describe school in the world of *Fahrenheit 451*. How do students amuse themselves after school and on weekends? (see pages 29-30)
6. Does Clarisse have any friends? Why or why not?
7. Is the country at peace?
8. Who seemed to be directing Montag’s remarks at the fire station? Why did his comments make the other firemen suspicious?
9. What do the rule books say about the Firemen of America? (see p. 34)
10. Why was the alarm at the old woman’s house so “inconvenient”?
11. What reasons did Beatty give for burning the books?
12. Montag’s feelings about Mildred and his life with her are changing. What is he beginning to think and feel? (see p. 42-46)

13. What startling new did Mildred reveal?

Level II Questions

1. How does this society view animal life? What is Montag's reaction to the game the firemen play with the Hound? What would your reaction be?
2. Beatty explains why the Hound can't "dislike" Montag. Compare how the two characters perceive the Hound.
3. What does the conversation with Beatty indicate?
4. How does Bradbury indicate that a week has passed? (p.28)
5. What is the usual meaning of *antisocial*? How is the meaning reversed in this book?
6. What purpose is served by the anecdote about the Seattle fireman's suicide?
7. How does Montag feel after Clarisse disappears?
8. What effect does the announcement of the impending war have on the firemen?
9. What descriptive words did Bradbury choose to give his readers a concise image of the firemen? (p. 33) What image do you have of firemen?
10. How do the Stoneman and Black tell us something about them?
11. What is ludicrous about a *national* fire department?
What can you infer about the government from this?
12. What does Beatty's treatment of the old woman tell you about his character?
13. Why did the old woman quote Latimer (p. 36)?

Part Two "The Sieve and the Sand" – Section One (p. 71-93)

Level I Questions

1. What happens when you put sand in a sieve?
2. How does Mildred react to Montag's reading?
3. Who come sniffing around the door as Montag is reading?

4. Why does Montag think of the old man in the park?
5. What problem does Montag have regarding which book to turn in to Beatty?
6. What did Montag carry with him as he rode the subway to see Faber?
What did he will himself to do?
7. According to Faber, how has religion changed?
8. How does Faber see himself? Montag?
9. Why is Montag unafraid of the risk of stealing more books?
10. Describe the plan Montag and Faber devise.
11. What approaching disaster is Faber counting on to give the intellectuals a chance to be heard?
12. What device does Faber give Montag so they can communicate?

Level II Questions

1. What do you think the title of Part Two means?
2. How can the words in the books Montag is reading point to Clarisse?
3. What answers does Montag give to Mildred's question, "Why should I read? What for?"
4. What did Faber mean when he said, in the park, "I talk the meaning of things"? Why do you think Montag didn't turn Faber in then?
5. How do Mildred's comments and actions show she's never going to understand what Montag is trying to tell her?
6. Why is it appropriate that the "Denham's Dentrifrice" commercial kept interfering with Montag's reading of the Bible?
7. What three things does Faber say are missing from a world without books?
8. How do books function like Caesar's praetorian guard?
9. Does Faber think the firemen are the only problem? Will making them look like traitors make everything else okay?

10. Why was the Book of Job an appropriate one for Faber to read to Montag?

11. Faber says Beatty “may be one of us”? Do you think it’s possible? Give reasons for your opinion.

Part Two “The Sieve and the Sand” – Section Two (p. 93 – p. 110)

Level I Questions

1. To what does Bradbury compare the conversation of the “ladies”?

2. How did Montag stop the noise of the TV and the women?

3. What did Mrs. Phelps say about her husband going off to war?

4. How does Mrs. Phelps feel about her children? Does Mrs. Bowles agree?

5. How do Mrs. Bowles’ children feel about her?

6. On what did the ladies base their Presidential votes?

7. What attempt did Mildred make to save Montag from being a complete fool?

8. What did Montag say to Mrs. Bowles just before she left? Why?

9. How did Mildred deal with her feelings after the ladies left?

10. What bothered Montag about his hands?

11. After Beatty’s speech at the firehouse, what did Faber tell Montag?

Level II Questions

1. Describe the TV program the ladies watched. Does it remind you of anything in our world?

2. On pages 95-96, what “fire images” describe the ladies?

3. Why did Faber tell Montag to stop reading and shouting?

4. Why did Mildred want Montag to read “Dover Beach”? What is her opinion of the poem? Why was it a good poem for Montag to read?

5. Why do you think the poem made Mrs. Phelps cry? What was Mrs. Bowles reaction? Mildred's?

6. What two people has Montag become? What does he see as the final outcome of acquiring this dual personality?

7. Beatty tried to make Montag doubt his newly emerging self by quoting some famous authors. Discuss the meaning of the quotes he uses and explain how they contradict each other.

8. Check the definition for the word "beatific." With whose name does this correlate? Why is he appropriately named in an ironic sort of way?

9. Were you surprised that the Salamander stopped at Montag's house? What do you think will happen next?

Part Three "Burning Bright" – Section One (p. 113 – p. 136)

Level I Questions

1. To what does Bradbury compare the scene at Montag's house?

2. How did Beatty describe Clarisse?

3. What did Mildred regret losing in the fire?

4. Who turned in the alarms?

5. Why was Montag at first afraid to run?

6. What did Beatty discover when he hit Montag?

Because of the discovery, what did Beatty threaten to do?

7. How did Montag's leg become a "numbness in a numbness hollowed in a numbness"?

8. What two announcements did Montage hear on the Seashell radio?

9. What happened when Montag crossed the ten-lane highway?

10. Where will Faber be going on the 5:00 A.M. bus?

Level II Questions

1. To what mythical creature did Beatty compare Montag?

Why?

2. Of what “dreadful surprise” did Montag suddenly become aware?
3. What old feeling came back to Montag as he burned his own house? Why?
4. Why did Beatty choose to say the lines from Shakespeare? (p. 119)
5. What did Montag mean by “We never burned right...”? What kind of burning might he consider right?
6. Why do you think Bradbury chose to have Beatty die as he did?
7. Montag realized that Beatty wanted to die. What explanation can you give for this?
8. Why is it appropriate that war is finally declared at this point in the novel? How does this correlate with the inner Montag and his relationship with society?
9. When Montag arrives at Faber’s, how does he act differently than he did during his last visit there?

Part Three “Burning Bright” – Section Two (p. 137 – 154)

Level I Questions

1. How did the Hound “not touch the world”?
2. What did Montag’s own desperate flight remind him of?
3. What new “game” did the police invent?
4. What things did Montag think about as he drifted down the river?
5. What fantasy did Montag enjoy as he drifted along?
6. What creature terrified Montag when he stepped onto land?
7. Montag intuitively knew what?
8. What did Granger give Montag to deter the Hound?
9. What “snap ending” had to be created for the “chase show” on TV?
10. Who are the members of the group Montag meets in the woods? (p. 150)
How do they think of themselves?

Level II Questions

1. What metaphor did Bradbury use to describe the helicopters?
2. What is especially ironic about the search for Montag?
3. What did the river give to Montag? (p. 140)
4. Why is it appropriate that water carried Montag away from the city?
5. Which of Montag's senses came alive on the land? Why is this important?
6. How was the fire in the woods different from the fires Montag was used to?
7. What was the "special silence that was concerned with all of the world"?
8. What example of TV propaganda is there in this section?
9. Why is "He screamed. He screamed. He screamed!" so significant?
10. Look up the word "grange" in the dictionary. Do you think Bradbury thought about this before he chose Granger's name? What connotations does the name have?
11. Granger welcomes Montag to the group and asks him what he has to offer. What is Montag's reply? Why is he worried?
12. Outline the general plan of the book people.
13. Discuss the symbolic meaning of "the men all moved their hands, putting out the fire together."

Part Three "Burning Bright" – Section Three (p. 154-165)

Level I Questions

1. What had Montag expected to find in the men's faces?
2. What one thing were the men sure of?
3. Did Montag want Mildred to die in the bomb blast? How did he picture her?
4. Where was Faber when the bombs hit?
5. What incredible thing did the men see from the woods?

6. What did the blast cause Montag to remember?

Level II Questions

1. Why did Granger tell Montag the story about his grandfather?

2. What did Granger's grandfather mean when he said, "I hate a Roman named Status Quo!"?

3. What fell down into the dust around the men?

4. Why was Granger swearing and crying?

5. Do you think the fire the men built to cook the bacon might have been built for other reasons as well?

6. Now that the city is destroyed, what does fire stand for?

7. How is the legend of the phoenix related to the story? (p. 163)

8. Why did Granger say they should build a mirror factory first?

9. Why did Granger want Montag to lead them back to the city? How does Granger view Montag?

10. What Biblical verse was Montag saving for their arrival in the city? Why?

