

# Columbus School for Girls

## Form VIII Humanities Summer Reading

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**EVERYTHING IS DUE THE FIRST FRIDAY OF YEAR— FRIDAY, AUGUST 26TH!**

### **Required: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury**

ISBN: 978-145167331

The terrifyingly prophetic novel of a post-literate future.

The classic dystopian novel of a post-literate future, *Fahrenheit 451* stands alongside Orwell's *1984* and Huxley's *Brave New World* as a prophetic account of Western civilization's enslavement by the media, drugs and conformity.

Bradbury's powerful and poetic prose combines with uncanny insight into the potential of technology to create a novel which, decades on from first publication, still has the power to dazzle and shock.

### ***Assignment for Fahrenheit 451***

The following two-part assignment will help you prepare for class discussion and encourage the practice of "close reading" which involves thought and reflection on the text itself. Online study guides that offer instant summaries and interpretations short-circuit this valuable process. PLEASE DO NOT USE THEM.

#### **Part I. Reading Notes**

Include the following heading at the top of each set of notes so they will be easy to check. Be mindful of spelling, and write in complete sentences. These must be typed.

Your Name

Title, author and publication date of novel

#### **Notes to complete:**

1. Describe three key scenes and why they are important. Include one significant quotation for each scene.
2. Identify two major characters, and describe their roles in the story and the key motivation behind their actions. Include two quotations of each character to support your ideas.
3. Discuss the ending—Is it open-ended or neatly resolved? How effective is it? What have the characters learned? How have they changed?
4. Note three key symbols, motifs, or images—What do they mean? How do the meanings give insight into the characters, themes, or conflicts in the story?
  - symbol: a person, image, word, object, color, idea, action, event, etc. that evokes meanings beyond the literal
  - motif: a recurring, unifying element (image, symbol, character type, action, phrase, etc

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**Part II. Summer Reading Essay** Use any one of the following quotations below as a prompt to inspire an essay about *Fahrenheit 451*.

*"Crime butchers innocence to secure a throne, and innocence struggles with all its might against the attempts of crime."--Maximilien Robespierre*

*"I think innocence is something that adults project upon children that's not really there." --Donna Tartt*

*"Once you start asking questions, innocence is gone." --Mary Astor Essay*

### **Requirements:**

1. Focused topic and thesis
2. Logical and cohesive development of original ideas
3. Use of key details/examples from the novel
4. 3-5 properly cited and blended quotations\* from the novel
5. Proper spelling, sentence structure, and mechanics
6. 500-700 words in length (1.5-2 typed pages) It is okay to go over by 50 or so words, but never fall short of the word or length requirement.

\*Blended quotations: Quoted phrases or sentences from the book, that are integrated grammatically into a sentence composed by the essay writer

### ***Required Book 2: Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust by Doreen Rappaport.***

ISBN: 978-0763669287

#### **DOREEN RAPPAPORT WILL BE OUR VISITING AUTHOR IN DECEMBER, 2015!**

Under the noses of the military, Georges Loinger smuggles thousands of children out of occupied France into Switzerland. In Belgium, three resisters ambush a train, allowing scores of Jews to flee from the cattle cars. In Poland, four brothers lead more than 1,200 ghetto refugees into the forest to build a guerilla force and self-sufficient village. Moreover, twelve-year-old Motele Shlayan entertains German officers with his violin moments before setting off a bomb. Through twenty-one meticulously researched accounts — some chronicled in book form for the first time — Doreen Rappaport illuminates the defiance of tens of thousands of Jews across eleven Nazi-occupied countries during World War II. In answer to the genocidal madness that was Hitler's Holocaust, the only response they could abide was resistance, and their greatest weapons were courage, ingenuity, the will to survive, and the resolve to save others or to die trying.

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**Part 1: Please write well-organized and well-developed paragraph responses for the following questions about your book. Responses must be typed and formatted in MLA style.**

1. Provide basic information on your book, the author, and its publication. Who is the author and how is he or she connected to the subject matter? You may look up information on your author if it is not provided in the book itself. Be sure to properly document any sources that you cite.
2. Provide a summary of the book's content. This must be in your own words. Please limit the summary to two-paragraphs.
3. What is the main purpose and argument of the book? Remember, this is different than the topic. What is the main idea that the author is trying to convey about the topic? Explain this.
4. Write a one-paragraph reaction/response to the book. Did you enjoy reading it? What did you/didn't you like about the book?

**Part 2: You must choose ONE of the following options below.**

**1. Script and record a podcast promoting the book**

Write a promotion for the book that includes the setting, the situation, information about the author, and the central conflict or theme. Write it in a way that you advertise or promote the book to potential readers—like a movie trailer in audio form—using a program like Audacity or Garage Band. You should use effects, music, or anything else that helps set the mood for your book talk. You may recruit other people (parents, siblings, etc.) to help you record. You may play your podcast for the class. Please save it in mp3 format and email or share it with me using Google drive by the deadline so we can test it out ahead of time. (vmaite@columbusschoolforgirls.org) Your podcast should be 3-4 minutes.

**2. Compose a digital story**

Your digital story will give the audience a sense for the book and the author's main arguments by using appropriate pictures, text, and sound/music. You should promote the book just like movie trailers promote movies. Use music and pacing to set the mood. Software like iMovie and Movie Maker are good ones that you likely have access to already. Apply what you know about lighting and camera angles. Digital stories should be between 3-4 minutes. You may be required to show them in class. There are a lot of sites that have digital story resources. Here are a few to get you started:

Digital Storytelling: A Tutorial in 10 Easy Steps

<http://www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/techplan/page5897.cfm>

Seven Steps to Create a Digital Story [http://www.digitales.us/resources/seven\\_steps.php](http://www.digitales.us/resources/seven_steps.php)

**3. Keep a blog about your book.**

Set up a blog at Wordpress.com or another blogging site (feel free to use Weebly). You will use the blog to post reactions, questions, insights, etc. that you have about the book. Include links to other articles or sites on the web that relate to your book. Do not write summary, but rather reaction and response. The following are just some ideas of things you may post on your blog. You will be graded on depth of content, appearance of your blog, and frequency of your posts. You will turn in your URL.

- Connections between the book's content and contemporary news stories
- Reaction to ideas raised in the book
- Whether you agree/disagree with points the author raises
- Reaction/response to characters in the book
- Pictures of the events or people mentioned in the book
- Link and response to reviews of the book

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### ***Book 3: FREE CHOICE***

This is simple. Read a book, any book that is appropriate for your reading level and complete the following pages. These are just essential elements of a plot map; it should not be too complicated, just be sure to follow the directions:

Title and Author:

Number of pages:

Start date/End date:

Setting:

Main Characters with at Least Three Traits for Each and a Quote From the Story to Support Each of Your Chosen Traits:

Supporting Characters With One Sentence About Why They Are Important to the Story:

Problem:

Major Events in Story:

Resolution: