Summer Reading: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

Dear Parents,

The purpose of summer reading is to encourage reading, set expectations for English classrooms, assess reading and writing skills, and expose students to literature found on the AP exams. We are confident that this reading program will enrich our exemplary school curriculum, as well as our students, for future academic challenges. Encourage your child to begin reading now. During the first two weeks of school, students will be formally assessed on their comprehension of the novel.

The assessment is rigorous and includes characters and motivation, plot, themes, quotations, application of literary terms and close reading skills. The assessment constitutes 20% of your child’s cycle 1 grade.

Sincerely,
The DeBakey English Department

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**Reading Guide Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury

This reading guide is designed to help the student attain a deeper understanding of the novel. It is not meant to be a substitute for reading the book or as the only method for studying for the exam. While reading or completing this guide, take an analytical, detailed look at the novel in addition to comprehending the plot, characters, and themes. If you come across an unfamiliar word, first, use a context clue to help you determine the meaning of the word and then check your meaning with one found in the dictionary. If you come across an unfamiliar literary term, consult a dictionary for its meaning.

**Reading Comprehension.**
Answer the following questions based on your understanding of the novel. Be prepared to share your responses in class.

1. What are the main conflicts in the novel? Are they resolved by the end of the book? If so, how? If not, why not?
2. Bradbury has repeatedly used words relating to fire. Find as many examples as you can in the book, and explain the effect of his word choices on us, the readers.
3. Describe Captain Beatty’s theory of how firemen began and why they are needed.
4. Describe Montag’s relationship with Mildred.
5. Explain Faber’s role in the novel. Why was he included?
6. What was Clarisse’s role in the novel? Why was she important?
7. Was Montag a hero?
8. Why was Montag’s society so violent and why did there seem to be a low value placed on human life in the story?
9. What kinds of things do we have today that resemble things in Montag’s society?
Novel Explication Sheet

Title ___________________________ Author ___________________________

Short plot overview:

Brief description of setting and its relevance to the story:

Point of view and its effect on the story:

Characters:
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<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Conflicts</th>
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Conflicts:
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<th>Major external conflicts</th>
<th>Thematic ideas explored by conflict</th>
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Major symbols and motifs:

Thematic ideas (abstract concepts) addressed in the novel:
1. _____________________________  2. _____________________________  3. _____________________________  4. _____________________________

Thematic statements (What does the author “teach” us about those abstract concepts through the action of the novel?)
1. _____________________________
2. _____________________________
3. _____________________________
4. _____________________________