

Fahrenheit 451

Part 2

by Ray Bradbury

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: contemptible, enamel, hone, invigorate, melancholy, mobilize, skepticism, strew, subside, vessel

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Part 1 · The Hearth and the Salamander

Section 2 · Part 2 · The Sieve and the Sand

Section 3 · Part 3 · Burning Bright

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. Cheating a blind man out of his savings is a **contemptible** act.

- A. deserving of scorn
- B. utterly pointless
- C. highly reckless

2. The **enamel** on the old bathtub had chipped near the drain.

- A. a hard, glossy coating
- B. a soft protective padding
- C. a thin layer of grime

3. Woodworkers **hone** their blades on a fine stone.

- A. to sharpen to a fine edge
- B. to polish until shiny
- C. to straighten a bent edge

4. A brisk morning swim never fails to **invigorate** me.

- A. to fill with fresh energy
- B. to make one hungry
- C. to warm the body through

5. A **melancholy** tune drifted from the empty house.

- A. strangely eerie
- B. gently soothing
- C. mournfully sad

6. The general moved to **mobilize** the reserve troops overnight.

- A. to count and inspect closely
- B. to call up and ready for war
- C. to train and drill for combat

7. She listened to the salesman's pitch with obvious **skepticism**.

- A. a mild confusion
- B. a doubting attitude
- C. a keen interest

8. Before the guests arrived, we **strew** rose petals along the path.

- A. to sprinkle with water
- B. to scatter loosely
- C. to arrange in rows

9. We waited on the porch for the storm to **subside**.

- A. to spread wider
- B. to change direction
- C. to die down

10. The **vessel** on the top shelf was hard to reach.

- A. a flat serving tray
- B. a decorative wall hanging
- C. a container for liquids

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Denham's Dentrifice — a brand of toothpaste (distracting from deeper thinking)

lilies of the field — biblical allusion (the flowers neither toil nor worry); here, representing deeper thinking

praetorian guard — the elite bodyguard of a Roman emperor; here, books as guardians who remind the powerful of their limitations

Pierian spring — the fountain of knowledge in Greek myth

tyranny of the majority — the majority overriding the rights or views of the minority

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	A
5	C
6	B
7	B
8	B
9	C
10	C

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 "As in filling a vessel drop by drop, there is at last a drop which makes it run over; so in a series of kindnesses there is at least one which makes the heart run over."

As used in the passage, the word 'vessel' most nearly means...

- A. a container for liquids
- B. a small sailing ship
- C. a natural pool or spring

2 "Behind him, the door to a bedroom stood open, and in that room a litter of machinery and steel tools were strewn upon a desktop."

According to the passage, the machinery and steel tools in the bedroom were...

- A. piled in one tidy stack
- B. scattered loosely about
- C. arranged in careful rows

3 "But with all my knowledge and skepticism, I have never been able to argue with a one-hundred-piece symphony orchestra, full color, three dimensions, and being in and part of those incredible parlors."

It can reasonably be inferred that, against the parlors, the speaker's 'skepticism'...

- A. spoils his enjoyment
- B. has only grown stronger
- C. gives him no protection

4 "If the drones die, I'm still safe at home, tending my fright with a maximum of comfort and a minimum of chance. See how safe I play it, how contemptible I am?"

Which choice best describes the speaker's attitude toward the safe part he plays?

- A. bitter scorn for himself
- B. anger at those who trap him
- C. cold blame of his companions

5 "'Ten million men mobilized,' Faber's voice whispered in his other ear."

According to the passage, Faber whispers that ten million men have been...

- A. sent home from the battlefield
- B. lost in the fighting overseas
- C. called up and readied for war

6 "The faces of those enameled creatures meant nothing to him ... the colorful men and women with the porcelain eyes and the blood-ruby lips."

The passage most strongly suggests that the 'enameled creatures' are...

- A. wealthy, bejeweled strangers
- B. lifeless painted figures
- C. flamboyant stage performers

7 "But now I only hear
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,
Retreating, to the breath
Of the night-wind, ..."

Which choice best describes the poem's attitude toward the roar that is heard?

- A. sorrowful sense of loss
- B. bitter resentment
- C. peaceful contentment

8 "I must admit that your blind raging invigorated me. God, how young I felt!"

It can reasonably be inferred that, in feeling 'invigorated,' the speaker...

- A. was frightened by the outburst
- B. thought the raging wise and right
- C. was stirred by rage he distrusts

9 "By the time I was forty my blunt instrument had been honed to a fine cutting point for me."

As used in the passage, the word 'honed' most nearly means...

- A. worn down and dulled
- B. gradually sharpened
- C. beaten into a new shape

10 "The echo of the final hammer on his skull died slowly away into the black cavern where Faber waited for the echoes to subside."

As used in the passage, the word 'subside' most nearly means...

- A. to fade away bit by bit
- B. to grow sharper and clearer
- C. to ring out again

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	B	
3	C	
4	A	
5	C	
6	B	The scene is Montag's memory of saints' images in a church — glossy painted figures he could feel nothing for; the moment mirrors how he now sees the parlor women.
7	A	The lines are from Matthew Arnold's 'Dover Beach'; the retreating roar is the 'Sea of Faith' withdrawing from the world — grief for lost belief, not anger.
8	C	
9	B	The 'blunt instrument' is Faber's own untrained mind — he 'shoved my ignorance in people's faces,' and the beatings that followed did the sharpening.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Part 2

Montag and Mildred read the afternoon through, and Montag seeks out the retired professor Faber, who agrees to guide him through a hidden earpiece. His rebellion sharpens back at the firehouse, where Beatty presses him and an alarm sends the firemen to Montag's own address.