

Fahrenheit 451

Part 3

by Ray Bradbury

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: bewildered, concussion, muzzle, plume, resolve, rigidity, scalding, scapegoat, stifle, trajectory

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. The tourist looked **bewildered** by the crowded train station.

- A. quietly amused
- B. mildly annoyed
- C. deeply confused

2. The **concussion** from the blast shattered windows blocks away.

- A. the bright flash of a blast
- B. the shock wave from a blast
- C. the loud roar of a blast

3. The dog pressed its cold **muzzle** against my hand.

- A. an animal's thick fur coat
- B. an animal's long bushy tail
- C. an animal's nose and jaws

4. A tall **plume** rose from the volcano's crater.

- A. a shower of glowing sparks
- B. a burst of bright flame
- C. a rising column of smoke

5. She began the long climb with quiet **resolve**.

- A. restless impatience
- B. firm determination
- C. cheerful confidence

6. He held his arm out with strange **rigidity**.

- A. stiffness or firmness
- B. eagerness or energy
- C. steadiness or calm

7. He filled the mug with **scalding** coffee.

- A. hot enough to burn
- B. freshly brewed
- C. thick and syrupy

8. When the plan fell apart, the team looked for a **scapegoat**.

- A. one blamed for others' faults
- B. a leader who takes charge
- C. a helper brought in to fix things

9. He had to **stifle** his laughter at the funeral.

- A. to hold back or smother
- B. to shake off quickly
- C. to soothe or comfort

10. The coach studied the **trajectory** of the football as it sailed toward the goal.

- A. the speed of a moving object
- B. the path of a flying object
- C. the spin put on a moving ball

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

procaine — numbing anesthetic drug

alarms and excursions — confused commotion (old stage term)

Dentifrice — a brand of toothpaste

Ecclesiastes and Revelation — books of the Bible

manner — a kind or variety (archaic sense); 'twelve manner of fruits' means twelve kinds of fruit

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 "The front door opened; Mildred came down the steps, running, one suitcase held with a dreamlike clenching rigidity in her fist, as a beetle-taxi hissed to the curb."

As it is used in the passage, the word 'rigidity' most nearly suggests that Mildred is...

- A. leaving with calm, settled purpose
- B. clutching the case, stiff with shock
- C. holding the case only loosely

2 "It bedded itself down in sleepy pink-gray cinders and a smoke plume blew over it, rising and waving slowly back and forth in the sky."

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

- A. a swirl of wind-blown ash
- B. a large ornamental feather
- C. a streaming column of smoke

3 "Beatty had wanted to die. He had just stood there, not really trying to save himself, just stood there, joking, needling, thought Montag, and the thought was enough to stifle his sobbing and let him pause for air."

According to the passage, the thought that Beatty had wanted to die was enough to...

- A. set off a harder burst of sobbing
- B. quiet Montag's crying for a moment
- C. make him forget Beatty entirely

4 "... the prickling was like someone blowing a spray of scalding water on that leg."

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

- A. pleasantly warm and soothing
- B. bitterly cold and stinging
- C. hot enough to burn the skin

5 "The beetle came in a single whistling trajectory, fired from an invisible rifle."

The author says the beetle came in "a single whistling trajectory" to show that it...

- A. sped straight at Montag like a bullet
- B. wandered slowly along a winding road
- C. circled overhead before landing

6 "He was a thing of brush and liquid eye, of fur and muzzle and hoof, he was a thing of horn and blood that would smell like autumn if you bled it out on the ground."

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

- A. an animal's projecting nose and jaws
- B. the open end of a gun barrel
- C. an animal's mane of coarse hair

7 "The show's got to have a snap ending, quick! If they started searching the whole damn river it might take all night. So they're sniffing for a scapegoat to end things with a bang."

According to the passage, the searchers want a scapegoat because...

- A. a true search would take too long
- B. viewers have stopped watching the show
- C. the cameras cannot film in the dark

8 "The innocent man stood bewildered, a cigarette burning in his hand. He stared at the Hound, not knowing what it was."

In the passage, the man with the cigarette is characterized as...

- A. confused and unaware of his danger
- B. defiant toward his pursuers
- C. calm and sure of his innocence

9 "He was looking for a brightness, a resolve, a triumph over tomorrow that hardly seemed to be there."

He studies his companions' faces; it can reasonably be inferred that he...

- A. believed the men had completely given up hope
- B. expected them to look more determined
- C. feared the men would soon turn on him

10 "The concussion knocked the air across and down the river, turned the men over like dominoes in a line, blew the water in lifting sprays, and blew the dust and made the trees above them mourn with a great wind passing away south."

In the excerpt, the description of the concussion primarily functions to...

- A. explain how the men escaped the city
- B. convey the men's grief over the dead
- C. show the blast's force reaching the men

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	C	
3	B	
4	C	
5	A	
6	A	
7	A	From the ancient ritual of driving out a goat symbolically loaded with a community's sins; here the televised hunt needs an innocent stand-in so the show can end on cue.
8	A	
9	B	
10	C	Not the head injury students may expect: the word here names the blast's traveling shock wave. The trees 'mourn' only in the sense of moaning in that wind — the excerpt's work is physical force, not sorrow.

Teacher Context: Part 3

Ordered to burn his own house, Montag turns the flamethrower on Beatty and flees as a fugitive hunted by the Mechanical Hound. He escapes downriver to a band of exiled book-lovers as the city is destroyed. Section runs to the end of the novel.