

Summer Reading Assignment, Enriched Language Arts

June 2011

Dear Students and Families enrolled in 8th grade Enriched Language Arts:

We are excited that you are enrolled in Enriched Language Arts 8 for the 2011-2012 school year. We are confident that this course will be an exciting and challenging experience for all students involved.

As part of the enrichment for this course, we are requiring all students to read one book this summer that will allow for earlier immersion in coursework once school begins. We have chosen *Fahrenheit 451*, published originally in 1953 and written by award-winning author Ray Bradbury. In this novel, Guy Montag is a firefighter who burns books in a futuristic American city. When Montag meets a young girl and a professor, he begins to question the beliefs and assumptions of his society. He must resolve both internal and external conflicts in order to survive.

You should be prepared for a quiz on *Fahrenheit 451* on the first day of class in September. In addition, we will be discussing and writing about the novel during the first several weeks of the school year. We ask that if possible you bring your copy of the book on the first day of school. **To prepare for the first-day quiz and subsequent assignments, we ask that you use Post-it notes to mark passages as you read. You should mark 10-15 passages in the novel that (1) describe Montag's society and (2) show how Montag is changing through the course of the novel. On each Post-it, write what you notice about Montag's society or Montag's character development.** Extra time to complete the reading will only be granted to students who were enrolled in our district after August 15, 2011, and therefore did not have adequate access to the course information.

In addition to reading *Fahrenheit 451*, we hope that all students will read several additional books of their choice during the summer. For suggestions, check the following reading links, which offer lists of recommended young adult literature:

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/> and <http://www.hclib.org/teens/read.cfm>.

Thank you for your commitment to your education. We look forward to working with you in the fall.

Sincerely,

Ms. Bademan and Ms. Bailey
Language Arts 8th Grade