YEAR 9 ENGLISH · DYSTOPIAN FICTION

Fahrenheit 451: Reading Montag

Methods, inference and activism

- Explore key methods and use inference to add detail to our answers
- Engage with activism as a topic and apply it to our own writing

STARTER · 3-A-DAY · 5 MINUTES

Answer all three

1 · Vocabulary: What does *censorship* mean?

2 · Punctuation: Rewrite correctly: *montags job was to burn books not read them*

3 · Retrieval: What is the difference between *explicit* and *implicit*?

Type your answers in the chat.

THE EXTRACT · FAHRENHEIT 451, PART ONE

Read the opening paragraph from your booklet

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

EPISODE 1 · THE OPENING PARAGRAPH OF FAHRENHEIT 451

Read it, stick it in your book, then use three colours

Colour 1 · Explicit: write down what you **know** is happening.

Colour 2 · Questions: write down any questions the opening raises.

Colour 3 · Implicit: answer **two** of your questions using inference.

Feedback: share one explicit fact and one inference in the chat. Starter: *I think… because the writer suggests…*

EPISODE 2 · DISCUSS IN PAIRS · THEN FEEDBACK

Talk about Montag’s world

1. Why do you think Montag is burning these books?
2. How does this act relate to the idea of dystopia?
3. What can we infer from the text about Montag’s world?
4. What kind of character do we think Montag is?

Then make a mind-map on Montag. Add his traits, each with a short quotation and your inference. Share it for feedback.

EPISODE 3 · ANALYSIS SHEET RACE · 10 MINUTES

How does the writer use language to portray Montag as an insane character?

Short quotation	Method (correct terminology)	Effect on the reader	What it suggests about Montag’s mind

Go into as much detail as you can. Use the correct terminology, such as verb, adjective, simile, metaphor or sentence type.

EPISODE 4 · FEEDBACK AND CHALLENGE

Share your sheet and fix misconceptions

Methods

Did you name the method correctly, and say what it does?

Effect

Did you explain the effect on the reader, not just describe the words?

Insanity

Does every idea link back to the question of Montag’s insanity?

Challenge: why did the writer choose this word or technique rather than a plainer one?

EPISODE 4 · THE QUESTION

How does the writer use language here to portray Montag as an insane character?

You could include the writer’s use of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms

This question asks you to find **evidence that Montag is insane**. You must talk about **language techniques** and **how and why** they portray him that way.

EPISODE 5 · TEACHER MODELS LIVE

Set out your answer in this order

Point
What is the idea?

Example
A short quotation

Technique
Name the method

Explain
Effect and inference

Link
Back to insanity

Or use **What – How – Why**: **what** does the writer show, **how** do they show it, and **why** does it matter?

EPISODE 5 · MODEL PARAGRAPH WITH SENTENCE STARTERS

Point: The writer presents Montag as insane by showing him **[behaving in an extreme or unstable way]**. **Example:** This is shown when **“[short quotation]”**. **Technique:** The **[verb / adjective / simile / sentence form]** “[key word]” **Explain:** suggests that he is [violent or out of control], and this implies that [inference about his mind]. **Link:** This links to insanity because it presents a man who [seems to have lost control of his thoughts].

Ask your teacher any questions about the model before you write.

Fill the gaps with details from your own extract

EPISODE 6 · WRITING TIME · 10 MINUTES

How does the writer use language here to portray Montag as an insane character?

Use **Point – Example – Technique – Explain – Link**. Name your methods and say how and why they show insanity. Post your answer in the chat when you finish.

REVIEW

Check your answer

I named the technique correctly.

I explained the effect and made an inference.

I linked every point to Montag’s insanity.

I used a short, precise quotation.

Write one target for next time and share it in the chat.