

# Fahrenheit 451: Dystopia in English Literature (The Conflict between Freedom of Thoughts and Repression)

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**Abstract:** Dystopia is a fictional society dominated by evil power in which immoral, corruption and malignity are prevailed. Dystopia has a significance in literature because it can be a method of enlightening humanity about dangers of current social and political structures. Numbers of dystopian novels have been published describing the suffering and suppression in these societies. The main content of these novels point to the technological prevalence, governmental sovereignty, environmental destruction and salvation. As an example, we will dive in a deep analyzing for the dystopian novel (Fahrenheit 451) by Ray Bradbury. The title of the novel refers to the temperature at which paper burn. The ban of the books imposed by the American government on people. Fahrenheit 451 is an oppressive future. The novel is about a fireman whose duty to destroy all books begins to question his task.

**Keywords:** Dystopia, Fahrenheit 451, fictional society, technological prevalence, governmental sovereignty, environmental destruction.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### What is Dystopia?

Dystopia is a scary imaginary world stuck in chaos. Immoral society governs by absolute evil where there is no place for virtue. In other words, it is humanitarian society characterized by devastation, illness, crime, poverty and repression. People in this society transform to beasts.

In Latin (**Dystopia**) means Malignant which is the opposite of Idealism (**Utopia**). Many novels have been written describing these societies in different imaginary works especially those about the speculative future.

Dystopia describes as totalitarian government, environmental disasters and whatever related to catastrophic decadence in society. Characters are struggling against destruction, diseases, technological control and dictatorial repression.

### The importance of Dystopia?

Dystopia works have an educational message arousing poverty, depression and anarchism problems. Margaret Atwood is one of the most dystopia writers says "If you are interested in writing a dystopian novel offer lessons about the present by looking ahead to the future". Atwood's novel (Gilead) which was published in 1985 was about future service in United State. It is set in a near-future in a strongly patriarchal, controlling economic status, known as Republic of Gilead, that has overthrown the United states government. Dystopian novels can challenge readers to think differently about their social and political climate and in some instances can even inspire action".

### What is the importance of Dystopia in literature?

It is may be a method to human enlightenment and an exhortation from existing social and political organizations. Dystopian may present writer's believes as in (The Time Machine) in 1895. The socialist novelist, HG Wells presented English Victorian scientist who built time machine and witnessed capitalist society's falls.

While in (A Clockwork Orange 1962) for Anthony Burges is a sarcastic criticism. Alex, a psychopathic delinquent, is imprisoned for murder and rape. In order to reduce his sentence, he volunteers for an experimental therapy conducted by governmental, but it goes askew.

George Orwell's (Big Brother) in 1985 is about the governmental domination represented in a comprehensive supervision on the only three remaining countries after the ends of the world war.

In Ursula Kroeber science fiction (Le Guin) in 1985 a group of people lived under self-regulation post the end of life on the earth.

The New York Times best-selling series in 2008 (The Hunger Games) written by the American novelist Suzanne Collins is about 16 years old girl who lives in the future post-apocalyptic nation of Panem in North America. The capitol, a highly advanced metropolis exercises political control over the rest of the nation. The Hunger Games is an annual event in which boys and girls from each twelve districts surrounding the capitol are selected by lottery to compete in a televised battle.

The main content of dystopian novels are technological prevalence, governmental domination, environmental destruction and salvation.

### **Technological Prevalence:**

In Dystopian novel technology is mostly a mean of impact used to threatening people. In 1932 Aldous Huxley wrote a story reveals technological danger where governing country uses technological techniques to control reproduction and people's actions and lives.

Philippe Dick's novel (The Blade Runner) robots control the whole universe after a nuclear mass destruction. He imagines that there isn't any distinguishes between robots and human beings and how mass extinction led to artificial life.

Feed (a dystopian youth novel) for MT Anderson focuses on issues such as corporate power, consumerism, information technology, data mining and environmental decay. Feed is a network implants in 73% of American's minds.

### **Environmental Disaster**

(The Road) by Cormac McCarthy published in 2006 is about a father and a daughter's adventures post mass extinction in America.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner a story about a group of youths in an imaginary place called (The Glade) are struggling to find their way out from an ever-changing maze.

### **Survival**

People always in a conflict to depend on themselves to survive in dystopian world.

Stephen King published a novel in 1982. The events in the story happen in 2025 for a poor man who lives under a repressive government has to make a dangerous fatal show to earn money for her living.

Ember by Jeanne DuPrau. Ember is an isolated underground city built to escape from imminent catastrophe where group of youths digging for their salvation.

### **Loss of Individuality**

The Giver by Lois Lowry in 1993, A twelve years boy has chosen to be a memory receiver in the society and has to store before "Sameness"

The Russian author Yevgeny Zamyatin in his fiction (Meb) published in 1920 the story about an engineer lives in a space ship in 32th century. People in the future country, One state don't have names but numbers and wear official uniform.

Finally, Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 was published in 1953. The novel describes the life of a fireman whose is assigned by authorities to burn all the books to ashes.

### **Fahrenheit 451**

The setting of the novel is dystopian where there is great suffering and injustice. It is pleasure to see things destroyed. It is pleasure to keep people blackened, unchanged and ignorant. Fahrenheit opens a destructive blaze not only on papers but also on minds.

The novel depicts a world where all various kinds of science, knowledge and literature books are banned from all areas of life and possessing, let alone reading them, is forbidden.

The protagonist, Montag is a fireman responsible for destroying what remains but as his pleasure gives way to doubt, the story raises critical questions of how to preserve one's mind in a society where free will, self-expression and curiosity are under fire.

In Montag's world, mass media has a monopoly on information, erasing all ability for independent thoughts. On the subway, ads blast out of the walls. At home, Montag's wife Midred listens to the radio around the clock, and three of their parlor walls are plastered with screens. At work, the smell of Kerosene hangs over Montag's colleagues, who smoke and set their mechanical hound after rats to pass the time. When the alarm sounds they surge out in a salamander-shaped vehicles, sometimes to burn whole libraries to the ground.

But as he sets tomes a blasé day after day like "black butterflies", Montag's mind occasionally wonders to contraband that lies hidden in his home. Gradually he begins to question the basis of his work.

Montag realizes he is always felt uneasy but he has lacked the descriptive word to express his feelings in a society where even uttering the phrase "once upon a time" can be fatal.

Fahrenheit 451 depicts a world governed by surveillance, robotics and virtual reality a vision that proved remarkably prescient but also spoke to the concerns of the time.

The novel was published in 1953 at the height of cold war. This era kindled widespread paranoia and fear throughout Bradbury's home country of United States amplified by the suppression of information and brutal government investigations.

In particular, this witch hunt mentality targeted artists and writers who were suspected of Communist Sympathies. Bradbury was alarmed at this cultural crackdown. He believed it set a dangerous precedent for further censorship, and was reminded of the destruction of library of Alexandria and the book burning of Fascist regimes.

He explored the chilling connections Fahrenheit 45, lited after the temperature at which paper burns. The accuracy of that temperature has been called into question, but doesn't diminish the novel's standing as a masterpiece of dystopian fiction.

Dystopian fiction as a genre amplification troubling features of the world around us and imagines the consequences of taking them to an extreme.

In many Dystopian stories, the government imposes constrictions onto unwilling subjects but in Fahrenheit 451, Montag learns that it was the apathy of the masses that gave rise to the current regime. The government merely capitalized short attention spans and the appetite for mindless entertainment reducing the circulation of ideas to ash.

A cultural disappear, imagination and self-expression follow. Even the way people talk is short-circuited-such as when Montag's boss captain Beatty describes the acceleration of mass culture: " speed up the film, Montag, quick, click, pick, look, eye, now, flick, here, there, swift, pace, up, down, in, out, why, how, who, what, were, eh, uh, bang, smack, wall up, bing, bong, boom, digest, politics!" One column, two sentences, a headline! Then in mid-air all vanishes.

In this barren world, Montag learns how difficult it is to resist when there is nothing left to hold onto.

Although, Fahrenheit 451 is a port rail independent on the brink of extinction and parable about society which is complicit own combustion.

### **Diving with our work of classic literature**

The story begins with the firemen receiving a fire alarm which usually means somewhere is on fire. Their real job is to put off ignite and rescuing people instead of saving lives and properties, firemen broke into the house searching for books everywhere and started to grab what it supposed to be hidden in a safe place. Throwing ( adventures, novels, biography, ..... ) on the ground and started to burn them at the yard making sure that everyone watching the destruction of minds before papers. While watching the fire devouring culture and knowledge Montag was promised to be promoted for his great job by his boss.

As Montag is going to his work and vice versa to his house by train he never recognizes people around him because he doesn't have a social life. When suddenly a young lady presented herself as his neighbor started a conversation with him pointed that she could smell a kerosene in him. He was't surprised from her comments because he find that this smell seems like any perfume. She also began to wonder why does he have this kind of job? Again he answered it is like any other job and commentated " he doesn't like books, they are rubbish, dangerous and antisocial", He never reads a book in his life for many reasons; it is restricted, forbidden and have better things to do.

Now he began to think whether he is having a happy life since he has an ambitious wife and a house with concealment furniture ( cigar and box of chocolate).

Suddenly with all these confusions he feels like reading , he choose to start with one of the most greatest novels of the Victorian era Charles Dickens's David Copperfield .The writer was very distinguished in making Montag initiates with a story begins in " Once upon time ....." Everything has a beginning and this is the launch of new Montag's enlightenment, culture and cultivation.

One the other hand, the outside world around Montag still attached to darkness and density. Chasing people in public places; searching for books everywhere . Even children in Ray Bradburry 's story runaway from policemen in their formal suits hiding while they should feel save and in their present. Wherever there is a fire brigade there will be fire to ignite instead of spreading flames .

The most outrageous and shocking incident that change Montag's life and attitudes towards reading books was watching an old lady sacrificing her life defending her cultural treasure ( biography, novels, equality, philosophy and .....). They are the air she breathe ; they are her life ; she cannot live without them; that was her repressed emotions that she can't disclose. When the condemned lady saw her books burning ;she said she could hear them talking to her about their suffering. She lived with them and she wanted to die with them. She will be martyr. The dystopian and sorrowful scene made Montag beseeched his boss to save the old lady who forced him to leave the place immediately.

Doubts and transformation began to go in equal line. For his wife : he wants to sit by himself for many hours , never goes to his bed and stays away from her for the whole night' there must be something is going on" she doubted.. Searching their home and finding books in a hidden places ; she did not hesitate to express her fears for him and having them is against the law. She urged him to get rid of these ruinous power otherwise she threatened to leave him. While on the other hand, Montag feels that they are becoming his new family and criticizes his wife's monotonous life. He wants her to share him her interests. Montag seems unhappy anymore going to his work. He couldn't concentrate on his job he even forgot to wear his safety helmet. He does not want to be a fireman anymore.

Illusions and dreams visited our hero. He dreamt that something had happened to his neighbor and he woke on a realistic scene where she was asking for his help. Her uncle was arrested but she managed to run away from the fatal brigade. She told him of what had happened and left with assurance that they will be a reunion between them in a spot called ( Book People ). A place embraces vanished, released, hide, wait to arrest and disband educated people.

Because of her fears and her conviction that her husband walking against the stream; she informed the authorities about him. Once he was at work his boss told him that they have a mission to finish and they can not finish this task without him. When the brigade started her way of destruction he never suspected that they were going to his house but when they are coming closer he realized that his home was the target. Whenever they break into they collected the books which they know exactly where they are. Montag did not wait to witness what he was doing for his whole life as a firemen instead he became furious and started to destroy everything in front of him by himself burning his boss in the fire which was destroying t minds before papers. His boss burnt in the hell that he used to watch with exhilaration. Now Montag is a criminal chased by mind destroyer. He ran away to his new life to his salvation.

Montag walked away without looking back till he reached ( Book People) . There he was welcomed by sketches the of most famous writers: Emily Bronte, Samuel Beckett, John Paul Sartre, Charles Dickens ,and Machiavelli. Mentalities who have to read books quickly , memorized and burn them quickly. These books never be taken from any one ; never got lost because they are kept in their minds .

**Ray Bradbury' in a brief**

Ray Douglas Bradbury was an American science fiction novelist. He was born in 1922 Waukegan Illinois and died at age of 91 years old in 2012. He is one of the twentieth century writers whose contributions to the contemporary literature made him one of the best-known writers. Bradbury began writing when he was twelve years old. He was inspired by a whisper from Mr. Electrico at a carnival "Live Forever". These words made him write for 70 years old. The ten best Ray's books are: Fahrenheit 451, The October Country, The Martian Chronicles, The Illustrated Man, The Golden Apples of the Sun, Dandelion Wire, Something Wicked, This Way Comes, The Halloween Tree, Death Is Lonely Business and Green Shadows White Whale.

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