

In 1953 Ray Bradbury wrote a book that was influenced by many things, and was an amazing piece of fiction. The book was Fahrenheit 451. During his life he saw and read many things that led up to his writing this book. During this paper we will talk about what all influenced him and which things were the most important.

To start, we will go over one of the biggest influences that he had. In WW2 the Nazis held public book burnings. This was because they believed that the human race was better off knowing almost nothing from books so they would be happier without the knowledge. These events were key in Bradbury writing Fahrenheit 451.

Another event that motivated him to write his book was the cold war. During the cold war, the world was under the threat of nuclear war and technology came a long way in a short amount of time. This was one of the things that influenced the kind of society that Montag lived in. Without this setting, the book would not have had the style or meaning that it does today. There were also other books that gave him inspiration such as "The Pedestrian" which he singled out to be one of the biggest influencing stories. The reason that this story was such a large influence was because in 1938 The House Un-American Activities Committee formed a group to investigate any possible people that might be tied into communist activities. This led Bradbury to write "The Pedestrian" which was later changed into "The Fireman". Eventually this led him to convert the ideas of these stories into "Fahrenheit 451". In 1953 he released his major fiction hit "Fahrenheit 451" This book was his best work and won many awards. It was about a fireman named Guy Montag. In the society he lived in Montag's job as a fireman was to set things on fire rather than put fire out. The majority of the things the firemen burn are books, which are illegal. If someone pulls an alarm the firemen come not only to burn the books, but the entire house as well. During his career he meets a young girl named Clarisse. He finds her as quite an odd person because she is so different from everyone else. Society doesn't seem to matter to her

and she asks questions about everything. At first Montag is easily irritated by her, but over time he begins to enjoy their talks. He learns many things from her like the reason that billboards are 200 feet long so people driving can read them. Eventually Montag begins to question his role in society. At first all he did was question what he was doing, until he he had to burn a woman along with her house. After that he started to smuggle books out of houses so he could read them. After he had been doing this for a while, he started talking to an old teacher named Faber. Together they come up with a plan to make more books, but by this time Montag's boss is suspicious of what he is doing. This made it much harder for Montag and Faber to carry out their plan. One day Montag read a poem to his wife and a few of her friends and his wife set off the alarm for him having books. the next day, Beatty, Montag and the rest of the Firemen went to Montag's house to burn it down with all the books that he had. After he burns the house, Montag is about to be arrested. Beatty hits him and knocks out the earpiece that he was using to communicate with Faber. After this, Beatty wants to find Faber to Arrest him too. Montag doesn't want this to happen so he points his flamethrower at Beatty. Beatty seems unphased by his and continues threatening Montag until Montag burns him to death with the flamethrower. As soon as he does this he feels like he had also killed Faber because the earpiece had melted. He also has to keep running because now he had murdered someone. As he is being chased by the firemen he has to kill one of the mechanical hounds. After this happens, he goes to the only place where he knows he might be safe. He goes to Faber's house. He is only able to stay for a little bit. He has just enough time to cover his trail so that the hounds cant find him. Montag goes to the river so as to cover up his trail even more. As he is walking on the other side of the river, he sees a fire and decides to go towards it. As he approaches, he gets nervous and stops in the shadows. The people by the fire however notice him and call him towards the fire. He goes and is surprised by the fact that they know his name until they show him a tv with the news about the

murder that he committed. while they are watching, they notice that the person the the firemen are chasing is not Montag. Montag had lost them at the river so they found a random person to show them chasing and finally killing the innocent person. After the firemen kill the person the news says that the chase is over and that Montag is dead. The next day the people who were at the fire with Montag pack up and start travelling to a new spot because of a coming war. As they are walking away from the city there is a massive explosion from it that knocks them all off their feet. when they get up, the entire city had been levelled. Montag knows he should be sad about his wife being in the city when it was destroyed, but for whatever reason, he isn't .

This book was Ray Bradbury's best work and easy the one that won the most awards. In 1954 it won the [American Academy of Arts and Letters Award](#) and the Commonwealth Club of California gold medal. Over the course of time, his great book won even more awards including the Prometheus hall of Fame Award and the Retro Hugo Award. There are many adaptations including movies and radio shows. One of these radio shows was taken to court by Bradbury due to a violation of copyright laws. Eventually Bradbury won in an appeal and the show was taken off the airwaves. I believe that this book was written with the fear that events such as the ones proposed in the book might actually happen. Bradbury understood the fears of the society and put them all mixed together in a book that terrified people of that time. Even now, I believe that something similar to the book might still happen. With this thought I will leave you to ponder if this is just fiction or possibly something more.