

Name _____
9th Grade Lit/Comp

Literary Analysis Essay – *Fahrenheit 451*

In your literary analysis essay, you will choose either a theme or a symbol from *Fahrenheit 451* and write an essay in which you explain how that theme or symbol is developed in the novel.

THEME: A theme in a work gives readers some insight about human life. The theme is not the same as the subject of a work. For example, one of the subjects of *Fahrenheit 451* is censorship. To develop that idea into a theme, you would have to state what Bradbury is saying about censorship. When examining theme, you should ask, **what message does the author want to convey through this work?**

SYMBOL: A symbol in a work is an object or character that represents something beyond itself. Symbols are used to develop themes or convey an idea that the author wants the reader to think about. When examining symbol, you should ask, **what is the importance of this symbol to the novel? What does the symbol represent?**

Essay Requirements

1. Identify and discuss a theme or symbol in the work.
2. Identify and discuss three ways that this theme or symbol is developed or used in the novel.
3. You must have at least three quotations from the novel to support your ideas.

Process

Prewriting – Either the THEME prewriting sheet or the SYMBOL prewriting sheet and list of quotations with page numbers

Rough Draft

Peer Editing

Final Draft

Rubric

- Your essay will be worth 100 points.
- Your final draft should be typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt. font.
- This essay should be at least 4-5 paragraphs long—introduction, conclusion, and body paragraphs in CDW format.
- You should staple your rubric and all of your process to your final draft. You will lose points if you are missing any of your process.
- **FINAL DRAFT DUE DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 14**
- Late papers will be accepted; you will lose 10 points per day. **No papers will be accepted after December 18.**

Literary Analysis Topics

Choose one of the themes or symbols listed below; then write an essay that discusses either how the theme is developed throughout the novel or how the symbol is used in the novel.

Themes

1. Individual self-expression is important
2. Violence is self destructive
3. Mindless pleasure seeking and consumerism make for an empty life
4. Commercialism can erode/overpower spiritual or family values
5. People lose their humanity if they are unable to interact with one another on a personal level
6. Humanity has the ability to be reborn or revived
7. In the wrong hands, modern technology can be dangerous
8. Humanity should preserve and value the culture of the past
9. Self-reflection and questioning is essential to happiness

Symbols

1. Phoenix
2. The Hearth and the Salamander
3. The Sieve and the Sand
4. Mirrors
5. Fire
6. The Mechanical Hound
7. The parlor walls/the family

Quotation Examples

All of your quotations must be cited in the format shown below, with quotation marks, and the author's name and the page number in the parentheses.

"I sometimes think drivers don't know what grass is, or flowers, because they never see them slowly..." (Bradbury 13).

"They want to know what I do with my time, I tell them sometimes I just sit and think. But I won't tell them what. I've got them running" (Bradbury 27).

"Beatty had wanted to die. He had just stood there, not really trying to save himself, just stood there, joking, needling," (Bradbury 124).

"I'm afraid of children my own age. They kill each other. Did it always use to be this way? My uncle says no. Six of my friends have been shot in the last year alone. Ten of them died in car wrecks" (Bradbury 34)

"The keys to the beetle are on the night table. I always like to drive fast when I feel that way. You get up around ninety-five and you feel wonderful. Sometimes I drive all night and come back and you don't know it. It's fun out in the country. You hit rabbits, sometimes you hit dogs" (Bradbury 68).