

Book Club: Reading Fahrenheit 451

Teacher: Joshua Dean

Format: 4 weeks, two 1-hour sessions per week (8 sessions),

Schedule: either Tuesday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday (flexible start time between 11:00-2:00)

Suggested level: Second-language English learners, intermediate and above

Rationale

Many students lack the experience of reading a full book in a second language. University students in particular often do not make time to read for pleasure, in any language foreign or native, outside of their major studies. This course gives them a manageable, engaging way to read a full book while also building discussion skills. *Fahrenheit 451* is short (about 180–190 pages), widely translated, and about the value of reading itself. Its Lexile measure is 890L, which is accessible for intermediate learners with support.

Structure

- **Reading:** About 45 pages a week, with flexibility built in.
- **Session A:** Theme discussion in English (censorship, conformity, technology, memory).
- **Session B:** Deep-reading practice and a short weekly text.
- **Extension plan and fail-safes:** Short stories if the class finishes early or needs a lighter load.

What Makes It Distinctive

Students may read the novel in English or any language they prefer, and all discussion is in English. This lets us compare translations and examine how meaning shifts across languages. It also gives students a concrete reason to value reading in the original language, which supports their English development.

Learning Outcomes (Students will be able to:)

1. Sustain a discussion of a literary text in English
2. Support opinions with evidence from the text
3. Apply deep-reading strategies
4. Evaluate how translation affects meaning

Resources and Considerations

- **Materials:** Paperback or digital copies of the book. Some or all materials can be provided by the teacher.
- **Technology:** Phone or e-reader device if digital copies of the book are used.
- **Flexibility:** The reading pace and the backup texts can be adjusted to the group.