



ANALYSIS OF RAY BRADBURY'S FAHRENHEIT 451

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Annotation: The dystopian novel Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Douglas Bradbury is one of the most popular in the world. He describes a totalitarian society in which books are banned and subject to burning. In this fantastic book, the author shows a gloomy future, which can lead to uncontrolled technological progress, coupled with the lack of spirituality of people and the fading of interest in books.

Key words: a dystopian novel, social problems, human emotions, family and family values, loneliness, absolute insecurity, an exposition, media and television.

The work was based on the unpublished story "Fireman" (1949), as well as the story "Pedestrian"²⁹. A work that touches on acute social problems, Bradbury wrote in the Los Angeles Public Library, on a rented typewriter. First there was a magazine version of 1953, but then the novel had to withstand criticism and go through a lot of censorship changes related to the adaptation of the book for secondary schools.

The meaning of the name is directly related to books, since 451 degrees Fahrenheit is exactly the temperature at which paper ignites.

The acute social problems of Ray Bradbury's novel have not lost their relevance for many years.

The central theme of the novel is the role of books in human life. The writer without embellishment demonstrates a society of mass consumption that has lost the ability to think independently, experience deep human emotions, analyze what is happening and draw their own conclusions.

An intellectually degraded society is much easier to manipulate, and this is well known to the current government, which bans all books. The source of information is the media and television, which gradually stupefy the population, presenting the news in the right perspective.

The main idea of the work is that a bright future for mankind is impossible without the experience of past generations, contained in the most important sources of knowledge and life experience - books. Choosing between them and entertainment shows in favor of the latter, people doom themselves to inevitable degradation. This is fraught with the most serious consequences for society, since it programs itself for complete destruction.

The author also reveals the equally important topic of family and family values. Closing in on themselves and ossified in their own selfishness, people begin to ignore the importance of the family. Emotional alienation from the closest people is a direct road to loneliness and absolute insecurity, because only the family is able to come to the rescue even in the most difficult life situations. Appreciate your loved ones, take care of them tirelessly and cherish spiritual intimacy - that's what Bradbury's book teaches.

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²⁹ Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 / Harold Bloom. — <u>Chelsea House</u>, **2006. P. 96**.





In his novel, the author raises the problems of manipulating society through the media, excessive enthusiasm for technological progress, replacing moral values with consumer ones. With his work, Bradbury wants to convey a simple idea - a society in which books are banned has no future.

Composition

Analyzing the novel Fahrenheit 451, it should be noted that its structure is based on the principle of antithesis. The whole book is literally permeated with oppositions of light and darkness, vanity and calmness, noise and silence.

The construction of the book is traditional and includes an exposition, an outset, and a development of events, a climax and a denouement.

- Exposition acquaintance of the reader with a version of the modern world in which there is no place for books. Any printed publications are prohibited and subject to burning. This is done by specially trained people firefighters, to whom the protagonist of the novel, Guy Montag, belongs.
- Commencement a fire alarm urges firefighters to advance to the site of the discovery of prohibited literature as soon as possible.
- Development of events Montag's acquaintance with Clarissa, which opens his eyes to the true state of things. Gradual rethinking by the protagonist of the world in which he used to live, without thinking about anything and without delving into anything.
- Culmination voluntary self-immolation of a woman who did not want to part with her favorite books, which served her as a source of true joy, pleasant experiences, priceless memories.
- Denouement having survived the betrayal of his wife, obsessed with watching television, Montag adjoins the opposition people who decided at all costs to preserve the rich literary heritage for posterity.

Genre

"451 degrees Fahrenheit" corresponds to the genre of "novel". The work is classified as science fiction literature, it is a dystopian novel - a denial of the possibility of building a perfect society.

In the dystopian novel Fahrenheit 451, the characters live in an American city of the future, where books and reading are prohibited³⁰. The description of the social order in the city where the main characters of Fahrenheit 451 live shocks the average reader. The name of the American writer is included in the list of brilliant anti-utopians. In his books, Ray Bradbury often raises the topic of the future of mankind, the inevitable degradation due to the loss of spirituality. The work, as happens with science fiction, somehow predicted the future - from technical trifles to moral problems.

Today we have a dystopian novel published almost 70 years ago, with a story up-to-date. In this world, firefighters are created to burn any books found, and people lose the meaning of life. You can't read, you can't write, you can't talk about philosophical teachings. No one, not a single person in the world has the right to keep books in his house, not to mention the

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³⁰ Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 / Harold Bloom. — <u>Chelsea House</u>, 2006. 96 c.





opportunity to read them. And now imagine a world where it is impossible to be realized, it is impossible to learn through books, any desire to learn something is forbidden. And if you decide to go ahead, your life will be worth nothing to them.

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