Close Reading Questions for *Fahrenheit 451*

Directions: Answer the following questions. Remember that even though the answers to these questions may be personal you must be able to defend your answer with examples from the text**. FOR EACH QUESTION PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION WITH WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT.**

**One: The Hearth and the Salamander**

1. Read the paragraph that starts with the phrase, “He saw himself in her eyes.” In what ways does Montag identify with Clarice? Why does he say her face glows with the light of a candle and not an electric light? What is the significance of Montag seeing his reflection in Clarisse’s eyes? (2)
2. Read from where Clarice says, “I sometimes think drivers” to where she says, “They had to stretch out the advertising so it would last.” Racing might be a metaphor for what? (pg. 3 packet)
3. What things do the McClellans do which cause them to be classified as peculiar? (3)
4. Read from, “Happy! Of all the nonsense” to “she would yawn long before he would.” What affect does Clarice have on Montag? (4)
5. When Montag enters his home, he stares at the blank wall, but in memory sees Clarisse. What extended simile describes how he sees her? Find two further similes Montag uses to describe Clarisse. Do the similes serve any purpose other than to characterize Clarisse?
6. Read the paragraph that starts, “Her face was like a snow covered island.” Even though this paragraph is talking about Mildred in a drug induced sleep, what might it suggest about her during her waking hours? (5)
7. Read the paragraph beginning with “Hell!” Why might there be an increasing number or suicide attempts in this society? Why does Montag dislike the fact that these men are not doctors? (6)
8. In contrast to the events of Mildred’s suicide, what does Montag hear? Why might the author include this?
9. Read the paragraph that starts with “One drop of rain.” What is this odd paragraph supposed to represent? (7)
10. Does Mildred really not remember the events from the night before? How do you know? If this is true, what might this reveal about the average citizen?
11. On page 8, Mildred describes her role in the program. Look closely at her lines. Why might they be significant?
12. What test of love does Clarisse give Montag, and how does he respond to it? (9)
13. What observations does Clarisse make about how Montag differs from other firemen? (10)
14. Read the paragraph that starts with, “Oh, they don’t miss me.” How does Clarice’s definition of ‘being social’ relate to what we have been talking about with social media?
15. Read Montag’s statement that begins with “You weren’t there, you didn’t see.” What could have been in those books that would make someone die for them? What would be a cause that you would die for?