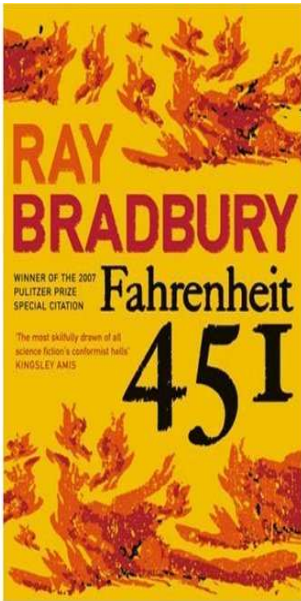


Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury



First published in 1953, the novel presents a future American society in which critical thought through reading is outlawed. The central character, Guy Montag, is employed as a "fireman" (which, in this future, means "book burner"). The number "451" refers to the temperature in Fahrenheit at which books burn. Written in the early years of the Cold War, the novel is a critique of what Bradbury saw as an increasingly dysfunctional American society. His original intention in writing the book was to show his great love for books and libraries. He has often referred to Montag as an allusion to himself. Over the years, the novel has been subject to various interpretations. Bradbury himself has stated that the novel is not about censorship but about how television destroys interest in reading literature, which leads to a perception of knowledge as being composed of "factoids", partial information devoid of context.