***Fahrenheit 451* Annotations**

**Directions:** **Use the following guide for making your annotations throughout the novel:**

**Themes:** Annotate examples of the following themes. You may also explore any other themes you find in the novel.

1. **Technology:** mass media (the parlor walls, radio, television) rules the lives of the citizens in this society. How is it used? What effect does it have on the people?
2. **Censorship:** Censorship is exercised by not only the government, but also the citizens in this society as they adapt to the expected way of life. What is censored? For what purpose?
3. **Conformity vs. Individuality:** In this society, most people conform to a fast-paced, pleasure-seeking lifestyle. Thinking and self-expression are considered dangerous; therefore, anyone who professes his or her individuality is seen as a threat to society.
4. **Distraction vs.** **Happiness**: The people in this society equate pleasure-seeking and distraction with happiness. Bradbury makes the case that when a person actually deals with difficult or uncomfortable thoughts and comes to individual conclusions, they can achieve a real and meaningful relationship with the world and each other. This leads to true happiness.

**Imagery:** Bradbury uses a great deal of sensory details in his writing. Look for strong examples that have a powerful impact on you as the reader.

**Character Development:** Annotate examples of direct and indirect characterization that reveal important information about the characters. Pay attention to whether characters are static or dynamic.

**Vocabulary:** Mark your assigned vocabulary words and any other words that are unfamiliar to you. You can add in a synonym or short definition.

**Figurative language:** Annotate examples of metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole. How are they used? What impact do these examples have?

**Symbolism:** Pay attention to symbols that repeat throughout the story (books, fire, etc.). What do they appear to represent?

**\*You should also make annotations for any items emphasized during class discussion. This will help you prepare for future assessments based on the novel!\***