

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury: Analysed Textual Examples

Technique	Example	Effect
<p>Contrast Personification</p> <p>Metaphor</p>	<p>“Her face was slender and milk-white, and in it was a kind of gentle hunger that touched over everything with tireless curiosity.”</p> <p>“...two pale moonstones buried in a creek of clear water”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The personification of “hunger” is used to describe Clarisse’s insatiable life force. - The metaphor used to describe Mildred presents a visual that is otherworldly and detached. - The contrast between these descriptions positions Clarisse and Mildred as embodiments of knowledge and ignorance
<p>Allusion</p>	<p>“But now I only hear / Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar”</p> <p>Dover Beach by Matthew Arnold</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The poem is about two lovers looking at what appears to be a happy world but recognising the essential emptiness that exists - Mimics the protagonist’s own journey from blissful ignorance to sudden awareness
<p>Repetition Ellipses</p>	<p>“Yes, thought Montag, that’s the one I’ll save for noon. For noon...”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repetition conveys a sense of self-assuredness and certainty, directly contrasting with the internal conflict Montag faces throughout the text. - The ambiguity of the ellipses suggests continuity

<p>Imagery</p>	<p>“... silly damn bird called a Phoenix”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Granger’s reference to the Phoenix in the final paragraphs of the novel highlights the similarity between humanity’s own repetitive self-destruction and the mythical creature’s endless cycle of death and rebirth.
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Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury: Sample Paragraph Analysis

Bradbury introduces Clarisse as having “... a kind of gentle hunger that touched over everything with tireless curiosity”. This personification of “hunger”, is used to describe Clarisse’s insatiable life force – one that is actively participating with the world. In contrast, Bradbury uses a metaphor to describe Mildred’s eyes as “two pale moonstones buried in a creek of clear water”. This description is otherworldly, expressing a sense of detachment. The juxtaposition between Clarisse’s viscerality and Mildred’s disconnection embodies the difference between awareness and ignorance in society. Therefore these characters are presented as two extremes, providing a reference for readers as Guy journeys from ignorance to knowledge. Movement between these binaries becomes a recurring motif in the text. Bradbury’s allusion to ‘Dover Beach’ – a poem describing two lovers looking at what appears to be a happy world but recognising the essential emptiness that exists – mimics the protagonist’s own journey towards recognition. In the concluding sentences, Montag is depicted as having reached the awareness phase of this journey, with repetition being used to convey a self-assuredness and certainty missing from the character previously, “Yes, thought Montag, that’s the one I’ll save for noon. For noon...”. However, the ambiguity of the ellipses evokes continuity, with Bradbury suggesting that this journey is ongoing and



without a definitive endpoint. Granger's reference to the Phoenix in the final paragraphs of the novel confirms this messaging, likening society's own ignorant self-destruction to the endless cycle of death and rebirth of the "... silly damn bird called a Phoenix". Bradbury uses this imagery of the Phoenix to describe human movement between ignorance and awareness as dynamic and inevitable, a constantly repeating cycle.

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