

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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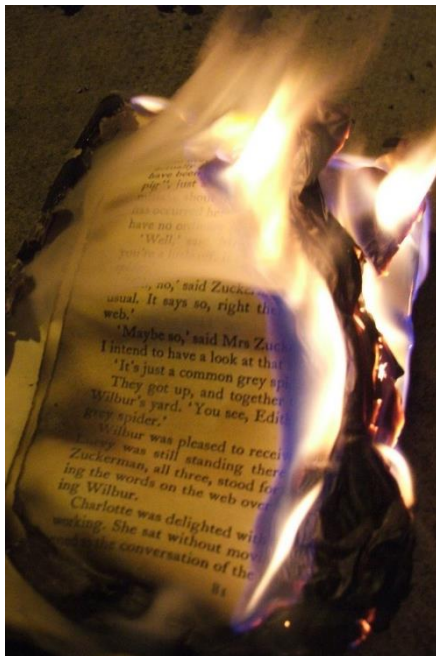
*The Giver Synthesis Activity: Fahrenheit 451*

**Directions:** Read each passage aloud with your group and discuss the questions that go along with each passage. Record the ideas from your discussion here. You will be sharing one idea from your discussion with the whole class.

In *Fahrenheit 451*, Montag is a fireman that must burn books rather than put out fire. When books are found in the society, the fire fighters burn them so no one else can read them. The following passage is Montag discussing some issues he has found in this job.

“Last night I thought about all the kerosene I’ve used in the past ten years. And I thought about books. And for the first time I realized that a man was behind each one of the books. A man had to think them up. A man had to take a long time to put them down on paper. And I’d never even thought that thought before.” He got out of bed. “It took some man a lifetime maybe to put some of his thoughts down, looking around at the world and life, and then I came along in two minutes and boom! It’s all over.”

--*Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury



**Discussion Questions:**

- Using specific evidence from the text, what does Montag realize about the power and fear associated with books?

- How does Montag’s realization compare with what Jonas realizes in *The Giver*?

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*The Giver Synthesis Activity: 1984*

**Directions:** Read each passage aloud with your group and discuss the questions that go along with each passage. Record the ideas from your discussion here. You will be sharing one idea from your discussion with the whole class.

In 1984, The Party (similar to The Community in The Giver) is developing what they call 'Newspeak' which is a language that is extremely efficient and leaves no room for excess words. In this section, the main character Winston is listening to a colleague explain the system.

"It's a beautiful thing, the Destruction of words. Of course, the great wastage is in the verbs and adjectives, but there are hundreds of nouns that can be got rid of as well. It isn't only the synonyms; there are also the antonyms. After all, what justification is there for a word, which is simply the opposite of some other word? A word contains its opposite in itself. Take 'good,' for instance. If you have a word like 'good,' what need is there for a word like 'bad'? 'Ungood' will do just as well – better, because it's an exact opposite, which the other is not. Or again, if you want a stronger version of 'good,' what sense is there in having a whole string of vague useless words like 'excellent' and 'splendid' and all the rest of them? 'Plusgood' covers the meaning or 'doubleplusgood' if you want something stronger still. Of course, we use those forms already, but in the final version of Newspeak there'll be nothing else. In the end the whole notion of goodness and badness will be covered by only six words – in reality, only one word. Don't you see the beauty of that, Winston?"

--1984, George Orwell

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**Discussion Questions:**

What makes language a beautiful thing?

- How is changing language similar to eliminating books?
- To what extent do Winston and Jonas have similar experiences?

