**Symbolism Notes: *Fahrenheit 451***

**Beatty:** selfishness of society, Mildred is a blind drone vs. Beatty who can see the problems with the world but is not motivated to change them.

“Peace, Montag. Serenity… “ (59).

“Using the books…the books turn on you” (107).

**Sieve/Sand:** heading for section 2, represents reading and books and the effect they have on the mind, can’t remember everything you read but the meaning of what you read can stay in the sieve. We continue to pour more and more into the sieve so that what trickles out is replaced. In the 451 society, the sieve is not refilled and knowledge is lost.

**Seashells:** drown out society, avoidance, denial. Seashells inform Montag but reveal him when Faber is on the other end. Mildred can escape and avoid feelings with her seashells. People want noise rather than life…. Mindlessness over mindfulness. “He remembered the terrible logic>>>” (79).

“Fill the sieve and you’ll get . . .” (78)

**Mildred:** average citizen, drone, acceptance without question, subservient to the society, accepts technology and needs it.

“forgot all about it…” (Clarisse’s death).

Overdose, seashells, parlour…

**Faber:** knowledge, history, writing/literature, guide, companion for Montag, comfort.

“You’ll have to travel blind for a while… “(92)

**Montag:** rebellion, independent thinker, person seeking truth, knowledge, responsible society

“As he walked…” (24).

**The Hound:** change in society from compassionate (man’s best friend) to cold and precise…. Hunting “wrongdoing” and punishing. “It doesn’t like electricity…” (26)

**Clarisse:** what society used to be and what it should be, catalyst for Montag’s change in viewpoint.

“Oh no, you weren’t fooled…” (13)

**Salamander:** fire truck, salamanders can withstand heat without being destroyed.

“…the salamander?...” (108)

**Phoenix:** we repeat our mistakes just as the phoenix keeps being re-born in fire.

“There was a silly damn bird. . .” (163).

**Books:** knowledge, viewpoints, societal commentary

“Maybe books can get us . . .” (74).

**Fire:** burning can both destroy and re-create.

“If you let it go on it’ll burn… “ (115) (146)