

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Fahrenheit 451—Dover Beach*

When Mildred's friends come over, Montag becomes fed up with their shallow and self-centered qualities. He wants them to have discussions with meaning and significance. In response to his frustration, Montag brings out one of his secret books and reads the women a poem, *Dover Beach* by Matthew Arnold. The poem is printed below for you. Look at the poem and paraphrase (put into your own words) your assigned section next to the text.

***Dover Beach* by Matthew Arnold**

The sea is calm to-night.  
The tide is full, the moon lies fair  
Upon the straits; on the French coast the light  
Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand;  
Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.  
Come to the window, sweet is the night-air!

Only, from the long line of spray  
Where the sea meets the moon-blanch'd land,  
Listen! you hear the grating roar  
Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling,  
At their return, up the high strand,  
Begin, and cease, and then again begin,  
With tremulous cadence slow, and bring  
The eternal note of sadness in.

Sophocles long ago  
Heard it on the Aegean, and it brought  
Into his mind the turbid ebb and flow  
Of human misery; we  
Find also in the sound a thought,  
Hearing it by this distant northern sea.

The Sea of Faith  
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore  
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled.  
But now I only hear  
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,  
Retreating, to the breath  
Of the night-wind, down the vast edges drear  
And naked shingles of the world.

Ah, love, let us be true  
To one another! for the world, which seems  
To lie before us like a land of dreams,  
So various, so beautiful, so new,  
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,  
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;  
And we are here as on a darkling plain  
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,  
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

After reading the poem, answer the following questions.

1. How does this poem reflect the world of *Fahrenheit 451*? Why would Bradbury choose to use it?
2. What is the mood of the poem? What attitude does the narrator have?
3. What perspective is the poem being told from? To whom is the speaker speaking?
4. Is there a connection in the novel to the people in this poem?
5. Does it seem likely that this person will get what they're asking for? Why or why not?

