

Name: _____

By Ray Bradbury Fahrenheit 451

The best thing
about memories is...

Paired Info Text: *The Power of Memory*

Read the article “Remember This” from the *National Geographic Magazine*, and answer the questions from below. Cite from text where necessary.

ANALYZE THE ARTICLE

1. Define the following words using context clues from the text: notoriously, mere, inundates, cached, advent, indelible
2. What is the main purpose of the article?
3. Describe what technique the author used to open and close the article. Then explain the choice/significance of ending it with that specific quote.
4. Explain the differences between the two subjects discussed in this article: AJ and EP. If you had to choose which person’s memory to have, which would you choose and why?
5. What is the scientific definition of a memory?
6. The writer uses several metaphors and allusions to describe memory or its absence. Write two of them here, and explain why they work.
7. Near the end of the article, the author lists several unanswered questions about using drugs to enhance memories. What unanswered questions can you add to the list?

SYNTHESIZE WITH FAHRENHEIT 451

8. In the novel, Beatty explains to Montag that people’s heads have been filled with useless information, which makes them *feel* smarter. The author of the article similarly says that “Our culture inundates with us with new information [...] what would it mean to have [it] all [...] at our fingertips?” In that same paragraph in the article, the writer explains that it’s not really about having all the information you can get, but it’s about something else. Montag would agree with his sentiment. What is it that he says? In other words, what really is the most important thing about memory?
9. The article describes the Greek poet’s “art of memory” in contrast with a shift that developed in the past millennium. What is that shift, and how does Bradbury’s novel exemplify (or make that shift become a reality)? What are the consequences of that shift, according to the novel?
10. The author of the article mentions that with diseases like Alzheimer's, and others that rob people of their memories, scientists and doctors have been working to create medical solutions and medicines to restore or prevent memory loss or even enhance our memories. Bradbury’s novel is full of science-fiction, cutting-edge technology during his time. Why, then, did he not “create” a pill for Montag to take to help him remember the books? If there were such a pill to take to enhance your memory like something out of a modern-day science-fiction movie, would you take it? Why or why not? What are the implications of a such a pill?

Challenge: How would Montag finish the quote on the corner of this worksheet? How would you answer it?