

## 《Fahrenheit 451》

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原始書名：《Fahrenheit 451》

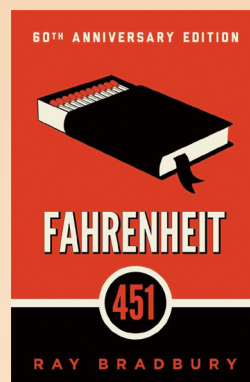
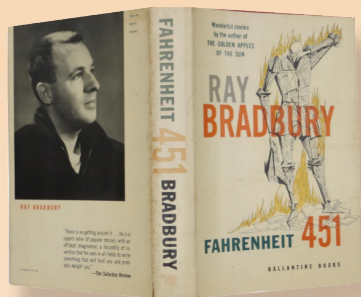
中文書名：華氏451度

作者：Ray Bradbury

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### 前言：

〈華氏451度〉是美國作家 Ray Bradbury 所著的一本反諷小說，於1953年出版。此書被視為Bradbury最膾炙人口的作品之一，被知名法國導演Francois Roland Truffaut改編為電影，於1966年上映。小說深獲大眾歡迎且獲獎無數，1954年同時獲美國藝術暨文學學會之文學獎及雨果復古獎，1984年獲普羅米修斯名人堂獎。

小說描寫一個恐怖的未來世界，這個世界的獨裁者禁止人民擁有書籍，只要被發現有書，都一律燒毀，而華氏451度是紙張起火燃燒的溫度。消防員的任務不是滅火，而是焚書，文中主角 Guy Montag 即是一位負責焚書的消防員，理由是統治者認為書是違禁品，如同毒品，有害身心健康，必須查禁銷毀。

### 推薦人的話：

若同學曾看過電影版的〈華氏451度〉，那閱讀這本書應該會更加容易。老師之所以推薦這本書，是希望同學們了解審查制度(censorship)的意義，並對故事中焚書坑儒的思想壓制加以批判，以期大家能更加珍惜自己所生存的環境：一個維護民主自由、包容且尊重多元思想的社會。

故事中，獨裁者將百萬本書籍列為禁書，包括達爾文、孔子及甘地的作品，以及聖經、理想國、格列佛遊記等經典名著，均被政府視為毫無價值與內涵且危害社會安定的物品。原先盡忠職守的消防員Guy Montag則漸漸覺醒，開始質疑讀書是否真的是一件危險的事，最終決定鋌而走險，挑戰這個社會的不合理，並殺害即將焚書的長官而被通緝。逃亡過程中Montag結交了一群好友，他們同為護書者，並把書的內容記在腦海裡，期待日後解禁之日，將書之內文完整背誦出，讓書能重新出版，進而延續知識與智慧的結晶。

至於為何這個社會禁止書籍的存在呢？從文中人物之對話得知：統治者認為知識會加劇社會的不平等，沒有書才能解決貧富差距、階級對立等社會問題，此外，哲學、文學及各類經典名著會讓讀者產生憂鬱感，與其成天探討知識使人困惑迷惘，不如無書，才能享有幸福快樂。如此似是而非的論調，刻劃出審查制度的弊病，並凸顯出思想自由的可貴。

### 內容簡介：

The story begins with Guy Montag, a “fireman” in a futuristic society, where his mission is to start fires rather than put them out. People in this society are not allowed to read books, nor do they enjoy nature or engage in any meaningful conversations; instead, they drive dangerously fast and watch an excessive amount of television.

Montag experiences a number of disturbing incidents. First, his wife attempts to commit suicide by taking a bottle of sleeping pills. Next, when he responds to an alarm signaling that a woman possesses a large amount of hidden literature, she terrified him by opting to be buried alive along with

her books. A few days later, he was told that a young girl named Clarisse was killed by a speeding car. All these greatly intensify Montag's dissatisfaction with his life, triggering him to seek a solution in a pile of books that he has stolen and hidden inside an air-conditioning vent. To preserve these books, Montag, along with other wandering book lovers, memorizes the content before destroying them. They cling firmly to the idea that "books can never be forgotten – we shall strive to protect them and pass such precious knowledge onto future generations."

### 名家讚譽：

★ "The novel presents a savage and shockingly prophetic view of one possible future way of life. It is viewed as an important cautionary tale about conformity and the evils of government censorship." — Chicago Tribune.

「華氏451度呈現出一種未來生活模式的預測，這種生活是殘酷且令人震驚的，它被視為一本探討從眾及審查制度的重要作品。」—— 芝加哥論壇報

### 作者簡介：Ray Bradbury

Ray Douglas Bradbury, born on August 22, 1920, was an American author and screenwriter. Widely regarded as one of the most prominent American writers in the 20th century, Bradbury produced works that were translated into over forty languages and sold millions of copies across the globe. Best known for his novel: *Fahrenheit 451*, he also wrote and consulted on a wide array of screenplays and television scripts: *Moby Dick* and *It Came from Outer Space*, just to name a few.

Throughout his youth, Bradbury was an exceptional reader and writer, knowing at a young age that he was going to work in the field of arts. He commenced writing his own stories at the age of 12, citing H. G. Wells and Jules Verne as his principal source of science-fiction influence. He rose to international fame following the publication of *The Martian Chronicles* (1950), with an incredible amount of literary output totaling to six hundred short stories, over thirty books, and countless poems and plays.

In 2004, Bradbury was awarded a National Medal of Art, presented by President George W. Bush, followed by the Illinois Literary Heritage Award in 2008 and the Scream Awards (an award dedicated to horror, sci-fi, and fantasy themes of feature films) in 2010. He died on June 6, 2012, at the age of 97, in Los Angeles, California.

### 參考資料：

- \* <https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/ray-bradbury>
- \* <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/451/plot-analysis/>
- \* <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Fahrenheit-451-novel-by-Bradbury>
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### 延伸閱讀：

#### ♥ Bad News: How Woke Media Is Undermining Democracy

作者：Batya Ungar-Sargon.

出版社：Encounter Books

出版年：2021

ISBN：9781641772990

#### ♥ Unfreedom of the Press

作者：Mark R. Levin

出版社：Simon & Schuster Audio

出版年：2019

ISBN：9781508287629

