**Dystopia**: A futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, criticize a current trend, societal norm, or political system.
Characteristics of a Dystopian Society

1. Propaganda is used to control the citizens of society.
2. Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted.
3. A figurehead or concept is worshipped by the citizens of the society.
4. Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
5. Citizens have a fear of the outside world.
7. The natural world is banished and distrusted.
8. Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.
9. The society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world.
Types of Dystopian Controls

Oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through one of the following types of controls:

- **Corporate Control**: Controls society through products, advertising, and/or the media.
- **Bureaucratic Control**: Society is controlled by a mindless bureaucracy through a tangle of red tape, relentless regulations, and incompetent government officials.
- **Technological Control**: Society is controlled by technology—computers, robots, and/or scientific means.
- **Philosophical/Religious Control**: Society is controlled by philosophical or religious ideology often enforced through a dictatorship or theocratic government.
The Dystopian Protagonist

1. Often feels trapped and is struggling to escape.
2. Questions the existing social and political systems.
3. Believes or feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives.
4. Helps the audience recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian world through his or her perspective.
THEMES

1. Conformity vs. individuality
2. Freedom of speech and the consequences of losing it
3. The importance of remembering and understanding history
4. Machines as helpers to humans, machines as hindrances or enemies
Who is Ray Bradbury?
- What inspired him to write Fahrenheit 451?
- What was his primary source of education?
- What important world events may have influenced him?
- What was the true purpose of this book?
- Is there a movie? Was it successful?
- What other works did Bradbury write?
- What honors did he receive?
- What’s the significance of the title?
- What do you think Bradbury would say about our reliance on the Internet and social media?

"Science fiction is a great way to pretend you are writing about the future when in reality you are attacking the recent past and the present" ~ Ray Bradbury
READ FOR:

• Imagery—appeals to senses
• Contrasts
• Symbols—fire, clock, mirror, tomb, hearth, salamander
• Governmental Control
• Technological Devices
Bradbury claimed he was trying to "prevent the future"

He did foresee many future developments:
Books with Communist Messages

1953

Christian Bibles

2003
Dystopia Fahrenheit 451

September 04, 2014

40 BANNED BOOKS to READ AT YOUR OWN RISK

BANNED BOOKS AWARENESS WEEK 2012
SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 6

#BBAW12
Socrates: "The unexamined life is not worth living"

Notebook: How does this quote relate to the dystopic novel that you read this summer. Use at least one quote from your book to support your answer.