Research some historical incidents of book burning. What motivated the book burners?

Research the destruction of Nimrud and Hatra today. Do you think the motivation for destroying art is different than the motivation for destroying books?

One of the big differences between today in Canada versus the past or in poor countries is that our records have been digitized. How does this make a difference to the effectiveness of book burning and the destruction of art?

Do you think that more effective preservation of history, ideas, and art makes the destruction of art and books less likely?

Is there a difference between books and art and if/why they should be protected?

The decision by Mrs. Blake to burn with her books is disturbing, but there are real life examples, like the famous case of protest by self-immolation by Thích Quảng Đức, ([pronunciation](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/file%3Athich_quang_duc.ogg)) a Buddhist monk protesting the treatment of Buddhists by the Southern Vietnamese government in 1963. Another famous example is Tunisian Mohamed Bouazizi who set himself on fire after a dispute with a government official over where he could sell fruits and vegetables, sparking the ‘Arab Spring’ protests in December of 2010.

What about the world of Fahrenheit 451 made Mrs. Blake so desperate?

How is Mrs. Blake’s situation similar to the examples of real-life protest? How is it different? You may wish to research to inform your answers.

What are some other examples of protest by people who feel that they have no voice?

Could self-immolation protests happen in Canada today? If you believe the answer is yes, which groups do you think are most likely to be affected, and why? If you believe the answer is no, what aspects of Canadian society keep it from happening?

What can Canadians do instead of resorting to these desperate measures when we want to change something?

Beatty’s claim that eliminating books allowed everyone to be made equal can be paired with the short story ‘Harrison Bergeron’ by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Look up the definition of the word equal and contrast it with the word equality. What are some differences?

Can everyone be made equal?

Are people more equal in Harrison Bergeron or in Fahrenheit 451? In which story are they better off?

Would you want to live in a world where everyone was equal? Justify your answer by explaining how it would affect social interactions, sports, the arts, the economy?

Do books and education keep people from becoming equal? If so, why? If not, why would Beatty claim that they do?

A philosopher named Adam Swift has suggested that parents who read to their children give them an advantage over children whose parents don’t read to them. He suggests that this creates a lopsided playing field. Do you think he’s right? Would a world like the one in Harrison Bergeron or Fahrenheit 451 solve this problem? What is a better solution?