

PROTAGONIST’S FEELINGS AND IMPRESSIONS IN THE NOVEL OF “FAHRENHEIT 451” BY RAY BRADBURY

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Abstract: This article reveals the specific features of the main hero in the given novel and depict all the feelings and impressions which felt by characters of the novel. It is explained the tender features of literary depiction in fantastic work and analysed the implementation of feelings and impressions of protagonist in the research.

Key words: protagonist, feelings, impressions, Guy Montag, Clarisse McClellan, dystopian fiction.

The quote “Character is what you are in the dark” by Dwight Lyman Moody means that we show and understand who we truly are when we come across dramatic events in which real life is shown in fiction. Sometimes, there are events that makes us discover or think about ourselves and change our thoughts about life. I think this quote is very accurate and suitable when you read the novel “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury. The reason is that this book urges you to think and change some of your habits in life.

In fact, the book, “Fahrenheit 451”, was written in 1953 by American writer Ray Bradbury. The author Ray Douglas Bradbury wrote mostly in science fiction, horror, mystery, fantasy, and realistic fiction.¹ The New York Times called Bradbury “the writer most responsible for bringing modern science fiction into the literary mainstream”.² “Fahrenheit 451” is his outstanding novel. We can say that the novel includes various genres like science fiction, dystopian fiction, political fiction. “Fahrenheit 451” is a uniquely shocking and provocative novel about a dystopian society set in a future where reading books is banned, thinking is considered a sin due to the technology because technology is at its prime and human interaction is rare and scarce. Via the main hero, Guy Montag, author takes consideration on the dangers which come in the future because of innovative technologies. If you pay attention there is a meaning that the book called Fahrenheit 451 because 451 is a degree at which book paper burns. Protagonist is a thirty-year-old man who works as a firefighter instead of taking out fires, he starts fires. In the novel, firefighters burn all the books and papers as the society thinks they are useless and they waste time while reading. Having or keeping books at home is illegal and even someone who tries to protect books firemen burn him with his property. Without any doubt, the novel shed a light on both black and white sides of the society.

In “Fahrenheit 451” Guy Montag described a good-looking male with “black hair, black brows...fiery face, and...blue-steel shaved but unshaved look”.³ The main protagonist changes from a ruthless and fierce fireman to someone who loves and admires books and wants to learn them. This transformation starts when he meets Clarisse who is a neighbor. Through his friendship with Clarisse

¹ en.m.wikipedia.org

² Jonas, Gerald.” Ray Bradbury, Master of science fiction, Dies at 91”. The New York Times. 2012

³ Ray Bradbury. Fahrenheit 451. United States. October 19, 1953.

McClellan, Montag realizes the demerits of society and burning books. He starts to take the joy of nature which he rarely feels.

Montag's moroseness reaches its pick after he witnesses the burning of an old woman. Before the death of the lady he tells Beatty, "Didn't fireman prevent fires rather than stoke them up and get them going". After that Montag has a spiritual dilemma of love and hate for his job. He realizes, "...There must be something in books, things we can't do, to make a woman stay in a burning house..." the government is hiding something which books can show us that is what he realizes. Montag feels horrible for what he did and decides to learn reading and find the truth behind books.

As you can see, Guy Montag, the main hero of Bradbury's novel feels countless feelings and emotions. At the very beginning of the novel, Montag was described a man who enjoys burning books. He loves his job and feels proud even. However, at the end, he feels sorry all things which were done by him. One emotion Montag felt in the end of the work is tired, he was fed up with the rules and didn't want to follow them anymore. He rebelled against society and people who terminate books. He was feeling crazy and rebellious at that time and he said "I am alive for the first time in years". After breaking unhealthy society, he felt calm and slightly depressed. Describing this moment author wrote, the hound was gone. Now there was only the cold river and Montag floating in a sudden peacefulness, away from the city, away from the lights, away from everything".

To conclude, I can say that "Fahrenheit 451" is a work of masterpiece in its genre. It represents today's world; becoming slaves to the television set and the Internet. Thought it was written in 1950's, it shows 21st century illnesses. Burning books is a symbolic representation of ignoring to read a book. Through the main hero's role, we can perceive that how much the book is precious. Moreover, reading books makes us literate and aware of everything existing in the world. It is easy to say that Fahrenheit 451 as the book with the true reflection of the society people live in nowadays.

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