Reading Assignment Example

Main Idea

Bad: The paragraph described Clarisse. She’s skinny, gross-looking, and kinda weird. See, Montage was walking home from work, and this girl is waiting for him at the corner. She starts talking to him and asking him weird questions. She’s so weird.

Better: The purpose of the third full paragraph on page five was for Bradbury to describe Clarisse, who might end up being a major character in this book. She is physically described as being pale and gentle. This is the first time we meet Clarisse and she is acting a little strange, at least strange in relation to Montag.

Best: The purpose of the third full paragraph on page five was for Bradbury to characterize Clarisse. She is described nearly as a ghost or an angel. Most adjectives that describe her reference light and whiteness. In addition, she is describe to move toward Montag almost as if she is floating, like a ghost, “. . . fixed to a sliding walk.” The reference of light towards her also brings about a positive symbol to her. She is illuminating a dark night, a bright figure in a dark setting.

Comparative

Bad: Clarisse and Mildred are two totally different people. Clarisse is happy and Mildred is sad. Mildred tried killing herself with pills and then these guys came with a snake and pumped her stomach. She is not a good person.

Better: Clarisse and Mildred act differently from one another. Clarisse is a curious girl who befriends Montag. Her happiness seems to surprise Montag. Mildred, Montag’s wife, is unhappy. She was found almost dead by Montag. What ever she is going through it must be bad because she tried to kill herself.

Best: The first two female characters we meet in the first section of the book seem completely opposite. Clarisse is a curious, happy person. Her and her family’s laughter can be heard throughout the night. Clarisse is described as being bright, white, laughing, and curious. Mildred on the other hand must be utterly depressed. She was introduced to us in an environment of coldness and darkness. In fact, the first reference to her bedroom was a marble mausoleum. The effect and influence both character’s mood has on Montag is something to focus on, as well.

Generalization

Bad: When the coverall guys are leaving Montag’s house, they say that doctors can’t make it to everyone’s house who tries to kill themselves. There aren’t enough doctors. So there must not be a lot of doctors where Montag lives.

Better: As the operators who saved Mildred’s life were leaving, they stated that real doctors can’t do this procedure because there are too many instances of attempted suicide each night that there are not enough doctor’s get to each patient. This reveals that the society, which Montag and Mildred live in, has a lot of unhappy people, unhappy to the disturbing point that many try to commit suicide on a nightly basis.

Best: There is a high rate of attempted suicide in Montag’s society, as revealed by the operators as they were explaining why doctors didn’t perform the procedure to everyone. “We get these cases night or ten a night. Got so many . . . we had specifal machines built” If there are that many people attempting suicide a night, that machines needed to be invented to save their lives, then the society must be highly dysfunctional to the individuals.

Meaning of Words

Melancholy: a deep, pensive, and long-lasting sadness. This word is important to the reading because it captures the mood within Montag’s household.