

Dangerous and destructive cars are used in *Fahrenheit 451* which proves that technology unless used with care is a theme in the novel. A reason for this is when cars can be good in a society. With caution cars are very helpful to be around because cars can get people from place to place. They are fast and productive way for people to get to their destination. When Mildred states, "The keys to the beetle are on the night table. I always like to drive fast when I feel that way. You get it up around ninety-five and you feel wonderful. Sometimes I drive all night and come back and you don't know it. It's fun out in the country. You hit rabbits, sometimes you hit dogs. Go take the beetle" (68). Citizens of *Fahrenheit 451* will be much more organized if people use cars with care. Also, this will prevent people from living with fear in a society. This proves that cars being good in a society helps prove that technology is a theme in Fahrenheit. Another reason that cars exemplify technology as a theme in Fahrenheit is the bad way they affect society. When Guy is on the run from the search pack, a car is coming after him, and tries to hit him. He almost is hit and killed by this car of ridiculous teenagers. This is a common occurrence however. People in this story for fun try to hit innocent civilians quite often. In fact, that is how Clarisse died. The society is disrupted by this and it causes people to live in Fahrenheit with grave fear. This example proves that the negative use of cars can be detrimental to a society and is a theme in the novel *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

Lastly, fast cars help prove the theme is existent in *Fahrenheit 451*. The cars in the world Montag lives in are much more advanced than the cars of today. They are more compact, as most of them are similar to the Volkswagen Beetle, and they can travel at much higher speeds. Again, this seems like a helpful invention. But owning one of these super-powered cars has its downsides. First of all, many people in this society are depressed. This probably comes from the lack of value in life, but nonetheless, people are depressed. In the book, people sometimes grow so depressed and so frustrated with life that they use their car to help release. Many people will get in their beetle and drive around the countryside at 90-125 mph. Mildred gives insight to this feeling when she tells a frustrated Montag, "Go take the beetle [...] I always like to drive fast when I feel that way. You get it up around ninety-five and you feel wonderful [...] It's fun out in the country. You hit rabbits, sometimes dogs" (68). Mildred feels her stress relieved in the car. However, Mildred is still depressed when she returns home. This shows that, though driving fast gives temporary relief, the driver stays depressed. In this way, people use cars as a fallback, and never actually solve their depression problem. Also, cars are very dangerous. Even though Mildred talks about running over rabbits and dogs, drivers will not hesitate to hit another human being. At the beginning of the book, Montag's newly found friend, Clarisse McClellan is struck and killed by a car. Later on, two teenagers graze Montag with their car. These cars are just another way for people to be violent. With the technology to build these cars, the people in *Fahrenheit 451* should be able to keep from people from being killed almost every day. But they cannot and clearly prevent a productive society, thus giving more proof of this theme in the novel.