

Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451: The Perfect Book for Everybody Reads

"Bradbury's work is pure prophecy. Much of what he envisioned has already come true," says actor Tobias Andersen, who played a major role in the first theater adaptation of Ray Bradbury's famous novel Fahrenheit 451. Set in a future where books are not only banned, but also burned, Fahrenheit 451 explores what might happen in an America where people are forced to stop reading.

Everybody Reads is a program that gets people of all ages and walks of life excited about reading, by encouraging the whole community to read one great book. The program, produced by Multnomah County Library and made possible by The Library Foundation, was created to spark community dialogue about the selected book and crucial issues it brings forth.

"Bradbury's work is so timely," says Library Foundation CEO Merris Sumrall. "Fahrenheit 451 shows how essential reading and learning are to a thriving culture. It's a chilling story about one man's struggle for freedom that reveals

how an entire culture can be stripped away when books and intellectual freedom are outlawed. Bradbury is truly one of America's master writers."

The book is indeed well suited for Everybody Reads; a program that engaged thousands in reading when it was launched in 2003. More than 70 book clubs registered with the Library to read last year's featured book – A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines. This year, based on overwhelming response to last year's program, Bradbury's book is expected to circulate more than 7,500 times.

Everybody Reads is brought to our community thanks to the commitment of private donors and the leadership of The Library Foundation. To find out more about Everybody Reads, visit www.multcolib.org/reads.

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