

Reading: Admire, Inquire, Inspire

Sitting on the front porch on a sunny day, I started to read my first book, *Green Eggs and Ham*. Beginning that day, my love for books grew and grew. I am similar to Ray Bradbury in that the library was the most exciting place in the world. As a little girl, I spent hours in the school library because it meant escaping the reality of my world. Gaining knowledge comes naturally with the action of reading. When we read, ask questions, write, and read some more, we learn more than we could have imagined to.

Ray Bradbury, author of *Fahrenheit 451*, read all the time throughout his life. His brain expanded with knowledge and ideas each time he finished a book. Similar to the little girl in *Matilda*, Bradbury self-educated with books from the library. His years spent researching and escaping reality enabled him to write *Fahrenheit 451* in just nine days. His quick ability to write a great novel in a short amount of time makes me wonder about how his first draft looked.

Anne LaMott mentions in "Shitty First Drafts" that it is okay for the first draft to be rough and raw because it is the "child's draft," and the point is to get ideas written down that may have extraordinary potential. I believe that Bradbury had potential already stored away ready to come out when needed.

Sometimes a text is not as intriguing to a reader that is necessary for a project. Mortimer Adler's essay suggests engaging in a book by conversing with the text. I am sure Bradbury had conversations with the books that he educated himself with. I know that making notes and summaries of readings I do for my classes help with understanding the main concepts. Marking up a book aids with referring back to a section that one may want to include in an essay.

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I believe that good writing stems from reading, fully engaging in what you read, and writing down thoughts even if they seem irrelevant. The more one reads, the more knowledge he/she gains. Asking a text questions can lead one to a deeper understanding of the text as well as provide ease with the writing process. I look forward to strengthening my ability to write and to comprehend.

Works Cited

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