



# English I

## Week 2

## English I, Week 2

### Powerful Openings

In the following activities, you will read and discuss the opening paragraphs of two novels, each of which is written from a different narrative point of view. Then you will choose a novel opening to rewrite from a different narrative point of view. In addition, you will define and analyze a group of words to help you build background knowledge and make predictions about the opening paragraphs of a novel.

Week 2 Task 1: Activity 4.5 p.473-476 (~45 min)

- Complete “Opening Writing Prompt” on p. 473 (5 min)
- Read the “About Author” on p. 473 (2-3 min)- conduct on the spot research to learn more about Sharon Draper
- Read *from Out of My Mind* on p. 474 and do “Making Observations” on p. 474 (10 min)
- Read *from Fahrenheit 451* on p.475 and do “Making Observations” on p. 475 (10 min)
- Complete “Working from the Text” and (5 min)
- Read “Gaining Perspective” p. 476 (5 min)
- Complete “Check Your understanding” p. 476 (5 min)

Week 2 Task 2: Activity 4.5 p.476 (~30 min)

- Complete “Writing Prompt: Literary” on p. 476 (30 min)

Week 2 Task 3: Activity 4.6 p.477-478 (35 min)

- Complete “Defining Words” (15 min)
- Complete “Making Predictions” p. 478 (10 min)
- Complete the “Check Your Understanding” questions p. 478 (10 min)



## My Notes

## Novel

*from* **Out of My Mind**

by Sharon Draper

## Words.

1 I'm surrounded by thousands of words. Maybe millions.

2 *Cathedral. Mayonnaise. Pomegranate.*

3 *Mississippi. Neapolitan. Hippopotamus.*

4 *Silky. Terrifying. Iridescent.*

5 *Tickle. Sneeze. Wish. Worry.*

6 Words have always swirled around me like snowflakes—each one delicate and different, each one melting untouched in my hands.

7 Deep within me, words pile up in huge drifts. Mountains of phrases and sentences and connected ideas. Clever expressions. Jokes. Love songs.

8 From the time I was really little—maybe just a few months old—words were like sweet, liquid gifts, and I drank them like lemonade. I could almost taste them. They made my jumbled thoughts and feelings have substance. My parents have always blanketed me with conversation. They chattered and babbled. They verbalized and vocalized. My father sang to me. My mother whispered her strength into my ear.

9 Every word my parents spoke to me or about me I absorbed and kept and remembered. All of them.

10 I have no idea how I untangled the complicated process of words and thought, but it happened quickly and naturally. By the time I was two, all my memories had words, and all my words had meanings.

11 But only in my head.

12 I have never spoken one single word. I am almost eleven years old.

**Making Observations**

- How does the opening of this novel make you feel?
- What is one adjective you could use to describe the narrator, Melody?

## Novel

## My Notes

*from* **Fahrenheit 451**

by Ray Bradbury

1 It was a pleasure to burn.

2 It was a special pleasure to see things eaten, to see things blackened and changed. With the brass **nozzle** in his fists, with this great python spitting its venomous kerosene upon the world, the blood pounded in his head, and his hands were the hands of some amazing conductor playing all the symphonies of blazing and burning to bring down the **tatters** and charcoal ruins of history. With his symbolic helmet numbered 451 on his stolid head, and his eyes all orange flame with the thought of what came next, he flicked the igniter and the house jumped up in a gorging fire that burned the evening sky red and yellow and black. He strode in a swarm of fireflies. He wanted above all, like the old joke, to shove a marshmallow on a stick in the furnace, while the flapping pigeon-winged books died on the porch and lawn of the house. While the books went up in sparkling whirls and blew away on a wind turned dark with burning.

3 Montag grinned the fierce grin of all men singed and driven back by flame.

**Making Observations**

- How does the opening of this novel make you feel?
- What is one adjective you could use to describe Montag?

**nozzle:** tube at the end of a hose  
**tatters:** old and ragged pieces

## INDEPENDENT READING LINK

### Read and Research

Consider conducting research into the life, work, and writing process of the author of the book you are reading independently. Before beginning your research, brainstorm some questions you have about the author. For example, *When did the author publish the book I am reading? How has this book been received by readers and critics? Why did the author write this book? What suggestions does this book's author have for other writers?* Then search for answers to your questions, using the Internet or print resources, such as biographies, magazine interviews, and encyclopedias. As you conduct research, take notes and make sure you are using credible sources and cross-checking information to make sure it is factual. After you have finished your research, write a paragraph about your author to share with your peers.

## Working from the Text

1. What is the narrative point of view in the excerpt from Draper's novel, and how does it affect the way you perceive and feel about the character of Melody?
2. What is the narrative point of view in the excerpt from Bradbury's novel, and how does it affect the way you perceive and feel about the character of Montag?



## Gaining Perspectives

Melody and Montag appear to be drastically different people; however, they both display physical or mental health concerns. One doesn't speak, and the other enjoys burning things. Imagine you are a teacher and have students with mental or physical health concerns. How could you gather information to help you best understand their health and promote their well-being? Discuss the following questions with a partner: How could you make sure the information is valid? How would you protect the students' privacy? Then write a summary of your discussion in your Reader/Writer Notebook.



## Writing Prompt: Literary

Choose one of the following writing prompts:

- a. Rewrite a section of the *Out of My Mind* novel opening from the third-person point of view, allowing the reader to see Melody from more of a distance.
- b. Rewrite a section of the *Fahrenheit 451* novel opening from the first-person point of view, allowing the reader direct access into Montag's thoughts.

As you rewrite, keep the spirit of the passage but shift the perspective. For example, if you are writing from Montag's first-person perspective, you cannot alter the fact that he is experiencing pleasure, but you can give more detail about what he is thinking as he burns the books.



## Check Your Understanding

How does shifting narrative perspective alter the reader's feelings toward each character?

# Word Study

## Learning Targets

- Use print and digital resources to define words and phrases.
- Analyze the connotations of words.
- Make predictions about the tone and content of a text, based on its use of language.

## Preview

In this activity, you will define and analyze a group of words to help you build background knowledge and make predictions about the opening paragraphs of a novel.

## Learning Strategies

Predicting  
Previewing  
Word Sort

## My Notes

## Defining the Words

1. Work together with a group of your classmates to sort the following words into categories based on the words' meanings and relationships. Consult print and digital resources, such as a dictionary, a thesaurus, or an encyclopedia, to help you create categories. Then write the categories and each word and its definition(s) in your Reader/Writer Notebook.

paper	ramparts	cane	France
monarch	German	hum	The Channel
ink	Her Majesty	flutter	revolution
bombardier	hive	sightless	worker bees
leaflets	mortars	rattling	cannon
queen	swirl	artillery	cartwheels
Braille	drone		

## Making Predictions

2. Based on your categorization of the words, answer the following questions about the opening of the novel they come from.

- What can you theorize about the novel’s subject? Write your answer and tell which words support your response.

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- What can you theorize about the novel’s setting? Write your answer and tell which words support your response.

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## Check Your Understanding

Make a prediction about the opening of the novel you are about to read, based on what you’ve inferred from words that come from it. Consider using one of the following sentence frames to help you write your prediction.

*I predict that the first chapter will be set in \_\_\_\_\_ based on the author’s use of the words \_\_\_\_\_ .*

*I predict that the first chapter will be set during \_\_\_\_\_ based on the author’s use of the words \_\_\_\_\_ .*

*I predict that the first chapter will be about \_\_\_\_\_ based on the author’s use of the words \_\_\_\_\_ .*