

Fixing Common Errors with Analysis

The fixed example! See below to see where this paragraph started out.

In *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury creates the TV parlor in an attempt to illustrate how addiction to technology can isolate members of a society. Early in the novel, Mildred is captivated by the parlor walls to the point where she asks Montag for a fourth wall to complete their parlor. Mildred states, “it’ll be even more fun when we can afford to have the fourth wall installed. How long you figure before we save up and get the fourth wall torn out and a fourth wall-TV put in?” (Bradbury 19). Mildred’s desire for the fourth parlor wall, despite Montag’s protests, demonstrates her priorities where entertainment is involved. Mildred makes the conscience decision to place the parlor above her duties as a spouse, and that decision serves to make the reader realize the power of her addiction. Ray Bradbury uses the addition of a fourth wall to symbolize Mildred’s complete disconnection from Montag and the rest of society. It is Mildred’s separation from Montag that parallels the fear that Ray Bradbury has for future generations becoming disconnected from one another as well. The consequences of this disconnection from society would result in a severe lack of compassion. As Bradbury showcases in the end of the novel, this lack of compassion, this devaluing of human life, would ultimately lead to the downfall of the society. As our culture modernizes, entertainment becomes more prevalent in society, and Ray Bradbury’s fear for contemporary society is that technology will hinder social interaction. Through the use of the TV parlor, it is clear that Ray Bradbury’s portrayal of technology might be coming to fruition.

The Student Example

Help this student...

Many people in the *Fahrenheit 451* society have parlor walls. These parlor walls are big screens that fill up entire walls and talk to the residents of the home like they are a part of the programming. They are also expensive, like when Mildred says to Montag, “it’ll be even more fun when we can afford to have the fourth wall installed. How long you figure before we save up and get the fourth wall torn out and a fourth wall-TV put in?” (19) She says this because she is upset by the fact that there are only three wall televisions instead of four. She believes that it will be more fun because that means she can interact with four people instead of three. However, the catch here is that the fourth TV wall costs so much that it will take a third of Montag’s yearly salary to purchase. Montag does not seem happy about the price. In our society today, we have TVs that cost a lot of money too. People seem to watch them and want them almost as much as Mildred does her parlor walls. How far away is our society from becoming like the one in *Fahrenheit 451*?