“The things you are looking for are in the world, but the only way the average chap will ever see ninety-nine percent of them is in a book. Don’t ask for guarantees. And don’t look to be saved in any one things, person, machine, or library. Do your own bit of saving, and if you drown, at least die knowing you were heading to shore.”

-Fahrenheit 451

Ray Bradbury

ISBN: 9780345342966

Guy Montag is a book-burning fireman undergoing a crisis of faith. His wife spends all day with her television family, imploring Montag to work harder so that they can afford a fourth TV wall. Their dull, empty life sharply contrasts with that of his next-door neighbor Clarisse, a young girl thrilled by the ideas in books, and more interested in what she can see in the world around her than in the mindless chatter of the TV.

When Clarisse disappears mysteriously, Montag is moved to make some changes, and starts hiding books in his home. Upon trying to read these books, he discovers that he can read the words, but needs help to uncover the meaning. Eventually, his wife turns him in, and he must answer the call to burn his secret cache of books. After fleeing to avoid arrest, Montag winds up joining an outlaw band of scholars who keep the contents of books in their heads, waiting for the time society will once again need the wisdom of literature.

In the end, at least it was a pleasure to burn.

Summary from amazon.com

The Reason I Jump

Naomi Higashida

ISBN: 9780812994865

Written by Naoki Higashida, a very smart, very self-aware, and very charming thirteen-year-old boy with autism, The Reason I Jump is a memoir that demonstrates how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives, and responds in ways few of us can imagine. Parents and family members who never thought they could get inside the head of their autistic loved one at last have a way to break through to the curious, subtle, and complex life within.

Using an alphabet grid to painstakingly construct words, sentences, and thoughts that he is unable to speak out loud, Naoki answers even the most delicate questions that people want to know.

Why do you line up your toy cars and blocks? Why don’t you make eye contact when you’re talking? And What’s the reason you jump? (Naoki’s answer: When I’m jumping, it’s as if my feelings are going upward to the sky.) With disarming honesty and a generous heart, Naoki shares his unique point of view on not only autism but life itself.

Summary from amazon.com
For The Reason I Jump

1. What surprises you most about The Reason I Jump?

2. What is the most important piece of advice that Higashida gives for those who interact with people with Autism?

3. How is Higashida's advice about empathy and patience relevant for any communication situation?

4. David Mitchell says that the problems of socialization and communication people with autism display "are not symptoms of autism but consequences." What does he mean exactly...what is the difference as Mitchell sees it?

5. Naoki indicates that language, which the rest of us use to communicate feelings, actually get in the way of feelings: that language is simply incapable of conveying our astonishment at the world. Have you ever felt the inadequacy of words to describe your own experiences? When have you experienced the limitations of language?

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