

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Due: \_\_\_\_\_

# English Composition Homework Assignment Packet 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

## Week 4

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Assignment	Points Earned
Article Annotation – “The big cheese mountain...”	
Article Annotation	
Journals 7 & 8	
Reading Response Assignment Week 4	
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> – Part II & III Questions	

Total=>

## The big cheese mountain: America's stockpile nears record high

By Luke O'Neil

2/3/2019

Say cheese, America. No, seriously, please start saying cheese at the grocery store. The country's dairy farmers are depending on you.

Americans eat an awful lot of cheese: almost 37 pounds per person, per year. Yet apparently that's still not enough. Demand for American-made cheese is seriously falling behind supply. According to recent data from the Department of Agriculture, we're currently experiencing a 1.4 billion-pound cheese surplus.

Lucas Fuess, director of dairy market intelligence at HighGround Dairy, a consulting firm, explains that cheese is literally sitting in cold storage facilities waiting for some aspiring pizza-maker to give it a home.

"It's normal to have some cheese in warehouses, to make sure there's enough in the pipeline," Fuess said. "The amount that's in there currently is, if not a record, very close to a record high."

In part this can be linked to lower dairy consumption and the growing popularity of veganism. Plant-based products such as almond milk have experienced rapid sales growth.

Since 2008, milk production has surged by 13 percent, but domestic demand for milk has dropped sharply. As demand decreases, the price of milk drops, and farmers receive less per gallon produced. This appears to have pushed farmers to produce even more milk to make up the shortfalls in their income, exacerbating the problem.

Producing American cheese helps farmers to use up milk they can't sell and that would otherwise go bad. At the end of November 2018, U.S. cheese production had grown yet again for the 67th consecutive month.

But the problem is Americans are eating less cheese, too.

American diets are moving away from processed cheeses like Velveeta and Kraft, and many of the nation's leading fast and casual restaurants are trying new things. Panera, like others, has replaced American cheese in their sandwiches with a four-cheese combo made up of fontina, cheddar, monteau and smoked gouda.

According to Euromonitor International, sales of processed cheese are projected to drop 1.6 percent this year, the fourth year in a row.

In part, that's because many Americans now think processed cheese is gross, but also because they're au fait with quality cheese from around the world. It's hard to turn back to an indestructible fluorescent orange mess once you've tried brie de meaux.

"We're seeing increased sales of more exotic, specialty, European-style cheeses. Some of those are made in the U.S., a lot of them aren't," Andrew Novakovic, a professor of agricultural economics at Cornell University, told NPR in early January. Since imported cheese costs more than domestic, a few blocks of the good stuff might not leave much in the old cheese budget for anything else.

The cheese mountain is crushing farmers. "We've seen record numbers of dairy farms close because milk prices are so low that dairy farms aren't profitable anymore," Fuess added. "This cheese that is hanging over the market is preventing prices from rising higher and it's reaching a critical level."

President Donald Trump's trade policy has also played a role in the "cheesepocalypse." In response to his tariffs, three top importers of U.S. milk and cheese products — Mexico, Canada and China — have instituted retaliatory tariffs that will have a significant impact on American dairy farmers' bottom line, according to a study from Texas A&M University.

"As long as the tariffs are still on in Mexico, it remains a challenge to move cheese out of the country and move those stocks lower," Fuess explained.

It's not the end of the line. Analysts have noted large buyers of cheese increasing offerings or finding new ways to use it. McDonald's recently launched a breakfast sandwich with two slices of American cheese. "Fast-food companies are taking this opportunity with low cheese prices to increase cheese on their dishes," says Fuess.

For now, though, American dairy farmers are going to continue to look for ways to offload their cheese supplies. "I was just reading stories of cheese tea in China that have kind of gone viral," Fuess said.

"Maybe we need to look into that."







## Reading Response Choice

**Directions:** As you read, put a sticky note next to any line, sentence, or section that jumps out at you. Write a brief note on your sticky note so that you can remember what you were thinking about that section. (If nothing jumps out at you by the time you have finished reading, go back and **FIND** something to respond to.)

When finished reading, write your Reading Response on the back of this paper.

### YOU MUST:

- Write **at least ten (10) complete sentences** in your Reading Response.
- Give the **page number, paragraph, or line number** of the part you are responding to.
- **Highlight** which Reading Response entry you are using from the list below.

### Types of Reading Response Entries

- 1. Interesting Intro or Clever Conclusion:**  
You think the author's introduction or conclusion interesting, clever, engaging, or effective. Tell what technique the author used and why it works so well.
- 2. Give an Opinion:**  
Tell what you think or feel about a certain part of the story, and why you think or feel that way. Be specific.
- 3. Ask a Question:**  
This can be a basic question about something you don't understand in the text, or a larger question (about life, literature, or anything) that the text made you consider. Explore possible answers to the question.
- 4. Make a Connection:**  
As you read, a certain point in the text reminds you of another story, poem, movie, song, or something from real life. How are the two alike?
- 5. Language Recognition:**  
You notice some appropriate sensory details, or figurative language such as a simile, onomatopoeia, or personification, and so on. What is the language, and how does it add to the story?
- 6. Significant Passage:**  
You realize a certain part in the text is important. Maybe you found the climax. Why do you think it's important? What does it mean? What does it tell you about the entire book? Explain **why** it is so important.
- 7. Find Foreshadowing:**  
You read something that seems like a hint of what will come later. Explain why you think this, and make a prediction.
- 8. Theme Recognition:**  
You find a sentence or two that might be the theme (the "So what?") of the piece. Explain it in your own words.
- 9. Spot the Setting:**  
You notice a part that refers to a particular place or time in the story. Why is it so important to the story?
- 10. Character Description:**  
You notice a detail about a character (what he or she looks like, thinks, says, or does). Why is it important? What does it reveal about that character?
- 11. Mark the Motivation:**  
You realize a character's motive(s) (what a character wants). Explain the motive(s) and its effect on the story or on other characters.
- 12. Detect the Conflict:**  
You realize one of the conflicts or problems in the story. Explain it, and explain how you recognized it.
- 13. Cite the Claim:**  
You find the sentence that is the author's main argument (the thesis or claim ... the most important quote in the story). Explain why you think it is the focus of the piece.





**Reading Response Questions: Set Three**

**DUE DATE:**

**1. Who was Faber?**

**2. Why did Montag go to see Faber?**

**3. What three elements did Faber feel were missing from life?**

**4. What plan did Montag and Faber devise?**

**5. What was Montag willing to do to convince Faber to help carry out the plan?**

**6. What had Faber designed that allowed him to be in constant contact with Montag?**

**7. Why did Faber decide to go to St. Louis?**

**8. Why did Montag burn the book of poetry in the wall incinerator in his home?**

**9. Where did Montag hide his books after the ladies left?**

**10. What was the destination of the alarm on the night Montag returned to work at the firehouse?**

1. Who was the informant on Montag's home?
  
2. Why did Montag kill Captain Beatty?
  
3. Why didn't Montag run away before he killed Captain Beatty?
  
4. Where did Montag go after he killed Beatty?
  
5. When Montag left Faber's house, which direction did he go?
  
6. Why did Montag take whiskey, a suitcase, and some of Faber's dirty clothes with him?
  
7. What did the railroad tracks mean to Montag?
  
8. What was different about the fire Montag saw after leaving the river?
  
9. During the manhunt for Montag by the hound, why did the camera identify an innocent man as Montag?
  
10. What was different about the hobos Montag met? Why did each man identify himself as a famous author or piece of literature?
  
11. What had Montag been able to memorize?
  
12. What happened to the city during the war?
  
13. What did Montag and the intellectuals believe their mission was once the war ended?