**THE EVOLUTION OF MONTAG’S CHARACTER**

**FOCUS: How would you CHARACTERIZE MONTAG in this scene? What adjectives would you use to describe his actions, words? FYI ~ \*The Nine is the future version of the Internet.\***

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It was a pleasure to burn.

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.

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

He knew that when he returned to the firehouse, he might wink at himself, a minstrel man, burnt-corked, in the mirror. Later, going to sleep**, he would feel the fiery smile still gripped by his face muscles, in the dark. It never went away**, **that smile, it never ever went away, as long as he remembered.Identify SIX significant details that wipe the “fierce grin” and “fiery smile” from Montag’s face.**

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| **PERSON – PLACE – EVENT THAT CONTRIBUTESTO THE EVOLUTION OF MONTAG’S CHARACTER** | **EXPLAIN WHY, HOW, OR IN WHAT WAY(S) EACH PERSON, PLACE, OR EVENT CHANGES MONTAG’S CHARACTER.** |
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| I want to hold on to this **funny thing**. God, it's gotten big on me. I don't know what it is. **I'm so damned unhappy, I'm so mad, and I don't know why I feel like I'm putting on weight.** I feel fat. I feel like I've been saving up a lot of things, and don't know what. I might even start reading books."  **He put his hand back up and took out two books and moved his hand down and dropped the two books to the floor. He kept moving his hand and dropping books, small ones, fairly large ones, yellow, red, green ones. When he was done he looked down upon some twenty books lying at his wife's feet.** "I'm sorry," he said. "I didn't really think. But now it looks as if we're in this together." | 1. What is the “funny thing” Montag is experiencing? Explain Montag’s “damned unhapp[iness].” |
| **We've got to start somewhere here, figuring out why we're in such a mess, you and the medicine at night, and the car, and me and my work**. **We're heading right for the cliff, Millie.** God, I don't want to go over. This isn't going to be easy. We haven't anything to go on, but maybe we can piece it out and figure it and help each other. | 1. What is the “mess” Montag is referring to? Why does Montag think that” [they’re] heading for a cliff”? |
| "Let's see what this is," said Montag.  He spoke the words haltingly and with a terrible self-consciousness. He read a dozen pages here and there and came at last to this:  "`It is computed that eleven thousand persons have at several times suffered death rather than submit to break eggs at the smaller end."'  Mildred sat across the hall from him. "What does it mean? It doesn't mean anything! The Captain was right!" **"Here now," said Montag. "We'll start over again, at the beginning."** | 1. **In what way(s) does the last line of “The Hearth and the Salamander” relate to the overall meaning of Part I of Bradbury’s *F451*?** (Think about the evolution of Montag’s character.) Write a thorough and thoughtful response. |



Explain at least three specific ways in which the following quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson applies to Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*: “Every burned book enlightens the world.”

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