***Fahrenheit 451* Annotation Interview**

**DIRECTIONS🡪** Please **read** and **annotate** the first two pages of the novel below. When you are finished, answer the first set of questions on the reverse side.

**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

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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, burntcorked,

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.

He hung up his black-beetle-coloured helmet and   
 shined it, he hung his flameproof jacket neatly; he  
 showered luxuriously, and then, whistling, hands in  
 pockets, walked across the upper floor of the fire station   
 and fell down the hole. At the last moment, when  
 disaster seemed positive, he pulled his hands from his

pockets and broke his fall by grasping the golden  
 pole. He slid to a squeaking halt, the heels one inch  
 from the concrete floor downstairs.  
 He walked out of the fire station and along the  
 midnight street toward the subway where the silent,  
 air-propelled train slid soundlessly down its lubricated  
 flue in the earth and let him out with a great puff of  
 warm air onto the cream-tiled escalator rising to the suburb.  
 Whistling, he let the escalator waft him into the  
 still night air. He walked toward the comer, thinking  
 little at all about nothing in particular. Before he  
 reached the corner, however, he slowed as if a wind  
 had sprung up from nowhere, as if someone had  
 called his name.

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**DIRECTIONS🡪** After reading the passage, answer the first set of questions on your own. When you are finished, interview your partner and discuss their responses to see how they compare with your own**.**

1. What is the **character** in the passage **doing**?
2. This author uses several **metaphors** to describe what is occurring in the scene above: “the great python,” “the amazing conductor,” and “a storm of fireflies.” Choose **one of these metaphors** and explain what Bradbury is literally referring to?
3. Describe the **outfit** of the character.
4. What do you suppose is the **job** of the character, Montag?
5. Infer why the character, Montag, is **burning books** on a “porch or lawn of a house”?
6. How does Montag view his **job/profession**? What **details** from the passage assist you with your answer?
7. What **conclusions** can you draw about the **setting of the novel** so far? How similar or different is it to Naperville, 2010?