Fahrenheit 451: How does the writer use language here to portray Montag as an insane character?

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TASK #1 – Highlight the metaphor that is used to describe the hose. Highlight it and discuss what the metaphor suggests?

TASK #2 – Highlight any verbs that suggest Montag is insane. Pick TWO to explain why they suggest he is insane.

TASK #3 – Pick TWO adjectives that help portray Montag as insane. Explain why you have made your choice.

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.

TASK #4 - Why do you think the writer uses repetition with the abstract noun, 'pleasure'? How does it help portray Montag as insane?

TASK #5 – How do you think a reader will react to Montag's actions? Why?

TASK #6 – Find the personification in the first line and discuss the effect.