Fahrenheit 451: What kind of character is Montag and how do we know?

TASK #1 – Montag is smiling as he is burning things. What kind of character do you think he is?

TASK #2 – How do you think readers will feel about Montag when they see he is happy to burn things?

TASK #3 – Look up the word 'stolid' in the dictionary. What does it tell you about Montag?

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 - The writer says 'blood pounded in his head.' How do you think Montag is feeling when he burns things?

TASK #5 – What does the noun, 'pleasure' suggest to you about Montag's burning?

TASK #6 – Sum up in your own words what kind of character is and explain your ideas. Then highlight all the parts of the text that support your points.