

Contrasting Flames Answer Key

Montag vs. Clarisse

- **Montag (Differences):** Fireman who burns books; initially unquestioning; middle-aged, shaped by routine.
- **Clarisse (Differences):** Teenager; curious and observant; asks deep questions; connected to nature and conversation.
- **Similarities:** Both sense something is wrong with society; both are thoughtful once Montag begins questioning.

Montag vs. Mildred

- **Montag (Differences):** Seeks meaning; begins to read and reflect; grows dissatisfied with conformity.
- **Mildred (Differences):** Obsessed with TV walls and seashell radios; avoids thought; attempts suicide, showing emptiness.
- **Similarities:** Married couple living under the same roof; both shaped by their society's pressures.

Montag vs. Beatty

- **Montag (Differences):** Seeks knowledge; rebels against book burning; changes throughout the novel.
- **Beatty (Differences):** Fire chief; manipulative; defends censorship; uses his knowledge of books to control others.
- **Similarities:** Both have read books; both intelligent and capable of quoting literature.