On pages 12-13, machine operators come and complete the routine task of pumping Mildred’s stomach and replacing her blood.

The author wants us to feel disturbed when they talk about how routine this procedure is because it shouldn’t be routine for people to almost kill themselves.

On pages 18-19, Mildred shows Guy the script for the show she is watching and begs for a fourth wall-TV; then Guy goes outside and meets Clarisse who is enjoying walking in the rain.

This shows the difference between Mildred and Clarisse. Mildred acts like a technology-addicted robot who gets unhappy unless she gets more and more, but Clarisse spends time paying attention to nature and she’s able to enjoy what she has.