

HARRISON BERGERON by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

- 1.) In what ways in the society depicted in the story utopian? What aspects of this society make it dystopian? (Cite specific characteristics from your notes)
- 2.) Identify the dystopian protagonist in the story. Is this character successful in convincing/showing others the faults with society? Why or why not?
- 3.) Identify a universal truth portrayed in this story, and explain how it is relevant to modern society.
- 4.) Why is George's handicap particularly damaging? How is this handicap an example of governmental control? Is this type of control taking place today? Explain.
- 5.) Locate an example of each of the following devices within the story. Explain how Vonnegut uses each device to deepen or enrich your understanding of the story.
 - a.) Metaphor
 - b.) Simile
 - c.) Symbol
- 6.) Who are the HG men? Who might these people represent in our society?
- 7.) Compare this story to 2BR02B (also by Vonnegut). Which story do you believe contains more biting/relevant criticism of modern society? Explain your answer while citing specific examples of modern society (pop culture, recent news, ect.)
- 8.) Dystopian literature often exaggerates an aspect of modern society in order to provide its reader with a warning about the future or to critique modern society. What aspect of society is Vonnegut highlighting in this story? Do you agree with his "caution"? Explain.