

Name: _____

Harrison Bergeron: Completely Equal

Vocabulary: Define the following words.

Vigilance: _____

Vague: _____

Envious: _____

Doozy: _____

Impediment: _____

Hindrances: _____

Consternation: _____

Answer the following questions as thoroughly as possible. Your answers must be in complete sentences. You can use a separate piece of paper if needed.

1. Describe the state of the U.S. society as described in the first paragraph. How has “equality” been achieved? Give one specific example from the text to illustrate this point.

2. Consider the characters of George and Hazel. Why isn’t Hazel handicapped? Identify a handicap that George has.

3. How does George seem to feel about his handicaps? Why does he feel this way? Give one piece of textual evidence that supports why.

4. Consider the character of Harrison in terms of both his physical qualities and personality traits. Why is he considered a threat to society? Give an example of a trait that shows why he is a threat. How is this trait handicapped?

5. In your opinion, what is the shedding of Harrison's handicaps symbolic of?

6. What is the significance of the dance that Harrison performs with the ballerina?

7. Why do you think Vonnegut decides to write dance scene in this way?

8. How do George and Hazel react to the televised murder of their son? Provide one example that supports this reaction.

9. What do you consider to be the message of "Harrison Bergeron" (there are multiple)? What leads you to this understanding of the text?

10. Reread the first page of the story. What revelations occur to you now that you know the ending?

11. Explain how you could thematically connect Harrison Bergeron to something we've already looked at such as *The Incredibles*, "The Google Glass" Ad, "The 1984 Apple Ad", or the "Think Different" Ad.

12. Find an example of an allusion in this story.