**Questions for Discussion--“Harrison Bergeron,” by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.**

**English 2**

**On a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions about the story. Be sure you provide text evidence to support your analysis.**

1. Describe some of the conditions of life in 2081 as described in the story. What kind of government exists; what must daily life be like?
2. Describe what happened at the end of the story. What do George and Hazel’s reactions to Diana Moon Glampers’s ultimate action against Harrison tell you about the government’s influence on their thinking?
3. What do you think Vonnegut might be trying to say about today’s society and the role a government can play in achieving equality among people?  Use examples from the story to support your opinion.
4. George Bergeron wears a radio that broadcasts various noises to prohibit him from developing any intellectual thoughts.  Trace these noises that George hears throughout the story.  Do the noises parallel the escalating tragedy of George’s and Hazel’s lives? Explain.
5. Identify 2 examples of figurative language in the description of the scene with Harrison and the dancing Ballerina.  How does the language affect the tone of the story, and what does it reveal about what Vonnegut values?
6. The Handicapper General is named Diana Moon Glampers. What is the significance of this name? (Hint: Think about classical mythology.) Why would Vonnegut choose this name for the HG?
7. Hazel, Harrison’s mother, has no handicaps. What would Hazel be like in our world? How would she compare to “average” people in current-day society.
8. Vonnegut’s descriptions of life in 2081 are clearly exaggerated. However, there are connections to the world we live in today and how we think about equality and equity. Compare the situation in this story to one in the real world involving an authority structure such as the government, school, law enforcement, families or any other power structure in human society.