

Group Questions: "Harrison Bergeron"

Discussion Rules: You cannot make a claim without pointing to a specific line, paragraph, or detail in the text. No Skips: Every group member must contribute at least one piece of evidence or analysis per question. Don't Just Agree: Use phrases like *"I agree, and to add to that..."* or *"I see your point, but what about in paragraph..."*

- 1) The satiric tone disrupts the hero's journey by showing an oppressive government as normal. Cite some more examples using your own life, another piece of literature, art or history.
- 2) Does sarcasm lead the reader to make light of the hero's martyrdom or make it more profound? Defend your position using textual evidence and one external connection (e.g., an archetype, literary lens, historical parallel, or personal experience).
- 3) After he escapes from prison, Harrison declares himself "emperor". Argue whether Harrison represents a heroic savior of individuality or merely a different kind of tyrant. Defend your position using evidence of an archetype (e.g., the Rebel, the Tyrant) or a political historical parallel.
- 4) Is Vonnegut arguing that technology and media are the ultimate tools of modern oppression? Explain your position using textual evidence and a connection to another piece of dystopian literature (e.g., *The Giver*, *The Hunger Games*) or a modern societal trend.
- 5) Argue whether true equality is actually the government's goal, or if "equality" is simply a tool used to ensure total psychological control. Defend your position using a traditional, Marxist, historical or some other literary lens.