Harrison Bergeron Response Questions

English 10

1. What is the mood of this story?

2. In your opinion, what does it mean to be equal? Does being equal mean that everyone must be the same? What do you feel is Vonnegut’s view on equality?

3. When Harrison Bergeron is completely free from his handicaps, he defeats the laws of gravity and motion. What might be Vonnegut be suggesting about the potential of free human beings?

4. In traditional stories the hero is a superhuman figure, who “saves” people from an enemy. In what passages is Harrison superhuman? How are the results of Harrison’s effort ironic?

5. Is competition good, bad, or a little of both? Explain why you feel this way.

6. What ideas or programs in our culture (North American) do you think Vonnegut might be ridiculing in “Harrison Bergeron”?