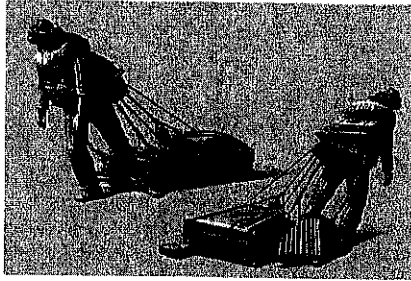


"Harrison Bergeron" by Kurt Vonnegut



After reading the short story, "Harrison Bergeron", you should have a good sense of the essential elements of the story: plot, conflict, setting, point of view, theme, etc. Be prepared to discuss the story using these terms. Answer the following questions based on your reading of the story.

1. List **5 main events** that happen, in order of occurrence, in the story. Remember: main events are those events vital to the plot of the story.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

2. What kind of handicap has been placed on people with better-than-average mental or intellectual capabilities?

3. What kind of handicap has been placed on people with better-than-average physical abilities?

4. Why has Harrison been put in jail?

5. What penalty do Harrison and his ballerina partner pay for taking off their handicaps and dancing?

6. Think about the "Jericho" article we read in class ("The Boy Who Threw Too Hard"). Connect "Harrison Bergeron" to this real life article. Write down one way the short story relates to the article about telling a boy he is "too good to play".

7. Hazel says about the radio announcer who fails in his attempt to read the news:

"That's all right....That's the big thing. He tried to do the best he could with what God gave him. He should get a nice raise for trying so hard."

Should people be rewarded for effort as well as for accomplishment? Why or why not?

8. Think about the idea that all people should be "equal under the law". Is this the same as everyone being "equal in every way"? What would have to be done to make everyone "equal in every way"? Is this a society you would want to live in? Why or why not? Explain.

9. What do you think would be the most damaging result of removing all individual talent and skill from society?

10. Imagine you are the Handicapper General. Choose 2 of the following individuals and explain how you would stop or hinder their talents, or come up with 2 individuals of your choice and explain how you would hinder their talents to make them "equal": LeBron James, Albert Einstein, Pablo Picasso, Tom Brady