**Discussion Questions for “Harrison Bergeron”**

*Directions: Write your responses in blue (use the color that I have represented). Keep the font size and style in Arial 11. Do not bold your font or erase questions.*

1. **How is the idea of equality different in 2081 than it is today?**
2. **How intelligent are George and Hazel Bergeron?**
3. **What technology does George have to wear and what is its purpose?**
4. **What can we infer from the fact that Hazel has tears on her cheeks but she has forgotten for the moment what caused her to cry?**

1. **How are the ballerinas handicapped, and why are they handicapped in the ways they are?**

1. **Besides the radio in his ear, what else is George wearing?**
2. **What is the purpose of each of George’s handicaps?**
3. **What would be the penalty for George attempting to lighten the load of the handicap bag he is required to wear around his neck, by removing one or more lead ball bearings from it?**

1. **What does George think of the handicapping system established by the government?**
2. **Why is the news bulletin unclear at first?**
3. **After about thirty seconds, what does the news announcer do, and why?**
4. **What can we infer about the beauty and natural strength and grace of the ballerina, and how do we know this?**
5. **Why does the description of Harrison spoken by the ballerina on television indicate that he is ‘extremely dangerous’ to the government?**
6. **Make an inference: based on what we know of this society, why is the picture of Harrison Bergeron that appears on the television screen upside-down, then sideways, then upside-down again, before finally appearing right-side up?**
7. **Describe Harrison’s handicaps. What has the Handicapper General’s Office required him to wear, and why?**
8. **When Harrison appears in the newsroom, what does he declare, and what does he do?**
9. **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?**
10. **Compare the situation in this story to one in the real world. Your analogy need not involve government, but may concern any authority structure. What is the author trying to tell readers about human society?**

1. **Have you ever been in a situation when you felt the same way as any of the characters in the story?**
2. **What do you think of the approach this society has taken to achieving equality, bringing everyone down to the same low level instead of helping to build everyone up to higher levels (of intelligence, strength, grace, beauty, etc.)?**