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Honors P. 6

27 August 2015

Rebel or Martyr--Conflict/Resolution Paragraph

The dystopian society in “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut does not allow for individuality, so the only resolution of a conflicting rebel in this society’s mindset is to destroy the rebel. Harrison Bergeron, the protagonist, is in jail at the beginning of the story for “suspicion of plotting to overthrow the government” (Vonnegut 135). The fact that Harrison manages to escape jail and be on TV shows he is, in fact, far superior to other people in this society-even with all his handicaps. Harrison’s good looks, athleticism, and intellect are too much for this society where everyone is “equal”. Then Harrison proclaims himself to be the Emperor and believes he can be the greatest ruler who ever lived (138), and in this role, he leads others to remove their equalizing handicaps in order to express their individuality. In this act, Harrison extends his own personal conflict to his entire community and furthers the rising action of the story. However, this society cannot tolerate the overthrow of its laws, so Diana Moon Glampers, the Handicapper General, shoots Harrison and his Empress with a double-barreled, ten-gauge shotgun at the climax of the story (138). With Harrison and his Empress shot dead, all goes back to “normal” in an instant for this society where everyone is equal. Sadly, it doesn’t pay to be a rebel in this futuristic, dystopian society. While the resolution solves the conflict in this society’s eyes, Vonnegut wants the reader to see that such a perspective of extreme equality is drastically wrong and should be changed, especially if it results in murder.