Prompts for short story “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut

*Answer the prompt, provide evidence and details from the story to support your answer and do not merely summarize the plot.*

1. Briefly identify the particular social or political attitude the author wishes to modify then analyze the techniques the author uses to influence the readers’ views.

2. Choose a character from the story and write an essay in which you (a) briefly describe the standards within the fictional society where the character exists and (b) show how the character is affected by and responds to those standards.

3. Writers often highlight the values of a culture or society by using characters that are alienated from that society. Choose a character from Kurt Vonnegut’s satiric short story “Harrison Bergeron” and show how that character’s alienation reveals the surrounding society’s assumptions and moral values.

4. In some works of literature a character that appears briefly, or not at all, is a significant presence. Show how a character in this story functions in this way. Discuss how the character affects theme, action or the development of other characters.