

Harrison Bergeron

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Adolf Hitler led the Nazi army and caused the Holocaust, Anders Behring Brevik led the attack in Norway at a summer camp, Benito Mussolini led the illegal poison gassing in Ethiopia, and Diana Moon Glampers was leading a society that has to obey her or they are murdered without anyone questioning. One powerful person and a helpless society could cause a huge effect in many people's lives. In the short story "Harrison Bergeron" by Kurt Vonnegut Jr., people are made completely equal under the power of the Handicapper General, Diana Moon Glampers. Equality can be extremely dangerous especially when one person makes choices with the power over everyone. The choices they make can cause an impact on everyone around them. George, Hazel, and Harrison will each suffer through the choices of the General.

"A buzzer sounded in George's head. His thoughts fled in panic, like bandits from a burglar alarm." In the story, George Bergeron was created with high intelligence. A handicap was placed in this ear to make noises so his thoughts would scramble and he would be equal to everyone without intelligence. In the beginning, Harrison was taken away and put in jail. George went through a rough time dealing with that, especially when the Handicapper General was messing with his head. We know that George suffered through this stage because the text says, "It was such a doozy that George was white and trembling, and tears stood at the rims of his red eyes." Later, George saw Harrison had escaped from jail, he said, "My God, that must be Harrison!" Then the thought blasted from his mind at the sound of an automobile collision. This goes to

show that the General caused him to forget what was happening. At the end, George forgot that his son was dead, but the last sound he heard was the sound of a riveting gun that Glampers used to kill Harrison and the ballerina. This shows that the author wanted to use the sound that killed his son instead of using emotion to show how he reacted to the death of his son. This is why the equality of all people in this society was a very dangerous action.

In Hazel's case, she had average intelligence but she couldn't even remember what happened five minutes ago. This caused the Handicapper to not have to worry about making bad decisions because it wouldn't affect Hazel. At the beginning, Hazel did not talk in long sentences. She used a word or words to talk. Glampers could've done something to help her be more intelligent, but she decided to take the easy way out and make everyone who was very intelligent equal to people who weren't. This decision had a strong impact Hazel's life, which shows that Glampers was using her power for granted. Hazel was also affected by her husband who has a forty-seven pound bag of birdshot padlocked on his neck. "You have been so tired lately, and kind of worn out," said Hazel." This showed that the way George acts was concerning Hazel which was affecting her life. If Glampers never decided to make everyone equal, they wouldn't have had this problem. Last but not least, Glampers murdered Hazel's child and it left her clueless, but full of strong emotions. "You've been crying," he said to Hazel. 'Yup' she said. 'What about?' he said. 'I forget' she said. 'Something real sad on television.'" This dialogue showed that Hazel knew something sad happened, but she couldn't remember. The author's craft used to show how she felt about this scenario

was emotion. If Glampers wouldn't have used her power of equality and made those decisions, Hazel wouldn't have been in that position.

Harrison Bergeron's life changed forever when everyone was made equal under the power of the Handicapper General. At the beginning of the story, Harrison gave a speech about equality. "Now watch me become what I can become," he bellowed." This showed that he knew that Glampers was using the power of equality to her advantage. After he finished the speech, he took off everything that made him equal to everyone else and picked a ballerina to become his empress and dance with him. Author's craft was used when the text said, "They leaped like deer on the moon." This simile was used to describe how they were dancing. Harrison and the ballerina danced even though they knew Glampers told them that there would be consequences if they disobeyed her. This showed that they knew it was good to be themselves and they shouldn't have to be equal to anyone else. "She fired twice, and the Emperor and Empress were dead before they hit the floor." This text from the end of the story concluded that she knew she had advantages because everyone was equal and wouldn't remember anything anyway. She knew taking the easy way out and leaving everyone else left to suffer through something they can't even remember happening would be fine. Her decisions and her power through equality changed his family for the worse.

Someone could say that having handicaps and making everyone equal would make someone feel better about themselves. In this story, Kurt Vonnegut clearly showed that people deserve to be themselves. George had a handicap placed in his ear because he was intelligent and Vonnegut showed how this affected his life throughout

the story. He couldn't remember his son being taken away, he couldn't take the handicap off or he would be in prison or die, and he couldn't even remember that his son died. He also showed that people deserve to be themselves when Harrison made a speech about being the emperor. Hazel represented someone that should strive to better herself and that is why he made her character without intelligence. This proved that he wrote the story that way, because he wanted to show that when people are unequal, it can make them strive to be a better person.

Each character has proved that equality can cause danger, especially when one person makes decisions with power over everyone. George, Hazel, and Harrison each suffered through different things that involved the decisions of Diana Moon Glampers. When people know they have power over someone or something, they might take the easy way out and leave everyone else in a mess. Kurt Vonnegut showed that perfectly just in between four characters. That being said, the way he set up the story, related to events in the real world. Once again, Adolf Hitler caused the Holocaust, Anders Behring Brevik led a big attack at a summer camp, and Benito Mussolini led the illegal poison gassing in Ethiopia. This story taught us that being ourselves is a good thing, and no one should feel that they need to be the same as anyone else. It was also clearly giving us a message that our choices can affect other people's lives, so make good ones.