Analysis On The Story Harrison Bergeron By Kurt Vonnegut

I decided to write my analysis on the story “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. and what he talks about is the future. This short essay is one of the best that Kurt Vonnegut Jr wrote because of the interesting things he put into this essay. It has horrifying situations that become humorous by an interesting narrator.

In the first paragraph of his story, Vonnegut indicates that the year is 2081. He says that everyone is equal because of the 211th, 212th, and 213th Amendments to the Constitution, and of the Handicapper General. What he’s really telling us here, is that a society has reached equality in a time not very far from our, and that we made a bunch of laws to do it. Does this show anything about equality? This is more like a dictatorship than something to be happy about. The people here really couldn't care less if they were all equal. Most of them are mentally impaired or have been handicapped so that they can’t keep a straight line of thought. All they can process is that they’re as good as anybody else, but they don’t have the mental capacity to question why or how they got to this point. Anyone who tries to change the system is killed. Is keeping people from taking fair advantage of their own brains striving to reach true equality? People such as Harrison who are ‘under-handicapped’ are considered dangerous! Because those people can push past the boundary’s society has dictated to them. George says, “The minute people start cheating on laws, what do you think happens to society?” And Hazel responds, “Reckon it’d fall apart.” But take this into consideration: Just because a law is in place (or a government for that matter) doesn’t make it a particularly good one just by default. People are held back from their full potential; from what they can truly become. These circumstances do not create an ideal society.

Such measures would hinder the growth of the world. This wouldn’t just affect the individual, because without new ideas, society would stop advancing. Technology would essentially stay the same, and the only research done would be by the government. Essentially, by having this kind of superficial equality, no one would flourish, and everything would always stay the same. If everyone is the same, no one stands out, and no new ideas are presented, and the society is stunted. The world grows and changes because everyone has different qualities and skills. We can’t take that away.

In conclusion, because Harrison Bergeron defied his horrible government, he was killed. We need to strive for a greater equality than that. A fake equality is no better than discrimination. In order to prevent society from declining, we must never resort to purposely handicapping.