

# Composition Book Task #1

Leave the first two pages of your composition book blank to serve as a Table of Contents; label it as such at the top of each page. On the next free page of your composition book, respond to each of the following two prompts. Please write in pen and limit each response to its own single page without writing on the back.



- 1a.** Identify a **theme** present in either Vonnegut’s “Harrison Bergeron” or Gordimer’s “Once Upon a Time”.

Use textual support to justify your claims. Highlight your theme claim. (Remember, a theme claim should contain no plot, be a complete thought, not be a cliché, not be a command, not contain “I” or “you”, and should express some universal truth.)

- 1b.** **Satire** is a way of using ridicule to show that someone or something is foolish, weak, harmful, etc. Satire frequently use exaggeration, humor, or absurdity to show the weaknesses or negative qualities of a person, government, or society.

Choose either Vonnegut’s “Harrison Bergeron” or Gordimer’s “Once Upon a Time” to answer the following question: What aspects of society might the author be satirically targeting with this short story?

Identify five words from the short story with which you’re unfamiliar. Turn to the final page of your composition book.

- 1c-g.** For each of the five words you’ve chosen, write the word down, number them (#1-5), and provide a definition from a learner’s dictionary online.

For your two written responses (1a & 1b) above, remember to:

- Introduce each of your responses with a clear answer to the question.
- Develop your ideas with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient evidence (i.e. quotations, summary, paraphrase) appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic. Assume your audience is already familiar with the text, so you should avoid unnecessary plot summary.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions (from the Transitions Toolbox handout) to clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- Provide a conclusion that follows from and supports your explanation and explains the significance of the topic.