

Short Stories Journal #1

Leave the first ^{one or} two pages of your composition book blank to serve as a Table of Contents; label it as such at the top of the page(s). 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".

Refer to your notes on theme and take some time to plan out your claim to be sure it means the requirements.

Support your **claim** with specific, relevant evidence from the story. (Assume your reader does not agree with your interpretation and must be convinced.)

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?

Structure your **claim** as a **theme**; use solid evidence.

Identify five words from the two stories 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.
- Proofread carefully to avoid any mechanical issues that you're currently working on: refer to your sticky note flag and any relevant notes you have. (You'll lose some points — up to half the total value — for excessive mechanical errors.)