

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

“Harrison Bergeron” and *2081*

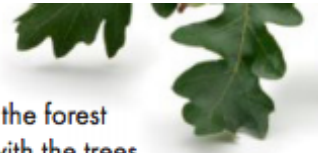
**Directions:** Answer the following questions with complete sentences. Use evidence to support your answers.

1. One of the most significant differences between the 2081 short film and the “Harrison Bergeron” short story is that the filmmaker altered Harrison’s declaration of himself as emperor. Instead, Harrison plants a bomb, which may or may not have been real, and a broadcasting signal override device. How does this alteration change the story for you? Why, do you suppose, the filmmaker decided to make this alteration?
2. Name two more differences between the short film and Vonnegut’s story. Why do you suppose the filmmaker made these changes?
3. Which version of the story did you prefer? Explain your answer with thoughtful reasoning.

4. The rock band Rush wrote the song, "The Trees" (right), as an extended metaphor for modern life. How is society today similar to the unrest in the forest? Which group of people in your world might the oaks represent? Who might be the maples? What group wields the "hatchet, axe, and saw?" Explain the message the band is trying to deliver in this song.

5. In our society, we say that we celebrate the success of those who are especially intelligent, talented, or hard-working, yet we often treat exceptional people poorly. Describe a specific case of a standout person being pulled down by others and explain what it shows us about human nature.

## The Trees



There is unrest in the forest  
There is trouble with the trees  
For the maples want more sunlight  
And the oaks ignore their pleas.

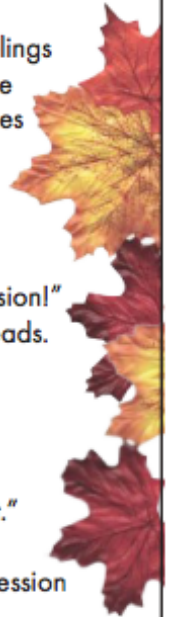
The trouble with the maples  
(And they're quite convinced they're right)  
They say the oaks are just too lofty  
And they grab up all the light.

But the oaks can't help their feelings  
If they like the way they're made  
And they wonder why the maples  
Can't be happy in their shade.

There is trouble in the forest  
And the creatures all have fled  
As the maples scream "Oppression!"  
And the oaks just shake their heads.

So the maples formed a union  
And demanded equal rights,  
"The oaks are just too greedy  
We will make them give us light."

Now there's no more oak oppression  
For they passed a noble law  
And the trees are all kept equal  
By hatchet, axe, and saw.



– Rush,  
*Hemispheres*  
1978