

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

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

## Vonnegut Web Quest



<http://www.lancefuhrer.com/vonnegut/index.htm>

1. Vonnegut's date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

What holiday coincides with his date of birth? \_\_\_\_\_

How does this relate to his political beliefs? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Vonnegut's roots are in what area of the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What national incident most influenced his childhood? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain the ramifications on his family: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Vonnegut's initial writing experience came from this medium: \_\_\_\_\_

Hypothesize the effect this would have on his style: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Vonnegut's family relationships have also contributed to his inherent pessimism. Comment on the following:

What is the irony of the date his mother commits suicide? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to his sister and her husband? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the demise of his father: \_\_\_\_\_

6. After reading the synopsis of *Cat's Cradle*, make a connection to Vonnegut's fields of study at Cornell.

7. How does Vonnegut "escape" expulsion from Cornell University? \_\_\_\_\_

World War II:

8. What does P.O.W. stand for? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What are the base facts of The Battle of the Bulge?

Who was involved: \_\_\_\_\_

When occurred: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe effects: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Read some poems at [www.merkki.com/poetry.htm](http://www.merkki.com/poetry.htm) , including "Kriegie Thoughts." What is the message conveyed about being a P.O.W.? What long lasting effects could be created from this experience?

11. What is an incendiary device? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Explain the incident at Dresden on February 13, 1945. Had you ever heard of this incident before?

13. Look at the pictures of firebombs. What is occurring? Compare the effects of firebombs to atomic bombs. Which are worse and explain. \_\_\_\_\_

14. Explain how Vonnegut's firsthand experience in Dresden significantly impacts his life.

Writing & Style:

16. Define satire: \_\_\_\_\_

Name four types of satire: \_\_\_\_\_

17. What does the phrase black humor refer to in terms of literature? \_\_\_\_\_

Provide an example: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Define science fiction: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how Vonnegut uses science fiction: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. Read a synopsis of *Slaughterhouse Five*. What is the effect of its publication in 1969 considering the major historical events shaping America? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. Vonnegut studied anthropology at the University of Chicago. What is this field and how could it affect his writing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

21. Check out the website on Vonnegut's artwork. What is your opinion of him as an artist? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. Familiarize yourself with the Biblical story of Jonah. What is the basic plot and message? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What other famous piece of literature deals with the same creature? \_\_\_\_\_

23. To what does the title *Cat's Cradle* refer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bonus: What was Vonnegut's rejected master's thesis as an anthropology student? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Kurt Vonnegut has a cameo in this classic 1986 comedy: \_\_\_\_\_