Science Park High School 2019 9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment:

The General Assignment:
Read and analyze Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s *I Have a Dream* speech and a short story, *Harrison Bergeron*, by Kurt Vonnegut.
Answer the questions that analyze each work’s ideas about equality and complete the writing prompt.
Both texts are in the Public Domain and can be found for free online.

Below, there are questions for each text and a writing prompt. On a separate piece of paper, write a short but substantial paragraph to answer each question, and a few paragraphs to answer the culminating writing prompt.

For *I Have a Dream*:
1. Who is the audience for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s *I Have a Dream* speech? Why does he appeal to this audience? Cite textual evidence.

2. How does Dr. King, Jr. urge his audience to demand equality and justice? Cite textual evidence.

3. Dr. King’s speech incorporates repetition, allusions to songs and Biblical references. Are these persuasive strategies effective or ineffective? Explain using quotes from the text.

4. Identify 5 examples of figurative language in the text that illustrate Dr. King’s position on equality. How do they enhance the overall impact of the speech?

5. Based on his speech, what is Dr. King’s implied definition of equality and justice? Cite textual evidence.

For *Harrison Bergeron*:
6. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend or idea through exaggerations of their consequences. What trends or ideas are being criticized and exaggerated in *Harrison Bergeron*? How are they being criticized? How are they being exaggerated?

7. What important questions about being human and being equal does *Harrison Bergeron* force its readers to ask? What questions does *Harrison Bergeron* force the readers to ask about their society?

8. In science fiction and fantasy literature, there is an idea called “world building”. World building is the process of establishing the rules and facts of a fictional setting to make it believable to the reader. From the first paragraph of *Harrison Bergeron*, what role does equality play in the creation of the rules and facts of the new world?

9. Think about the society of *Harrison Bergeron*. What is their implied definition of equality and justice? Cite textual evidence to support your answer.

**Culminating Writing Prompt**

How does *Harrison Bergeron* comment on, advance, build off of, change, challenge, or confront the ideas of equality in King’s *I Have a Dream* speech. Choose at least two passages from *I Have a Dream* and cite textual evidence from *Harrison Bergeron* to explain your answer.