Unit Segway: “The Euphio Question” by Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

“THE EUPHIO QUESTION” BY KURTVONNEGUT JR

Pre Reading:

1. Handout copies of **“The Euphio Question” by The Detachment Kit**

**lyrics**.

1. As a class, make predictions using the lyrics about what you think the story is about.
2. Journal: Students will write about and prepare to discuss with the class the desirability of instant peace of mind. They will also explore and discuss the consequences of manufactured, immediate serenity.
3. Complete **A, B, C vocabulary** for the story.

--Vocabulary—

1. monotonous- dull, tedious, or repitious

2. maudlin—self pityingly

3. forte- expertise

4. apathetic- showing or feeling no sympathy or concern

5. harangue—to lecture in a critical manner

During:

1. Read: “The Euphio Question” by Kurt Vonnegut, (p 146-154 in reader). Students will generate 5 questions concerning the dystopic elements while they read the story.
2. Marginal notes.

Post:

1. Students will swap with a partner and discuss the self-generated questions.
2. Students will create their own **boxes of happiness—**due at next class.
3. Students will watch the film *Disturbing Behavior* and take notes as they read on the theme of behavioral/emotional control.
4. Discuss with students how this is still plausible today: prescription drugs,hypnotism, etc.

**Lyrics to “The Euphio Question” by The Detachment Kit**

I know a place we can go where all fall into this the euphio had such a hold, that

when turned on infinite bliss so drop to your knees, and begin to fight through it

when death makes you wonder, you can wonder what you missed. and i could

do nothing. i would do nothing to put out the light. oh no, i need a feeling,

feeling so cold, is this night sort of a feeling, feeling. i could do nothing ... i would

do nothing to put out the light. hold on so tight you can't breathe for me, for me

until you're ... gone. there is something out there, there's something everywhere -

till we're gone.

[www.lyricmania.com](http://www.lyricmania.com)

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Name

“The Euphio Question”

Vocabulary

Directions: First (A), define and write the part of speech for the following words. Then (B), as you read, write the sentence in which the word is found in the story. Next, (C) show your understanding of the word by using it correctly in your own sentence.

1. Monotonous

A.

B.

C

1. Maudlin

A.

B.

C

1. Forte

A.

B.

C

1. Apathetic

A.

B.

C

1. Harangue

A.

B.

C

Happy Boxes!

Happy Boxes Assignment

Directions: When you close your eyes and someone asks you to think of what makes you happy. What do you see? Vonnegut’s “Euphio Question” is about a box that exudes pure happiness. Think about 10 things that make you happy.

Brainstorm below:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Homework: Go home and find a way to visually represent what makes you happy. Put

it in the box, and we will have a show and tell tomorrow. 

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**Insert “Harrison Bergeron” unit lessons here**