

1. What is a Cat's Cradle? What does it symbolize in the novel?
2. What is Vonnegut saying about truth and lies? How does Bokononism differ from other religions? What is its goal?
3. How do Lionel Johnson's (Bokonon's) experiences influence his religious ideas? How does he impart "zest" to the peoples' religious life?
4. Compare the Atom Bomb to Ice 9 and Ilium. To what extent is pure scientific research an amoral pursuit?
5. What predictions did you make as you read the book?
6. What does John's obsession with Mona suggest about his character?
7. How do the Crosbys and Mintons differ in their views of U.S. foreign policy and national character?
8. What important ideas does Horlick Minton express in his speech about the Hundred Martyrs? What does he mean when he says "my soul insists that I mourn not a man but a child?"
9. What is the "grand AH-WHOOM" and what causes it? Does it seem possible?
10. Why does Bokonon tell the gathering of survivors to kill themselves?
11. What is the mood of the survivors John encounters? What do their responses suggest about human nature?
12. Did anything surprise you about Papa Monzana's death and transfiguration?