**English 12: 20th Century Novel Name:**

**Mr. Fisher**

***Slaughterhouse Five* Study Guide #1: Chapter 1**

*Please answer the following questions in* ***complete sentences****.**If I feel the answers make no sense, I reserve the right to deny credit. Otherwise, a “check” equals a 10/10, a “check plus” equals a 12/10, and a “check minus” equals a 6/10. Skipped questions will lead to an automatic “check minus,” so I strongly encourage you to try to answer them all!*

1. From what point of view is Chapter 1 told? How is this different from the way a “normal” novel usually begins? What effect does this have on the way you will likely approach this book?
2. Why wasn’t Vonnegut able to write about his experiences in Dresden for so many years?
3. In the first few pages of the book Vonnegut tells us off-handedly about a German cab driver’s mother who “was incinerated in the Dresden firestorm. So it goes.” Referring to the horrible firebombing a few paragraphs later, Vonnegut says he expected a book about his experiences “would be a masterpiece, or at least make me a lot of money, since the subject was so big.” And later a movie director jokes with Vonnegut that such an anti-war book would have as much appeal as an “anti-glacier” book. What is your reaction to these episodes strung together? What narrative tone is Vonnegut establishing? Why do you think he wants this to be the tone of the novel?
4. What point does Mary O’Hare make about war stories? What is Vonnegut’s reaction? How might this exchange affect the way he writes this book?
5. Vonnegut begins this book (his most famous and successful in a career of successes) by calling it a failure. Why does he consider it a failure? What point is he trying to make? How will this attitude affect the way you read this book?