***Slaughterhouse Five*** Reading Guide

**Directions:** Answer the following questions with textual evidence. You will be assessed on these questions during an SLD.

1) How does this text satirize the American way of life? Materialism, family values, love, war.

2) What theme about free will does this text develop? Does Vonnegut believe in free will or determinism? How does this influence his understanding of moral responsibility? Do you agree or disagree?

3) What is the effect of Vonnegut’s repeated use of the phrase “So it goes”? I know it’s tempting to look up on Sparknotes, but come to your own conclusions.

4) Is Billy Pilgrim actually traveling through time? You must pick a side and prove it. Why does Vonnegut use time travel in his novel?

5) “Poo-tee-weet?” What? Again, avoid conventional Sparknote commentary. Let’s develop some original thought, no?

6) What role does Kilgore Trout play in the novel? How do different characters deal with reality? Which techniques does Vonnegut seem to approve of?

7) Should this text be considered autobiographical? Is this text historical? Why or why not? How does it relate to Tim O’Brien?