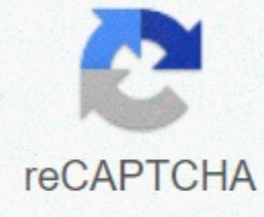




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What does cat's cradle symbolize

This study guide consists of approximately 44 pages of chapter summaries, quotations, character analysis, themes, and more - everything you need to sharpen your knowledge of the Cat's Cradle. This section contains 533 words (approx. 2 pages per 400 words per page) The final invention of Dr. Felix Hoenikker is a unique variation of an ice crystal called ice-nine. The crystal has a melting point of 114 degrees Fahrenheit, which means it is solid at room temperature. More importantly, ice-nine is solid at body temperature, immediately freezing all the water in a person's tissue and killing them at contact. An incredibly destructive secret weapon, the Ice-nine symbolizes the destructive power of a nuclear bomb. The cat's cradle On the day his devastating invention was unleashed, Dr Felix Hoenikker attempts to play with his six-year-old son Newton for the first and only time. A man creates a cat cradle with a wire. Ancient child's play is a ruse. There's no cat and cradle, only a bunch of xs is made of wire. The cat's cradle symbolizes all the elaborate belief systems that people build to give meaning to life, including religion. (read more) This section contains 533 words (about 2 pages per 400 words per page) copyrights Cat's Cradle from BookRags. (c)2021 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved. There's no damn cat, and there's no cradle. (Vonnegut 66). This quote covers the satirical postmodern themes of absolute truth in Vonnegut's cat cradle. There are several significantly strong postmodern concepts that Vonnegut brings to this novel. The first is the idea of truth, satirized by religious Bokonomism. Second, is the idea of progress and how society views progress only better humanity, and brings it happiness. The third concept is the concept of absolute knowledge and ideas of achieving through science and experimentation, which refers to themes of progress through its parody of use. The postmodern influence of Vonnegut's black humor and his satire can be seen when analyzed through discussions in Jim Powell's Postmodernism for Beginners. First of all, what is postmodernism? Well, it has to do with skepticism about the Great Narratives (Powell). The cat's cradle is a very postmodern text because it parodied the Great Narrative of Absolute Truth and Modern Ideas of Progress. Vonnegut uses Cat's Cradle to satire the ideas society has about progress and how it is achieved by striving for truth; knowledge gained through science and experimentation. Society seems to believe that it can be better done by obtaining empirical, scientific data about the world around us. It's a belief in modernism. This belief is that the more one knows about nature how things work or the more knowledge society gains, the better. It's a modern idea that comes from The Age of Enlightenment also known as the Age of Reason. Probably the main value of the era, apart from reason, was the idea of progress. (Powell). But it is a belief that is much criticized by the principles of postmodernism, as well as Vonnegut. A reputable example of postmodern questioning of this modern forgery is the creation of an atomic bomb (which appears in the novel). The supposed advancement of society in the fields of science, discovery and knowledge leads the world to the ever closer goal of utopia. However, the only benefit of one of the society's greatest scientific discoveries, in this case the atomic bomb, was the capability and consequences of ending hundreds of thousands of lives. Does this pursuit of science, knowledge, truth, lead society to the betterment of humanity? Vonnegut uses this example in the Cat's Cradle. This is one of the characteristics of the novel which makes it a postmodern work of art. Vonnegut uses the plot of Cat Cradle to make a postmodern parody of how science really doesn't lead to utopia. In Chapter 66 of the novel, Dad (leader in San Lorenzo) suffers from a mysterious illness and just before he passes out he says 'You,' he told Frank hoarsely, 'you - Franklin Hoenikker - will be the next president of San Lorenzo. Science - you have science. Science is the strongest thing there is.' 'Science' said 'Papa' 'Ice' (Vonnegut 146). He chose Frank Hoenikker as the new president of San Lorenzo because he thinks he's going to die. He chooses Frank

