Name: Period: Date:

“The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas”

Answer each question as completely as you can.

1. How would you describe the city of Omelas in the first half of the story? What, specifically, do we learn about the city in the opening pages? What is the mood?

2. Why does the narrator emphasize that she is making up this story, and even inviting you, the reader to take part in the creation of this fiction? How does this affect your experience of the story?

3. Describe the child that is living in the basement. What is the function of this child? What type of mood is created after we learn of the child?

4. How and when do the people of Omelas explain the suffering child to their children? How do the children respond?

5. Who are the ones who walk away from Omelas? Why do they leave? Is it a brave act or something else? Why do some people stay?

6. Explain how Omelas resembles our society. What would be our symbolic “suffering child” on whom other people’s happiness depends?

7. Jeremy Bentham is credited with founding the philosophy called Utilitarianism. The main ethical idea of Utilitarianism is that whatever action provides the most pleasure and the least pain for an individual is a morally correct act. Furthermore, for a society, whatever action provides the most pleasure for the most people is a morally correct act. Explain how this idea is represented in this story and, more importantly, explain whether or not you agree with this philosophy.