Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What are some of the obstacles that Vonnegut encounters as he goes through the writing process?
2. Why do you think Vonnegut chose to open the book with metafiction? How does it impact your reading of the novel?
3. What can you infer about Vonnegut’s beliefs/attitudes about war through reading this chapter? (Go beyond war is bad. What are some of the complexities he addresses?)
4. Vonnegut uses the motifs “so it goes” and “and so on” repeatedly throughout the chapter. What is their significance?
5. How does this chapter address the reality of time versus man’s perception of it? How might the Hudson River symbolize time?
6. Why might Vonnegut have chosen to include the Yon Yonson limerick in this chapter?
7. Vonnegut’s dad notes that none of his stories have villains. Why might he highlight that in his opening chapter?
8. Who does Vonnegut decide to dedicate his book to and why has he chosen these two people?
9. How does this chapter utilize pastiche? How does it enhance the chapter?
10. Discuss the biblical allusions in this chapter. How do Sodom and Gomorrah compare/contrast with Dresden? What is Lot’s wife remembered for? Why do you think Vonnegut focuses in on her?
11. “This [book] is a failure, and it had to be, since it was written by a pillar of salt” (28). What is Vonnegut saying here? What does it show about him?