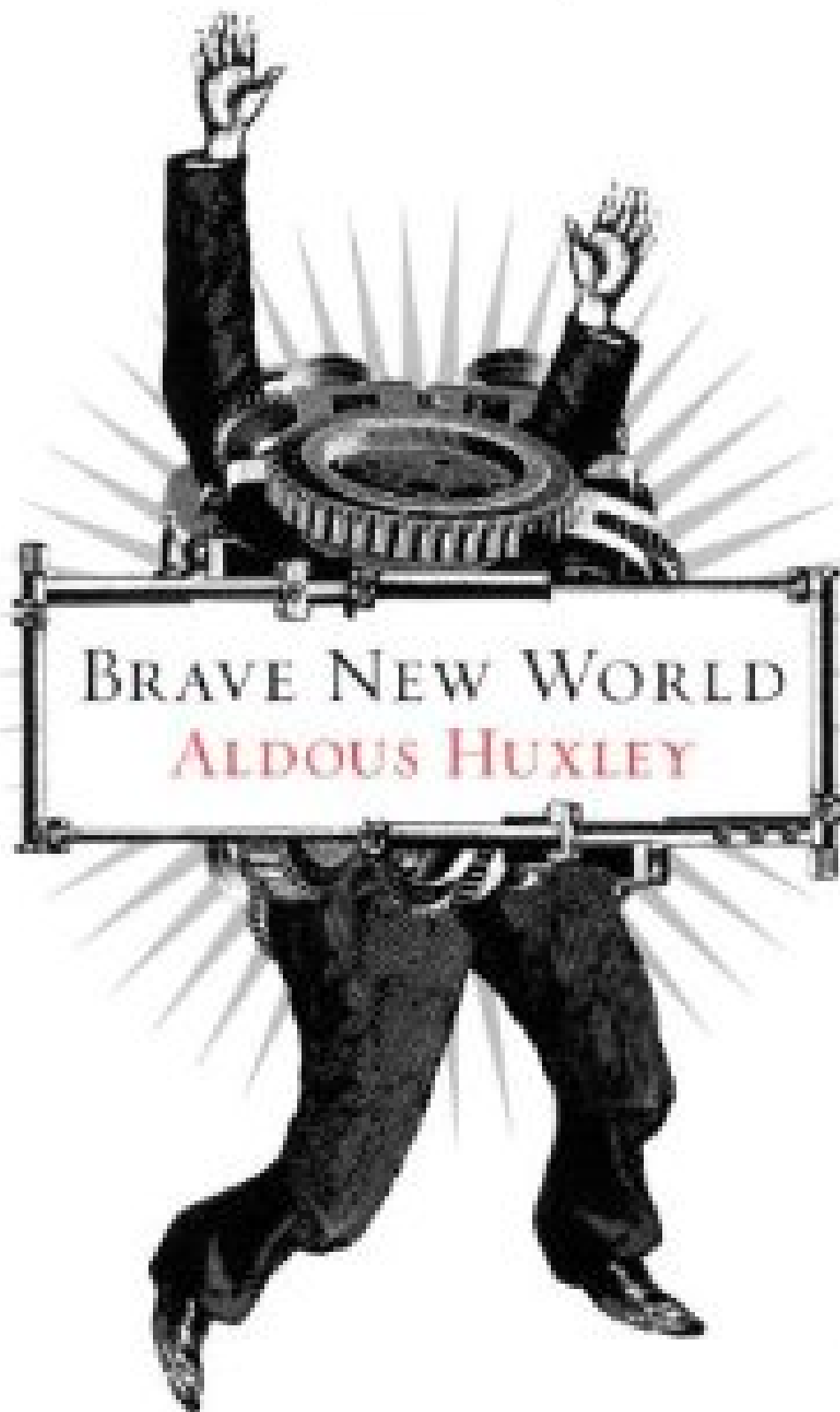


10 IB SUMMER READER READING GUIDE



BRAVE NEW WORLD

Brave New World is a dystopian (dysfunctional society) novel about a possible future world. It questions human faith in scientific progress and raises issues of freedom, dignity and individuality.

Setting: Set in the 26th century, there are two main settings. A futuristic London and the traditional pueblo Malpais (bad country) reservation in New Mexico, USA.

Two Main Characters: Bernard Marx, who resists his loss of individuality, and John, called The Savage, raised on the Malpais reservation.

External Conflict: There is conflict between the Controller Mustapha Mond, who represents scientific progress and social stability, and Bernard Marx, who represents freedom and individuality.

Internal Conflicts: Bernard, his longing for freedom and his shyness. John, pros and cons of traditional values and those of 26th century London.

Themes: The price for technological progress is the loss of individuality and human freedom. Reason is chosen over passion and science over art. This leads to distortion of human nature.

Religion in Brave New World's World State

American automobile manufacturer Henry Ford (1863-1947) functions as God. Dates are shown as A.F., or After Ford, starting with the year his Model-T car was first produced (1913); and Ford's assembly-line method for cost-effective production of identical vehicles has been adapted to the production of human beings. There is a clock called Big Henry (Big Ben), Ford's Day is a major festival, people speak of 'Our Ford', make 'the sign of the T', and say that 'Ford's in his flivver; all's well with the world.'

Character Name References

Many characters share the same first or last names of famous people during Huxley's time. Some names are easy to see who they were named after but I found this information and thought you would be interested. Remember, this is just speculation but I thought it was really cool!

'Mustapha Mond has a stereotypical famous leader name. At the time Huxley was writing this novel, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was the president of Turkey, having just founded it. There are also many Mustafa's before him, all of who were the Sultans of the Ottoman Empire. The fictional Mustapha's last name, Mond, means 'world' in French.'

taken from <http://www.shmoop.com/brave-new-world/characterization.html>

Brave New World and The Tempest

'O brave new world, that has such people in't' - William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Huxley took his title from Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* and other Shakespeare's works are present in the novel as they are read by one of the characters, John. *Brave New World* and *The Tempest* share similar themes and ideas.

IMPORTANT CHARACTERS AND DESCRIPTIONS (in order of appearance)

Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning (D.H.C.)

High-ranking scientist whose first name is Thomas; Bernard Marx's boss

Henry Foster

Enthusiastic Alpha (the highest of five classes of society); a scientist at the Central London Hatchery

Lenina Crowne

A pretty Hatchery nurse who finds it difficult to be as sexually promiscuous as the World State requires; she dates Henry Foster and is attracted to Bernard Marx and, later to John

Mustapha Mond

An Alpha-Plus, 'his fordship,' the Resident Controller for Western Europe, one of the Ten World Controllers.

Bernard Marx

Physically imperfect Alpha-Plus, a psychologist and loner who resists the complete loss of his individuality. Note his last name of Marx.

Fanny Crowne

A sensible Beta (second class) who works in the Bottling Room. She is a friend of Lenina Crowne but not a relative; the state gives only ten thousand surnames to its two billion inhabitants.

Benito Hoover

An Alpha who works in the Hatchery. Like several other characters, his name refers to two different historical people, Benito Mussolini, the Italian fascist leader, and Herbert Hoover, the US president.

Helmholtz Watson

An Alpha-Plus, an Emotional Engineer, writer, college lecturer, and poet; friend of Bernard Marx.

John

Also called The Savage, the child of two members of the World State but born and raised on a Savage (Indian) Reservation and later taken to London; destroyed psychologically by the modern world

Linda

John's mother, a Beta who accidentally remained on a Savage Reservation while pregnant with John; represents human frailty and mortality.

Brave New World Class System

All humans are bred into a specific class system. The class names use the first five letters of the Greek alphabet: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon. Within each group there are also a 'plus' and 'minus'. Each group is conditioned for a specific task.

Aldous Huxley

Aldous Huxley (1894-1963) was the grandson of the great nineteenth-century biologist Thomas Huxley. He attended Oxford University, was employed in a government office during World War I, and was a schoolmaster at Eton. He later lived in the United States for many years and died there. Huxley was a prolific writer, producing novels, plays, and a long list of essays on a wide variety of social, cultural, historical, and literary topics. *Brave New World* has remained a widely read novel of the possible future of human civilization.

Important to note, Huxley later wrote *Brave New World Revisited* in 1958 because he did not like the message the ending of *Brave New World* sent. He wanted to send the message that, although society was trying to crush individualism and expression, one should never stop trying to keep their individuality and freedom.

Helpful Tips

'Brave New World' is a very complex novel and can seem overwhelming. I've prepared this guide to help you understand the important themes and ideas in the novel. You should probably read this with a dictionary on hand but don't worry about understanding every word or detail, you will go crazy. If there are some things in the book that you don't understand, feel free to use CliffNotes to understand the chapter better. This doesn't mean don't read the book, I'm just telling you to use help if you need it. As you read, also think about how the themes and ideas of the story pertain to society today. This book was written in 1932 but you can see many of Huxley's ideas coming true. As you read, take notes over the ideas that you can see in our time.

Chapter One

(warning: there is lots of specific scientific processes being discussed, you only need to focus on the Bokanovsky's Process)

1. What is the World State's motto?
2. From the chapter you can understand that normal 'birth' is no longer done, but humans are developed by artificial fertilization. Each fertilized egg is developed for a specific class. The Alphas and Betas are allowed to continue developing normally but the Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons undergo the Bokanovsky's Process. As simply as you can, what does the Bokanovsky's Process do?
3. What is a freemartin?
4. Give an example of how they predestine and condition an Epsilon embryo? Why do they do this?

Chapter Two

5. How do they condition the Delta babies? Why do they condition them this way?

6. They condition the Deltas to hate the country but condition them to love all country sports. Why do they do this?

7. What words seem to be dirty words?

8. Why is the story of Reuben Rabinovitch important?

9. What kinds of sleep- teaching conditioning are the Alpha children receiving?

Chapter Three

(There are four stories happening at the same time in this chapter.)

Mustafa Mond

10. Why do the games require so much equipment? Why are there no more simple games?

11. What kind of play is encouraged among young children?

12. Who is Mustafa Mond?

13. What was Our Ford's saying?

14. What do the rumours say is in the Controller's study?

15. What can you understand from Mustafa Mond's questions about family?

16. How does Mustafa describe what a 'home' and 'family' used to be?

17. 'Everyone belongs to everyone else'. What does this mean in this time?

18. What feeling has been worked out of society?

19. What happened during the Nine Years' War?

20. What is soma and what does it do?

21. What happens to people when they get older?

Henry Foster

22. What is a Feelies?

23. What is Bernard's reaction to how Henry and the other man are talking about Lenina?

24. How do the other men treat Bernard? From Fanny and Lenina's conversation, why do they treat him this way?

Lenina

25. Describe the Girl's Dressing Room.

26. What can you understand is a Pregnancy Substitute?

27. Why is Fanny upset that Lenina has only been seeing Henry Foster, no other man, for four months?

28. Where did Bernard ask Lenina to go?

Nursery

29. What messages are the children being brainwashed with?

Chapter Four

30. Where will Lenina go with Bernard?

33. Why does Bernard feel like an outsider?

34. Describe Helmholtz's problem.

Chapter Five

35. Describe a Solidarity Service.

Chapter Six

36. How do Bernard and Lenina conflict with each other?

37. What story does the Director tell Bernard?

38. Why does the Director get angry with Bernard?

39. Describe what is on the Savage Reservation.

Chapter Seven

40. Describe the 'shocking' things that Lenina sees on the reservation.

41. A sacrifice ritual is described in this chapter. After the ritual, a young man comes out and speaks to them. How is he different? Who is the sacrifice for and what do they hope to get from the sacrifice?

42. What does Linda say about her life on the reservation?

Chapter Eight

43. How is mescal similar to and different from soma?

44. What problems did Linda and John have on the reservation?

45. What happens at the end of the chapter?

Note: At the end of the chapter, John is referring to characters and lines from *The Tempest*.

Chapter Nine

46. Why does Bernard want to bring back Linda and John to London?



Time to rack your brain!!!!

So far, do you find any of Huxley's ideas about a future world having come true or are coming true?

In today's society, what would be equivalent to the Savage Reservation?

Chapter Ten

47. How is Bernard able to save his job?

Chapter Eleven

48. How does Bernard's new social status change him?

(On page 158, John makes a reference of Ariel, Ariel is one of the spirits from *The Tempest*)

49. Why do you think John has such a strong negative reaction to seeing the workers in the factory?

50. Children are conditioned to accept death as something unemotional. How do they condition them?

51. Describe the Feely experience.

Chapter Twelve

52. What happens at Bernard's party?

53. Why do you think the State is against people being alone or having solitude?

54. Why does Helmholtz laugh at *Romeo and Juliet*?

Chapter Thirteen

55. What problem does Lenina struggle with?

56. How does Lenina's visit with John go?

Chapter Fourteen

57. Why does John become angry with his mother before she dies from over-using soma?

Chapter Fifteen

58. Describe what happens in Chapter Fifteen.

Chapter Sixteen

59. Even though he's read it, what reasoning does Mustapha Mond give for prohibiting Shakespeare?

60. Why did society sacrifice high art?

61. What reasons does the Controller give for Bokanovsky Groups?

62. What happened in the Cyprus experiment?

63. How can science and inventions be dangerous to this society?

64. Why does the Controller say being sent to the island should not be seen as a punishment?

64. What are some important thoughts you can take away from the Controller's speech on page 228?

Chapter Seventeen

The Controller begins to discuss religion with John. From one of the texts, the Controller reads a passage. To sum up, the passage is saying that when people are young, passionate and prosperous, they don't have a need for God. However, it is when people age and those feelings and desires are less that people turn to God to make up for those losses. The Controller states that you can only be independent of God when you are young, so now, in this society, they can be independent of God always because people have youth and prosperity up until they die. People don't experience loss so they have no need for God and religious sentiment.

65. What is your opinion about this? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

66. Why do you think John believes that people living their life in society now, with no worries or pain, is just as bad as people suffering from feelings and pain?

67. Why does the Controller say there are no opportunities for being noble and heroic in society now?

68. John claims the right to be unhappy. According to the Controller, what does that mean?

Chapter Eighteen

69. John runs away to live alone in a light house. During this time he does certain things to punish and purify himself. What type of things does he do and what is he purifying himself from?

70. Describe what happens to John after the release of *The Savage of Surrey*.



Let's Think About It.....

In the end, John tragically commits suicide. Can you empathize with John? Do you believe that suicide was the only answer for him?

In the end, John gave up his fight for individualism and expression. The World State won. Later, Huxley wrote *Brave New World Revisited* because he did not like the message John's suicide sent. Unlike John, he did not want people to give up their resistance to the attempts to destroy individualism and freedom. Do you think he was right to do this? Why or why not?



**Give you brain a break,
you earned it!!!!!!**

DON'T FORGET!! You will have a quiz when you come back, don't lose this!!!!