

## Brave New World (1932) by Aldous Huxley

Hi I am very pleased to share this academic experience with you. It will be difficult but rewarding and totally interesting. You are about to read one of the most intellectual books in Western Literature. The basic instructions are below. Please give this a real effort. I recommend you read the Bio for Huxley (author) below (see page 2).

[Interview \(1962\) with Aldous Huxley](#)

[Brave New World by Aldous Huxley](#) (the book online)

Article about [Brave New World](#) ([Link](#))

### Assignment:

Read Brave New World over the Winter Break.

1. **Take notes** on each chapter to help you comprehend the text and to help reinforce your reading. Pay close attention to detail in the first 5 chapters, then try to focus on characters... Characters/Setting/Plot/Vocabulary (basically try to address these items, this should not be summary

**Not this:** "The novel opens in the Central London Hatching and Conditioning Centre, where the Director of the Hatchery and one of his assistants, Henry Foster, are giving a tour to a group of boys. The boys learn about the Bokanovsky and Podsnap Processes that allow the Hatchery to produce thousands of nearly identical human embryos."

#### **Like This:**

34 stories Building  
Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Center  
In the lab

World Motto: "Community, Identity, Stability"

"Director of Hatcheries" "DHC"  
Students follow the director

2. **Write commentaries** for each 5 chapters to reinforce your understanding. Try to include connections to psychology. Again, commentaries are not summaries, you should be thinking and reflecting.  
Ideas for Writing Commentary
  - Make an inference (this fact suggests that...).
  - Give an opinion.
  - Give a reason.
  - Give an effect.
  - Explain the importance.
  - Compare and contrast with something.
  - Make an analogy.
  - Make an if-then statement.
  - Make a connection to another event or idea, past or presentShare your thoughts...

## Personality Project (not 2021 students)

We will have a small project to do with this book when we return to school in January.

It will deal with personalities of the characters so, try to collect information about each character in an orderly fashion...

**Pay close attention to:** Mr. Foster, Lenina, Bernard, Helmholtz,...

## Biography of Huxley

- Aldous Huxley was born into a prominent intellectual family in, England, in 1894.
- In 1916 he graduated with honors from Oxford University and published a collection of poems.
- 1931 he published the work for which he is best known *Brave New World*.
- A dark vision of the future, it is widely regarded as one of the greatest novels of the 20th century.
- Huxley moved to the United States in 1937 and for the rest of his life maintained a prolific output of novels, nonfiction, screenplays and essays. He died of cancer in Los Angeles, California, in 1963.
- **Family of intellectuals**
- Grandfather was a biologist and naturalists
- Father teacher
- Brothers were biologists
- Tragedy:
- 1908 Mom died of cancer when he was 14
- Age 17 in 1911 he goes blind, but regains some vision, difficult to read the rest of his life.
- 1914 one brother commits suicide due to depression
- 1916 graduated from Oxford and published his first book, a collection of poems
- He moved to a place, Garsington Manor- a socialite's home where, he interacted with Virginia Woolf, Bertrand Russell, TS Elliot, and D.H. Lawrence. (he wrote a book in 1921 about his experiences at Garsington called Crome Yellow, about his literary friends, who did not like it)
- He soon became one of the leading intellectuals in England.
- Published articles and more poetry
- Married in 1919, son born 1920
- 1931 writing and 32 published Brave New World-
  - Setting year 2540 (of book)
  - Among its prophecies that have come to pass are the rise of dictatorial governments, in vitro fertilization, genetic cloning, virtual reality, antidepressants and the invention of the helicopter.
- Moved to Hollywood in 1938.
- More writing... screen plays, a few books, essays... experimenting with drugs (none so great as BNW)
- Died the same day as JFK, Nov. 22, 1963

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Huxley is writing in 1920s. He is a wonderful intellectual and knowledgeable about all of the fundamental philosophy, psychology, sciences like Einstein's' Theory of Relativity... All of the technology and advances of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. He took all that learning and imagined what the future would be... he applied his expectations for how the technology would advance in the future and he included all of this in his novel about a character who was left out of the technological and planned world who then becomes introduced to this world... the rest is how he survives and understands the "Brave New World." There will be a lot of vocabulary that is specific to the "Brave New World" so try to pay attention to those new terms as it will help you understand. The first chapters will be difficult but then it gets easier, that's why it helps to take notes.

I know you will give it a good go. Please feel free to contact me with questions on remind... get with a partner and share the experience, help each other.

Thank you and happy new year.

PMAC

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