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Reflections:

*A Student Response Journal for...*

# *Brave New World*

*by Aldous Huxley*

written by Lisa L. Burris

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## **T o T h e T e a c h e r**

In order to allow the teacher maximum flexibility in his or her approach, we have grouped the prompts by sections. The teacher may, therefore, assign specific prompts or allow the students to select one or more prompts from each section

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## *Response Journal*

### **To The Student**

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.



\_\_\_\_\_

# Response Sheet

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Section\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

## **Chapter 1**

1. The motto of the World State is “COMMUNITY, IDENTITY, STABILITY.”

Brainstorm a list of words and images you associate with each word in the motto. Based on your lists, write a one-page prediction of what you think day-to-day life may look like in this society and consider especially how it may differ from your own.

2. If you were to create a perfect society, what would its motto be? Choose three words that summarize your ideal vision of society, and write a paragraph explaining why you chose those words.
3. Re-read the vivid description of the Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre. List the descriptive words that help you see and feel the room. Then, write a paragraph explaining what impression of the society you have after reading this description.

## **Chapter 2**

4. Imagine that you are a foreign exchange student spending a year in the World State to study with its Alpha students. Write a letter home to your parents describing what you saw and your reactions in the tour of the Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre.
5. As part of the tour of the Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre, the students visit “Neo-Pavlovian Conditioning Rooms.”

Research Ivan Petrovich Pavlov. Write a paragraph describing his research with dogs and his discoveries on conditioning. Then, write a second paragraph explaining why you think the infant conditioning rooms are labeled “Neo-Pavlovian.”

6. The society of the World State uses the designation A. F. to measure time. In this chapter, we discover that this refers to Henry Ford. Ford’s invention of the assembly line has profoundly impacted the World State society, as you’ve already seen in the tour of the Hatcheries. The death of Ford, therefore, caused the people of the World State to designate a new reference point for measuring time: A. F. for After Ford.

Consider an event in your own life that affected you profoundly. Write an abbreviation for it. For example, if your parents divorced, your abbreviation could be P. D. (Parents’ Divorce). Write a one-page description of how life was different before and after the event you choose. In your writing, use your new time designation to refer to the current year and to specific events that occurred before and after the life-changing event.

For example, if your parents divorced three years ago, it would now be 3 A. P. D. (three years after your parents’ divorce). Something that occurred two years before the divorce would be labeled 2 B. P. D.



## **Chapter 3**

7. The Director tells the students that “in Our Ford’s day most games were played without more apparatus than a ball or two and a few sticks and perhaps a bit of netting.” He contrasts games of their present time, explaining that the Controllers will not approve of a new game that doesn’t require “at least as much apparatus as the most complicated of existing games.” The purpose of games, he says, is not only to provide recreation but also to increase consumption of goods in society.

Consider new games today (electronic games, board games, computer games, etc.). Do you think they are increasingly complex, requiring more expensive and elaborate “apparatus” to play? Do they seem to promote increased consumption of goods? How? Write a paragraph in which you describe your observations based on these questions.

8. When the Director tells the young Alphas that erotic play between children was considered abnormal and immoral in the time of Ford, over six hundred years earlier, they are incredulous. The students cannot fathom life in that kind of society. When they ask him what happened, what the results were of this horrible deprivation, the Director replies only “terrible...terrible.”

What things can you not imagine living without? Make a list of things that you have had as long as you can remember and without which you cannot imagine what life would be like (these may be physical objects or more intangible things such as privileges or beliefs). Next to each item explain why it is valuable to you and what you fear that you would lose if you no longer had it.

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## *Response Journal*

9. When the Controller joins the Director and the students on the tour, his conversation and questions shock his companions. He speaks of “viviparous” women and “mothers” – words which embarrass the students.

Look up the word “viviparous” and write a definition in your own words. Then, consider the students’ reactions to the word “mother” as vulgar. Write a paragraph in which you try to explain why this is one of the most offensive words in this society.

10. The Controller tells the boys that society has worked very hard to make sure that they have emotionally easy lives, that they never encounter insurmountable obstacles, or have to wait for the fulfillment of their desires.

Have you ever encountered something that seemed insurmountable but that you worked through and achieved? Have you experienced a significant waiting period between the time you began to desire something and when you were able to get it? In one paragraph, explain the situation. In a second paragraph, explain how you felt during the wait and after you achieved or received what you desired. Do you think there is value in encountering seemingly insurmountable obstacles and in waiting for things you desire? Why or why not?

## **Chapter 4**

11. This society, which engineers its people to be uniform, does not respect or tolerate individuality. Bernard is “eight centimeters short of standard Alpha height.” This makes him very self-conscious and causes his peers to speculate that alcohol may accidentally have been put in his blood surrogate. There is a practical problem related to his height, as well. Because he is shorter than he should be, he has a hard time gaining the respect of members of lower castes.

Have you ever been in a situation in which your individuality disadvantaged you? In which everyone else seemed to be a certain way or do something the same way and your difference made it more difficult for you? Write a paragraph explaining the situation and how it made you feel.

12. Helmholtz laments that he has the ability to invent phrases that make people “jump, almost as though you’d sat on a pin,” but he can only use them to describe Community Sings or scent organs – things which really aren’t important to him. “It’s not enough for the phrases to be good; what you make with them ought to be good too,” he suggests.

Make a list of the things you are good at doing. Is it rewarding to you just to do these things well for their own sake, or do you, like Helmholtz, desire to do or create something more important with your talents? Write a paragraph explaining your feelings.

## **Chapter 5**

13. Returning from their date, Henry and Lenina fly over the Crematorium. Henry muses that no matter who was being cremated at the time, it was certain that “he was happy when he was alive.” Lenina agrees, “Yes, everybody’s happy now.”

Do you agree or disagree with their perspective of their society? List all the characters you’ve met so far. Then, write a one to two sentence explanation of why you would consider each to be “happy” or “unhappy.” Based on the evidence, how effective do you think the hypnopaedic (sleep) conditioning is in convincing everyone that he or she is happy?

14. Following the Solidarity Service, Fifi Bradlaugh tries to engage Bernard in a conversation about how great the experience was, but Bernard does not agree with her perspective. He can see that she is sincere in her praise of it, but he genuinely feels differently – so he lies and tells her that he “thought it was wonderful.” His inability to share her opinion makes him feel separate and lonely.

Have you ever had a similar experience? Write a paragraph about a time when everyone around you seemed to be enjoying or appreciating something but you could not. Describe the situation. What did you do? How did you feel? Did you pretend or lie, as Bernard did? Or, were you honest about your feelings? Why?

## **Chapter 6**

15. Lenina describes her vacation to the North Pole with Benito Hoover as very disappointing. She was unhappy with the hotel, the recreation, the over-crowding, and the lack of more modern conveniences. While she doesn't know much about New Mexico, she reasons that it must be better than the North Pole.

Write a paragraph describing your ideal vacation: Where would you go? Who would you want to go with you? What would you do?

16. Lenina finds herself in similar situations and circumstances on her date with Henry in chapter 5 and with Bernard in chapter 6. Her dates' personalities and her conversations with them are very different, however.

Write at least one page explaining the contrasts you see between Lenina's dates in these chapters.

17. After his first date with Lenina, Bernard regrets that they didn't wait longer to sleep together. He compares their actions to those of infants instead of adults.

What do you think he means by this comparison? How did they act more like infants than adults? Write a paragraph explaining what you think Bernard meant.

18. After her first date with Bernard, Lenina is more confused than ever. Although the novel does not record Lenina's description of the date, it says that Lenina again confides in Fanny and that Fanny replies only, "I told you so...It's the alcohol they put in his surrogate."

Write out the events of the night from Lenina's perspective as you imagine she might have shared them with Fanny. Begin with the following sentence or one of your own creation: "Bernard and I went out last night. I didn't think it was possible, but he's even stranger than we've heard..."

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## *Response Journal*

19. When Bernard goes to the Director to receive permission to travel to the New Mexican Reservation, the Director chastises him for his inappropriate behavior outside of work. Bernard's neglect of dating, sports, and social events has marked him as a non-conformist and a danger to society. The Director threatens him with a transfer to Iceland if he doesn't make a greater effort to adhere to the "proper standard of infantile decorum."

Write a probationary letter that an employer might place in the personnel file of an employee guilty of behavior that our society considers inappropriate. Take on the persona of the employer, and in your letter, explain in detail the behavior(s) you find inappropriate and the reasons the employee should cease them. Begin your letter with Director's words, "I'm not at all pleased with the reports I receive of your behaviour outside working hours..."

20. Although there are things about Bernard that Helmholtz despises, such as his self-pity, boasting, and emotional expressiveness, Helmholtz values Bernard's friendship because he can talk to Bernard about subjects that are important to him.

Write a description of your closest friend. Consider the following questions: Are aspects of your friend's personality distasteful or frustrating to you? What is it about him or her that makes you value the friendship and endure or overlook the difficulties?

21. When Bernard calls Helmholtz from the Savage Reservation, Helmholtz informs him that the Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning has begun talking in public about his plans to transfer Bernard to Iceland.

Imagine that, in Bernard's absence, the Director holds a hearing to determine whether he will transfer Bernard. Make a list of five witnesses who could be called to testify to his life outside of work, his work ethic, his personality, or his reputation, and write a brief description of each one's testimony for or against Bernard. Include specific, detailed examples.

## Chapter 7

22. At the Savage Reservation, Bernard and Lenina witness rituals that disgust and disturb them.

Identify a remote place in the world that you would like to visit. Research its social and religious customs. Which are the most unfamiliar or different from your own beliefs or practices? Which would you have the most trouble adjusting to? Why? Write two paragraphs, one describing the location and customs, and one responding personally to what you've learned.

23. At the Savage Reservation, Lenina sees for the first time people who have aged naturally. She is appalled by their appearances – their wrinkled, discolored skin, flabby muscles, gray hair, missing teeth, etc. – because in the World State, they have discovered ways to make even those in their sixties look twenty-something.

Consider our society: Do we value the process of aging? Do we value looking our age? Do you personally see value in looking your age? How or why not? Write a one-page reflection on these questions, providing concrete evidence to support your opinions.

24. Overwhelmed by her unfamiliar surroundings, Lenina finds comfort in the sound of the savages' drums because they remind her of the music played at the Solidarity Services: "Shutting her eyes she abandoned herself to their soft repeated thunder, allowed it to invade her consciousness more and more completely, till at last there was nothing left in the world but that one deep pulse of sound."

Write a paragraph describing the type of music that calms and focuses you when you're anxious or stressed. What aspect of the music has the most calming influence: the rhythm, tune, vocals, instruments, etc.? How does it make you feel?

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## *Response Journal*

25. In this chapter, we discover that Linda, the girlfriend of the Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning who disappeared inexplicably while visiting the Savage Reservation, has been living on the Reservation all this time and has a son named John.

Based on her reactions to Bernard and Lenina and her reflections on the difficulties of living as one of the savages, imagine what her conversation with the Hunters from Malpais must have been like when she first regained consciousness. Complete the following dialogue, or create one of your own.

**Linda:** Where am I? Thomas, is that you?

**Hunter #1:** You're ok. You're safe now.

**Hunter #2:** No, don't try to move; you have a nasty gash on your head.

**Linda:** Ford, what is that awful smell? Is that slime on my head? Why am I lying on the floor? Where is Thomas? What are you doing with my Malthusian belt? Oh my Ford, I think I'm going to be sick...

26. Imagine that, to try to keep her sanity, Linda kept a journal during her first months on the reservation. Write a one-page entry in which she describes doing something new for the first time (washing, mending, building a fire, cooking, cleaning, etc.). Include her description of the task, her reactions to it, and the reactions of the other savages to her attempts.



## Chapter 8

27. Bernard cannot believe that a place like the Savage Reservation exists – a place where everything is so different and primitive in comparison to the World State he knows. To help him understand this new world, he asks John to share some of his earliest memories. John recalls his mother singing to him when he was very young. The songs of the World State seemed magical and mysterious because their words were so foreign to him in his savage surroundings. The memory of those songs continues to comfort him even into adulthood.

Reflect on your earliest memories. Write a thorough description of one of them, including as much detail as you can remember about the places, people, words, actions, and feelings you have associated with it. Do you think it affects who you are today? Explain how and why.

28. After Linda teaches John to read, she shares with him the only book she has: *The Chemical and Bacteriological Conditioning of the Embryo. Practical Instructions for Beta Embryo-Store Workers*. He feels an immediate dislike for it, but he learns to read very well as he turns to it for comfort and company when the other boys taunt and reject him. On his twelfth birthday, Popé brings John a copy of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. The words and images affect him very powerfully and give him ways to express the deep, confusing emotions he feels.

Write a paragraph for each of the following questions:

- a. If you could have given John one other book to help or encourage him, what would it be and why?
- b. If you could prevent John from reading any one book, what would it be and why? (This could be one of the two he had on the reservation or another book of your choosing.)

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## Response Journal

29. When she is stranded on the Reservation, Linda has with her only the clothes on her back and her work manual, *The Chemical and Bacteriological Conditioning of the Embryo. Practical Instructions for Beta Embryo-Store Workers*. If you were to be stranded in a similar way, in a remote, primitive society, what two things would you want to have with you? Write a paragraph explaining the reasons behind your choices.
30. When it is time for the boys to become men, the villagers chase John out of the line of boys descending into the Kiva for the ceremony. They leave him alone in the darkness where he can only see the faint glow of the lights and hear the singing ascending from below.

Can you identify with John's feelings? Have you ever been intentionally excluded from an activity? The last kid picked for a team? Think about a time when you felt left out, and write a description of the situation and how it made you feel.

31. When John opens *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, the first passage he reads is from *Hamlet*: "Nay, but to live / In the rank sweat of an enseamed bed, / Stew'd in corruption, honeying and making love / Over the nasty sty..."

Hamlet here is speaking to his mother about the appalling nature of her relationship with her second husband. John identifies with Prince Hamlet and draws strong parallels between Linda's lover, Popé, and Hamlet's stepfather, Claudius.

Read a summary of the play *Hamlet*. Write a detailed comparison between John's life and feelings in this chapter and those of Prince Hamlet in the play.

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32. The story of *Hamlet* speaks deeply to John. He even takes on the words and actions in the play as his own.

Think about a book or story with which you have identified strongly. It may be one, like John's, in which your deepest emotions and life experiences are very similar to those of the main character, or you may identify with only one aspect of a character: a single fear, a desire, or an experience. Write a paragraph describing the story. Then, write a second paragraph explaining how you have identified with it or with some aspect of it.

33. When John attacks Popé, trying to kill him, Popé takes the boy by the chin, looks into his eyes, and then bursts out laughing.

Does this reaction surprise you? Why do you think he does not try to punish or kill John? Do you think his response is more a reflection of Popé's character (for example, that he's a kind or forgiving man) or of the culture of the savages in general (for example, that they respect courage and zeal in any form)? Write a paragraph in which you explain why you think Popé reacts as he does.

34. Music is a very important part of both the civilized and the savage cultures in the novel. They each use songs and rhymes for teaching or, as Bernard says, "conditioning" purposes.

Write down two songs from the novel so far that seem to have this purpose. For each one, explain what you think they're trying to teach. Then, consider current children's songs and rhymes or those from your childhood. Write down one or two of them *from memory*. What do their purposes seem to be (entertainment, education, etc.)? If education, what are they trying to teach? Write a paragraph explaining what you think is the primary purpose of children's songs and rhymes in our society.

## **Chapters 9 & 10**

35. While Lenina is on her soma-holiday, escaping from the harsh realities of the Savage Reservation, John breaks into the guest house, fearing that she's left without saying goodbye.

Imagine that he is caught by one of the guards as he stands over Lenina's sleeping form. How would he explain his presence in her house? How would he account for her perfumed powder on his hands and body? Write a statement for John to give to the Warden of the Reservation in explanation of his strange behavior.

36. In his explanation to Henry Foster of the reasons to dismiss Bernard, the Director says that Bernard's "intellectual eminence carries with it corresponding moral responsibilities" and that Bernard is one "to whom so much has been given, and from whom, in consequence, so much must be expected."

Write a paragraph in which you explain what you think the Director means. Consider the following questions: What has Bernard been given? What does the Director believe that Bernard is not giving back adequately? Then, write a second paragraph in which you agree or disagree with the director's philosophy: Do those who have been given more of something also have an obligation to give back more?

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*Brave New World*

37. The Director chooses to dismiss Bernard publicly in the Fertilizing Room because it has the highest number of upper caste workers and will be the most humiliating environment to Bernard. His plan has the added benefit of serving as a warning to a great number of other Alphas and Betas that he will not tolerate non-conformity. Unfortunately for the Director, Bernard has a plan of his own, and it is the Director, not Bernard, who leaves the Bloomsbury Centre in shame.

Imagine, though, that Bernard had not been able to persuade the Controller to allow him to bring Linda and John back to London. Re-write the end of this chapter so that it plays out more as the Director had envisioned it. Complete the following dialogue, or create one of your own.

**Director:** Can you show any reason why I should not now execute the judgment passed upon you?

**Bernard:** No, not at this moment, but there is evidence I think you would find very compelling if I could have but one or two days to collect it...

## **Chapter 11**

38. While serving as his guardian and constant companion, Bernard also studies the Savage and writes regular reports for the Controller about the Savage's perspectives on and reactions to the World State. Imagine that the Savage also keeps a journal in which he records his feelings about the things he sees and experiences.

Choose one of the following experiences and write a sample entry from the Savage's personal journal in which he describes the event from his perspective and explains his reaction to it:

- a. his conversation with the doctor and their decision to allow Linda to have as much Soma as she desires
  - b. one of Barnard's evening parties
  - c. his visit to the Electrical Equipment Corporation
  - d. his visit to Eton
  - e. his date with Lenina
39. When the Savage asks the Head Mistress of Eton whether her students read Shakespeare, she blushes saying, "Certainly not." The Provost continues, "Our library . . . contains only books of reference. If our young people need distraction, they can get it at the feelies. We don't encourage them to indulge in any solitary amusements."

Consider our society: Does it encourage "solitary amusements?" List as many as you can think of. Consider especially children: What solitary activities does our society encourage them to pursue? Write a paragraph in which you compare or contrast our society to that of the World State solely in terms of our value of solitude and "solitary amusements." Do you think the two societies are more similar or different in this respect?

40. The Provost explains that "death conditioning" begins for all children at eighteen months. They spend two mornings a week at a hospital for the dying where they play with the best toys and get special treats when a patient dies. This is so "they learn to take dying as a matter of course."

Does this description bother you? Why or why not? What values do you see in this process? Write a paragraph explaining your reaction to this particular type of conditioning.

## **Chapter 12**

41. When Bernard tries to convince the Savage to come to the party, his arguments are completely selfish. Bernard's own reputation is his only concern. Bernard fears the effects of the Savage's refusal to come on Bernard's relationship with the Arch-Community Songster of Canterbury.

What arguments do you think Bernard could have used that would have been more appealing to the Savage personally? Write a note that Bernard could slip under the Savage's door before he returns to the party. In it, try to convince the Savage that going to the party is in his own best interest. Have Bernard develop two or three specific reasons that going to the party would personally benefit the Savage.

42. Although he admits that it is "ingenious," a "masterly piece of work," and even that it is "quite possibly true," the Controller refuses to publish an article entitled "A New Theory of Biology" because of its suggestion that people may have greater purposes in life than staying happy and helping others stay happy. He fears its ideas could lead some of the highest Alphas to begin thinking for themselves and to break free of the already weak grip of conditioning on their minds. He recognizes that this kind of censorship is necessary to maintain control of the masses.

Write a one-page explanation of your feelings about censorship. Consider the following questions: Should the truth always be accessible? Why or why not? If your school or district has a list of censored books, review the titles that have been placed on it. How do you feel about being told what you may or may not read? Who, if anyone, should be able to make those decisions for you? Why?

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*Response Journal*

43. Helmholtz explains to Bernard that he has gotten himself in trouble with the Principal for using some of his own poetry in a lecture for his course called “Advanced Emotional Engineering for Third Year Students.” He says that he wanted to try to “engineer” the students into feeling what he’d felt when he’d written the rhymes.

While the word “engineer” may sound distant and scientific, the reality is that poets often intend for their work to elicit strong emotional responses from readers.

- a. Re-read Helmholtz’s poem and write a paragraph in which you describe what emotion or emotions you think he was feeling. Does Helmholtz succeed in making you feel them, too? Why or why not?

OR

- b. Copy down a poem of your own choosing that you think is successful in making you feel what the poet felt. In a paragraph, explain what emotion(s) you believe you share with the poet and how you think the poet accomplished this feat.

44. When the Savage reads the scene in *Romeo and Juliet*, in which Juliet pleads with her mother to postpone her marriage to Paris, Helmholtz laughs uncontrollably, “till the tears stream ...down his face.” Bernard describes Helmholtz’s reaction as more “disgraceful” even than his own attempts to mock the poetry.

Why do you think this is? In a paragraph, compare Bernard’s and Helmholtz’s interruptions of the Savage’s reading. What about Helmholtz’s reaction do you find to be worse than Bernard’s?



## **Chapter 13**

45. When Bernard announces to the party that the Savage will not be coming, Lenina reacts uncharacteristically: "...her blue eyes clouded with an unwonted melancholy, she sat in a corner, cut off from those who surrounded her by an emotion which they did not share."

Make a list of examples from chapters 12 and 13 of Lenina's increasingly "anti-social" behavior. Then, write a paragraph explaining how she is beginning to act more like the Savage than like her fellow World State citizens.

46. When Lenina is not acting like herself, Henry suggests that she may need an "extra strong V.P.S. treatment." Lenina, it says, "would have laughed, if she hadn't been on the point of crying. As though she hadn't got enough V.P.S. of her own!" Although they do not want members of society to have their own extreme emotions (because their actions in those cases are so unpredictable), the Controllers recognize that everyone needs the adrenaline rush brought on by strong emotions from time to time. Some people need it more or less often than others. Violent Passion Surrogate (V.P.S.) is the way this society makes up for the lack of extreme emotions in the members of society.

Write a paragraph about your own emotions. Consider the following questions: How often do you feel "extreme" emotions? Are you generally calm, easily agitated, or somewhere in between? If you were a member of this society in which there is rarely any natural occurrence that would stimulate your emotions to react strongly, would the standard V.P.S. treatments be enough for you? Or, would you need greater or more frequent doses than most other people?

## **Chapter 14**

47. Although they did not have advanced medical care on the Reservation, when John visits his mother at the Park Lane Hospital for the Dying, he is appalled at the way the hospital is run.

Compare Park Lane to a hospital you have visited. Make a list of all the similarities and differences you notice. Then, in a paragraph, explain whether you think Park Lane Hospital for the Dying is more similar or different from hospitals in your community. In a second paragraph, respond personally to the description of Park Lane. Does it bother you as it did John? Why or why not?

48. John overcome with emotions of sadness, guilt, and anger about his mother's last days.

A psychologist of our time might suggest that even though she cannot read or understand it, it might be beneficial to John to write a letter to his mother expressing his feelings. Take on John's persona and write a letter to his mother in which he describes his feelings and tries to explain them. Begin the letter as follows, or create your own opening:

Dear Linda,  
The nurse tells me that there is no hope for your recovery...

49. This chapter is filled with vivid images and descriptions of John's experiences at Park Lane Hospital for the Dying.

Write a found poem (using only words and phrases you find in the chapter) in which you try to express John's feelings as he watches his mother die.

## **Chapter 15**

50. In the thick of the fight, Bernard sees that his friends are grossly outnumbered and fears that they will be killed. He has a sudden impulse to help them, but then, he talks himself out of it; feeling guilty, he rushes forward again only to stop once more. He feels ashamed by his indecision and instinctive self-protection, but then the Police arrive, and it is too late. He is off the hook.

Can you identify with Bernard's dilemma? Write about a time in which you had a strong impulse to do something but hesitated until it was too late. How did it make you feel?

51. Following the Savage's disruption and the restoration of peace, Bernard, Helmholtz, and the Savage are taken away by the Police.

Imagine that you are the Deputy Sub-Bursar responsible for distributing the soma ration to the menial staff of the Park Lane Hospital for the Dying. The Controller has asked you for your perspective on what happened. Write a one-page statement about what you saw and heard.

## Chapter 16

52. The Savage is surprised when the Resident World Controller for Western Europe quotes Shakespeare. "I thought nobody knew about that book here, in England," he marvels. The Controller replies that because he makes the rules, he can also break them without punishment, a privilege that Bernard and Helmholtz do not share.

What do you think of that policy? Should those who make the rules also have to abide by them? Write a paragraph in which you explain your feelings on this issue. Use specific examples to support your opinion.

53. The Controller agrees that *Othello* is better than the feelies but says the people cannot appreciate that. He explains that to have happiness, you must take away passion, and without passion, there is no (or very little and rare) instability, and if there is no instability, there can be no tragedy. Members of a society with no passion or instability cannot appreciate tragedy. He says that happiness and art, such as a gripping, tragic drama, are incompatible. You must choose one or the other, and the World State has chosen happiness.

Do you agree that happiness and art are incompatible? In a paragraph, explain your feelings using specific, concrete examples to support your opinion.

54. In his conversation with the Controller, the Savage expresses his disgust at all the twins. The Controller assures him that they are absolutely necessary to maintain order and stability, calling them the "foundation on which everything else is built."

In a paragraph, explain what you think he means. How are the groups of twins the "foundation" of the World State?

55. In banishing the men to an island, the Controller reveals that he, too, was threatened with exile for his scientific experimentation. Given the choice of retiring to an island or joining the Controllers' Council, he chose the latter, but says of Bernard's and Helmholtz's fates, "I almost envy you."

In a paragraph, explain why you think the Controller made the decision he did. Then, in a second paragraph, explain what choice you would have made in his position.

## Chapter 17

56. In his discussion of God and religion with the Savage, the Controller maintains that modern men and women don't need God or religion because they no longer have losses in their lives to cope with; they remain youthful looking and apparently healthy. The Controller cites soma as one way they insure no one feels pain. Another way they have made sure that the citizens feel no losses is through the many "surrogates."

Imagine a classmate doesn't understand Huxley's use of surrogates. Explain his use to your classmate by first looking up the word and then writing the definition in your own words. Next, make a list of all the "surrogates" you can remember from the novel. Write a paragraph in which you explain why you think the surrogates are necessary to the stability of society.

57. In the Controller's debate with the Savage, the Savage argues for the value of God, self-discipline, self-denial, chastity, nobility, heroism, danger, poetry, freedom, goodness, sin, and things that "cost" enough – which are valuable enough that people are willing to pay for in pain and tears. The Controller sums up the Savage's argument for him: "[Y]ou're claiming the right to be unhappy," he says, and the Savage replies, "All right, then...I'm claiming the right to be unhappy."

We tend to speak of freedom in society as giving us the rights and abilities to be happy and to enable us to find contentment and joy. The Controller is right: If there exists the possibility for happiness, there is also the possibility that one will not be happy. Reflect on this idea. Do you desire the possibility of true happiness even with the risk that you will not find it? Or would you prefer a mediocre substitute (surrogate) for happiness that is a sure thing?

Write a paragraph explaining your preference. If you desire the freedom to make your own choices and to try to find something you may not achieve, begin your statement, "I claim the right to be unhappy because..." If you desire simply that someone prevents you from knowing that you are not really happy, begin your statement, "I claim the right to be happy because..."

## Chapter 18

58. When the Savage runs away from London, he has given up trying to reform society and only wants to be left alone.

Imagine, though, that he sees a ray of hope when the first reporter arrives, and he decides to try to express his beliefs again. What do you think he would say? Write a speech for him in which he attempts to use society's own techniques against it: catchy simple phrases, rhymes, and repetition.

59. Throughout the last half of the novel, the Savage has made extensive reference to Shakespeare and spoken words from many of Shakespeare's plays to express his ideas and deepest emotions. The ending of the novel is strikingly similar to the ending of Shakespeare's tragedy *Othello*.

Read a summary of *Othello*. Then, write a paragraph comparing the endings of the two stories.

60. The novel ends on a tone of despair with our last image being that of the hopelessness of the Savage's suicide. His death represents the death of the possibility of reason, passion, and faith in society.

Write an epilogue – a scene which takes place several years after the Savage's death – in which you reintroduce a hopeful tone. Keep the basic setting and characters the same, but introduce new characters and situations as necessary to tell the beginning of the next chapter in the story of the World State.

## W r a p - U p

61. Because of his height, Bernard feels that he doesn't fit in with his peers. While his fellow Alphas need only speak their desires, he must shout at members of lower castes to get them to obey him.

Imagine that Bernard, now settled in Iceland, is sharing his story with the other exiles. Write a memory from Bernard's childhood in which you describe the first time he recognized that he was different – that he was an individual. Write in Bernard's voice. Begin your story with the following sentence, or create one of your own: I was \_\_\_\_\_ years old when I first realized I wasn't like everyone else...

62. Satire often uses exaggeration and irony to emphasize the problems in a society. Imagine you are a journalist who has been assigned an article focusing on Huxley's use of satire in *Brave New World*. Consider the following questions for your article: What parts of his society do you think Huxley disagreed with? What practices, habits, or desires do you think Huxley saw as potentially dangerous? Based on your reading of the novel, what aspects of the World State society seem like they could be exaggerated descriptions of your own society? Use specific examples from the novel to illustrate your opinions.
63. Novels are not the only vehicles for social satire. Editorial or political cartoons can also be very compelling and effective. These cartoonists use humor to point out flaws in individuals, groups, or all of society. Find an editorial or a political cartoon.

Answer the following questions to analyze its satirical message:

- a. What is the event or issue that inspired the cartoon?
- b. Are real people, places, or events depicted in the cartoon? If so, explain them.
- c. Are there symbols in the cartoon? What are they and what do they represent?
- d. What does the cartoonist's opinion seem to be about the subject portrayed in the cartoon?
- e. Do you agree or disagree with the cartoonist's opinion? Why?

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*Response Journal*

64. The title of the novel, *Brave New World*, is an allusion to Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*. Read a summary of the play. Then read the context of the quote itself which Miranda speaks in *The Tempest*, Act 5, Scene 1. Write one paragraph for each of the following questions:
- Why do you think Huxley chose this quote as the title for his novel?
  - Do you like the title? Why or why not?
  - If you were given the opportunity to propose a new title for the novel, what would you suggest? Explain why you think your title would be more suitable.
65. Consider the lives and fates of all the characters in the novel. For whom do you feel the most sympathy or pity? Explain your feelings for this person in one paragraph. Then, in a second paragraph, explain who you think was the happiest or had the greatest potential for happiness in the end.
66. It is very difficult to predict what technology will have the greatest affects on society years in the future. In the novel, for example, Huxley fails to predict the invention of and profound affect of computers on so many aspects of our daily lives. Consider the world of the novel. Make a list of processes in the society of the World State which could easily be computerized. Then, choose one, and re-write a scene from the novel to include the presence of computer technology.



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## *Brave New World*

67. As the Savage's guardian, Bernard becomes an instant celebrity. Men and women who wouldn't give him a second thought began to send him gifts and to go out of their way to be friendly to him. Whereas Bernard was once disdainful of society, he begins reveling in the attention, bragging about all the women who could no longer resist him.

Bernard is representative of a large group of society – those who criticize something mostly because it is inconvenient to them or disadvantages them personally. When their personal discomfort ceases, often so does their protest.

Helmholtz, though, seems to represent those in society who analyze and criticize something based on a genuine belief that there are problems with it, regardless of its personal impact on them. He belongs to the “in” group; yet, he is still critical of it.

The Savage represents a third group – those who see the evils of society but who have not been “conditioned” enough by it to be able to speak effectively to those inside it. He is not a threat to the World State because no one takes him seriously.

Reflect on the things you are critical of in your home, school, or community. Make a list of several of them that really irritate you. Then, label them as follows: If you are critical simply because the situation is inconvenient or frustrating to you personally (or to someone close to you), label it a “Bernard” criticism. If you genuinely believe that there is something fundamentally inappropriate or immoral in the situation, label it an “Helmholtz” criticism. If you are completely dumbfounded that a situation like that could even exist, and you can't satisfactorily express the reasons for your frustration about it, label it a “Savage” criticism. Then, write a paragraph explaining which character you are more like in your social criticism.

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*Response Journal*

68. Who is your favorite character in the novel? Write a one-page character analysis of the person you choose, describing his or her personality and actions in the novel, and explaining what you appreciate about him or her.
69. When he wrote *Brave New World* in 1932, Huxley's dating of the action predicted that this "utopia" would come six hundred years in the future. In his forward to the novel, after World War II, he wrote, "Today it seems quite possible that the horror may be upon us within a single century."

How realistic do you think Huxley's prediction is? Write a one-page answer in which you cite specific examples from society to support your opinion.

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*Brave New World*

**Test**

1. The motto of the World State is
  - A. "Comfort, Infantilism, Simplicity."
  - B. "Community, Identity, Stability."
  - C. "Caring, Inventing, Sharing."
  - D. "Courage, Individualism, Sincerity."
  - E. "Creativity, Independence, Solidarity."
  
2. The World State measures time with reference to the death of what man?
  - A. Sigmund Freud
  - B. F. Scott Fitzgerald
  - C. General Tommy Franks
  - D. Henry Ford
  - E. Colonel William Fitzwilliam
  
3. The Bokanovsky process enables society to
  - A. create super-intelligent citizens.
  - B. condition its citizens while they sleep.
  - C. convince its citizens that they are happy.
  - D. create thousands of embryos from a single fertilized egg.
  - E. convince the citizens that they need to consume more soma.
  
4. The word "mother" is no longer used in the World State because
  - A. there are no more mothers.
  - B. it is outdated.
  - C. it has been replaced by "bottle."
  - D. there is no word for it in the language of the World State.
  - E. it is vulgar.

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*Response Journal*

5. Which of the following is **not** a saying in the World State?
- A. Ending is better than mending.
  - B. Cleanliness is next to Fordliness.
  - C. A penny saved is a penny earned.
  - D. Everyone belongs to everyone else.
  - E. Everybody's happy now.
6. People account for Bernard's short stature and strange behavior by saying that
- A. alcohol was put into his blood surrogate.
  - B. he has a birth defect.
  - C. he's an exceptional Delta specimen.
  - D. he was accidentally decanted prematurely.
  - E. he was born to a viviparous mother on the Reservation.
7. Helmholtz Watson is
- A. the Warden of the Savage Reservation.
  - B. an Assistant Predestinator.
  - C. a lecturer at the College of Emotional Engineering.
  - D. the Headmaster of Eton Preparatory School.
  - E. the Resident World Controller for Western Europe.
8. Linda
- A. adopts the beliefs and customs of the savages on the reservation.
  - B. is a savage brought to London against her will.
  - C. is studied intently by Bernard in London.
  - D. humiliates the Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning into early retirement.
  - E. refuses to take her daily rations of soma.

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*Brave New World*

9. The greatest crime in this society is
- A. suicide.
  - B. unconventional behavior.
  - C. murder.
  - D. lying.
  - E. taking Ford's name in vain.
10. Which of the following is **not** true of Bernard Marx?
- A. He is desperately in love with Lenina.
  - B. He sees himself as an individual.
  - C. He ultimately wants to be accepted by society.
  - D. He uses the Savage to his own benefit.
  - E. He accepts his exile in the end.
11. Mustapha Mond is
- A. the Assistant Predestinator.
  - B. the Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning.
  - C. the Deputy Sub Bursar of the Park Lane Hospital for the Dying.
  - D. a reporter for *The Fordian Science Monitor*.
  - E. the Resident World Controller for Western Europe.
12. The Arch-Songster of Canterbury leaves Bernard's party angrily because
- A. the Savage refuses to stop talking about his "mother."
  - B. Lenina ignores the Arch-Songster to spend time with the Savage.
  - C. the Savage refuses to come to the party.
  - D. Bernard refuses to introduce the Arch-Songster to the Savage.
  - E. the Savage ignores the Arch-Songster all evening.

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*Response Journal*

13. Mustapha Mond says that \_\_\_\_\_ is/are the foundation of the World State's society.
- A. feelies
  - B. twins
  - C. education
  - D. soma rations
  - E. individuality
14. When he runs away from society, which of the following does the Savage **not** do?
- A. live in a lighthouse
  - B. return to the Reservation
  - C. plant a garden
  - D. beat himself with whips
  - E. make a bow and arrows
15. Which of the following characters is most content with his or her fate?
- A. Helmholtz Watson
  - B. Bernard Marx
  - C. the Savage
  - D. Lenina Crowne
  - E. Mustapha Mond
16. The plot of the novel centers around
- A. the relationship between John and Lenina.
  - B. the opposition of specific characters to the new world.
  - C. the oppression of people who are forced to live in a caste system.
  - D. Bernard's attempt to gain power and attention in the New World.
  - E. Mustophas Mond's attempt to control the world.

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*Brave New World*

17. Bernard is suspected
- A. to have had extra alcohol added before he was decanted.
  - B. of a conspiracy against the Director.
  - C. by the police.
  - D. of promiscuity with many women.
  - E. all the above
18. In *Brave New World*, which social problems have been eliminated or diminished?
- A. parent/child conflicts
  - B. death
  - C. drug use
  - D. sexual promiscuity
  - E. both A and B
19. Scientific progress provides the State with the ways to control human behavior; as a result,
- A. people continue to use science as a way to make even more improvements.
  - B. scientists become the only people with intelligence and power.
  - C. scientific progress does not continue because new discoveries threaten stability and control.
  - D. both B and C
20. People in the new world are taught to avoid spending time alone because
- A. happiness is found in work.
  - B. when people have time to reflect they become dissatisfied.
  - C. the industrialized society can provide happiness only as long as money is spent, goods are consumed, and people discuss their new inventions.
  - D. isolation leads to suicide.

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*Notes*



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*Brave New World*

Test  
Student Answer Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

17. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

18. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

20. \_\_\_\_\_

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*Brave New World*

Test  
Answer Key

1. \_\_B\_\_

11. \_\_E\_\_

2. \_\_D\_\_

12. \_\_C\_\_

3. \_\_D\_\_

13. \_\_B\_\_

4. \_\_E\_\_

14. \_\_B\_\_

5. \_\_C\_\_

15. \_\_A\_\_

6. \_\_A\_\_

16. \_\_B\_\_

7. \_\_C\_\_

17. \_\_A\_\_

8. \_\_D\_\_

18. \_\_A\_\_

9. \_\_B\_\_

19. \_\_C\_\_

10. \_\_A\_\_

20. \_\_B\_\_

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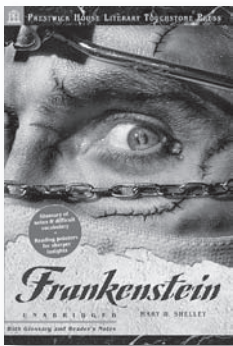
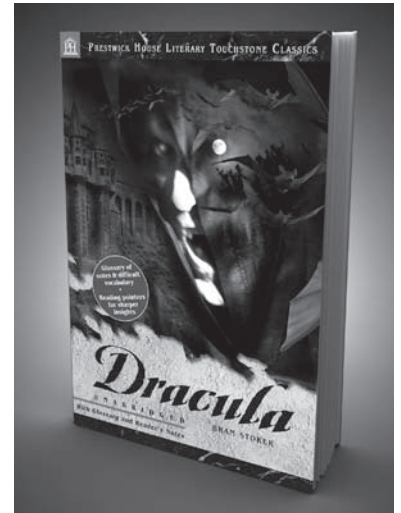
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Because charges for air delivery are based on weight and distance, heavy packages can be expensive to ship air freight. Typographic and photographic errors are subject to revision. Prestwick House is the sole source of all proprietary materials listed in this catalogue. Please be sure to include a street address. FedEx ground/UPS will not deliver to a P.O. Box.

Subtotal \$

Shipping \$  
12% S&H (\$6.00 minimum)

Total \$

### Shipping & Handling

For orders of \$50.00 or less, please add \$6.00 for shipping and handling charges. For orders from \$50.01 to \$799.99 add 12%. For orders of \$800.00 and more, add 10%.

### Delivery Service

Most orders are shipped FedEx and you can expect delivery within 7-10 working days. Items in stock are usually shipped within one working day of receiving your order.

### Expedited Delivery

for expedited delivery ask about the following options:

- Overnight Air
- 2nd day air
- 3 Day Select