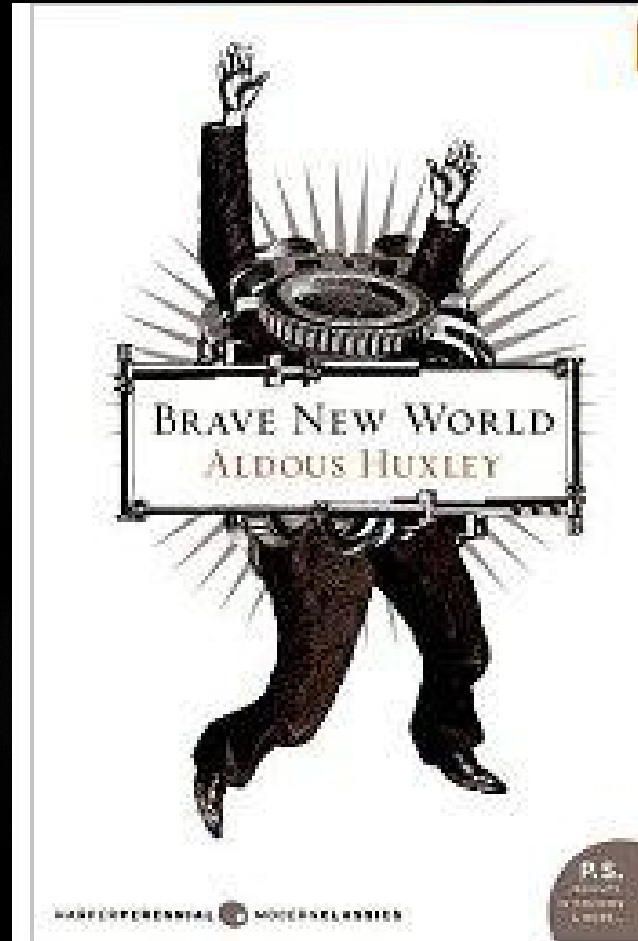


# *Brave New World*

by Aldous Huxley

## Pre-Reading Guide

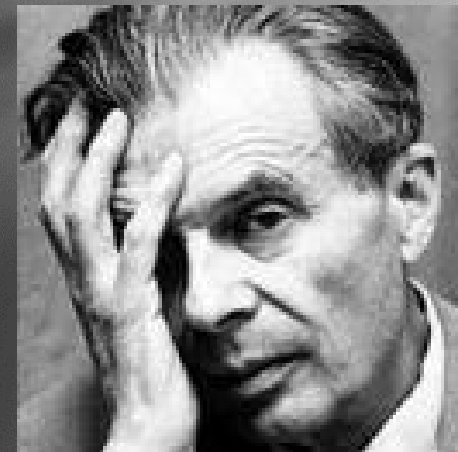


“O wonder!  
How many goodly creatures are there here!  
How beautious mankind is!  
**O brave new world**  
That has such people in’t!”

-- William Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (V, ii)

# Aldous Huxley

- 1894-1963
- Family had many notable members, including great uncle, poet Matthew Arnold
- Plagued with vision problems throughout his life
- Attended Oxford University, became a teacher
- Published *Brave New World* in 1932
- Lived in the US in later life, died while living in L.A.
- His “novels of ideas” have sometimes been criticized as being “too intellectual”



# Important People, Terms, and Concepts

- Utopia – perfect society
- Dystopia – dreadful, dysfunctional society
- Satire – writing intended to ridicule and arouse contempt – especially by using irony and exaggeration
- Caste System – social structure which divides people on the basis of inherited social status
- Ivan Pavlov
  - Russian physician & psychologist
  - “Classical conditioning” using dogs
  - RESULT: Trained dogs to salivate at the sound of a bell, even without giving food.

# More People, Terms, and Concepts:

- Sigmund Freud
  - Psychiatrist
  - Psychoanalysis
  - Mental health and illness spring from a child's upbringing, not his heredity
- Soma – an anti-depressant, semi-hallucinogenic drug introduced by the World State
- Orgy Porgy – group sexual experience to unify all people (sex is not the focus, unity is)
- Solidarity Service – group of men and women who gather to take Soma and have a spiritual experience

# What is the *Brave New World* ?

A dystopian tale about a possible future world where human faith in scientific progress, freedom, dignity, and individuality are all called into question.

Set in two locations in the 26<sup>th</sup> century:

London and a New Mexico Indian reservation

# What is the *Brave New World* ?

Religion of the World State based on the life and philosophies of Henry Ford.

- American car manufacturer, inventor of the assembly line
- Invented the Model T car – designed to be affordable to everyone; only available in black
- Mass production & mass consumption
- Assembly line = improved efficiency
- Vertical structure = self sufficient



“Our Ford”

# What is the *Brave New World* ?



## **Caste System:**

*Alphas* (A)– highest, grey

*Betas* (B)- mulberry, bottle green

*Gammas* (Γ)- leaf green

*Deltas* (Δ)- khaki

*Epsilons* (E)– lowest, black

There are also plusses and minuses, so one can be an Alpha Plus or a Gamma Minus.

Differentiation achieved through oxygen deprivation

# What is the *Brave New World*?

Some individuals are created using the

## Bokanovsky Process

- Fertilization process used to create Deltas & Epsilons
- Divide fertilized eggs to produce identical twins
- Produces up to 96 embryos, but 72 is the average
- Primary instrument of social stability



# What is the *Brave New World* ?

Government organization “conditions” the lower caste children using

## Hypnopaedia

*“The greatest moralizing and socializing force of all time”*  
(28).

- Sleep teaching
- Moral education
- Class conditioning

*“The child’s mind is these suggestions, and the sum of the suggestions is the child’s mind”* (28-29).

# What is the *Brave New World* ?

- A society where all aspects of an individual's life are determined by the state, beginning with conception and conveyor-belt reproduction.
- A government bureau, the Predestinators, decides all roles in the hierarchy.
- Children are raised and conditioned by the state bureaucracy, not brought up by natural families.
- Citizens must not fall in love, marry, or have their own children.

# Are you living in a Brave New World?

Do you agree that...

- History is worthless?
- Everyone belongs to everyone else?
- Throwing something away is better than fixing it?
- No one really needs a mother?
- The elderly are worthless members of society?
- Cleanliness is next to godliness?
- You should never put off until tomorrow the fun you can have today?

Community

Identity

Stability

Brave New World

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