

Study Questions for Aldous Huxley's Brave New World  
Oh wonder!

How many goodly creatures are there here!  
How beautiful mankind is! Oh, brave new world,  
That has such people in it!

The Tempest, II, 1, 11. 182-184.

Foreward

1. In Brave New World Huxley offers two possibilities for man. Today he sees a third alternative as possible. What is it?
2. Why is there no reference to nuclear fission?
3. What is the 'revolutionary revolution'?
4. What is the aim of people who govern the Brave New World?
5. To arrest "the present tendency toward statism," what is necessary?
6. According to Huxley, a successful totalitarian state makes people "love their servitude?" How is 'love of servitude' established??
7. How close to 600 A.F., does Huxley believe we are?

Chapter 1

1. Where is the first chapter set? Describe. What is the World State's motto? Who is conducting a tour of the Hatchery? What year is it?
2. What is Bokanovsky's Process? What is its advantage?
3. Besides hatching embryos the hatchery predestines and conditions. Explain.
4. "And that," put in the Director-sententiously, "that is the secret of happiness and virtue--liking what you've got to do. All conditioning aims at that; making people like their unescapable social destiny!" Why is this important? How is this accomplished?

Chapter 2

1. How are the Deltas conditioned? To what are they conditioned? Why?
2. Explain the principle of hypnopaedia. Is it for intellectual or moral education?
3. "Till at last the child's mind is these suggestions, and the sum of the suggestion is the child's mind." Discuss.
4. Who is Our Ford? Why is he so revered?

### Chapter 3

1. Describe the play in the nursery's garden. Contrast attitude toward erotic play of children in A.F.632 with that of time of Our Ford.
2. Several conversations are threaded throughout this chapter. Who are the speakers? Describe the content of each conversation. What is the effect of this 'jumbled' technique on the reader?
3. Who is Mustapha Mond? What maxims on 'family' life does he implant in the children? Why does he object to emotions?
4. How do Lenina and Henry feel about each other? Is this an acceptable relationship in A. F. 632? Why is Bernard Marx angry about Foster's and the Assistant Predestinator's conversation? Is this feeling 'normal' in his society?

### Chapter 4

1. Lenina accepts Bernard's invitation to go where? Why does her acceptance embarrass Bernards. Lenina leaves Bernard for a date with whom? What is Lenina's attitude toward men?
2. Describe Bernard's self-concept? Why is contact with members of the lower castes painful for him?
3. Who is Helmholtz Watson? What is his job? Does his masculine appeal differ from Bernard's? "What these two men shared was the knowledge that they were individuals." Explain. How does Watson react to Bernard?

### Chapter 5

1. Returning from their golf date, Lenina and Henry sight what landmark: "Fine to think we can go on being socially useful even after we're dead. Making plants grow." How do their remarks exemplify the attitude of members of the World State toward utilitarian principles. What puzzles Lenina about death?
2. "Everyboyd's happy now." Irony. Does this proverb reinforce the the force the the society's structure? How does it facilitate the World State?
3. What is a soma-holiday?
4. Bernard attends a Solidarity Service. Describe. What is its function? Does it succeed for Bernard in annihilating his Self? Is he still isolated?

## Chapter 6

1. What is Lenina's opinion of Bernard? Does she look forward to their New Mexico holiday?
2. "It makes me feel as though I were more me, if you see what I mean. More on my own, not so completely a part of something else. Not just a cell in the social body." Does Lenina understand Bernard's remark? Explain his feelings.

## Chapter 6 (cont'd)

3. When Bernard sees the Director about a permit to visit the Savage Reservation, what does the Director reveal to him?
4. What is the Director's threat if Marx doesn't assume a 'proper standard of infantile decorum?' How does Bernard react to the threat?
5. How does the standard of living on the Reservation differ from that in the World State? Describe the Warden's welcoming remarks.
6. What does Watson tell Bernard over the telephone? How does Bernard react?

## Chapter 7

1. Lenina and Bernard are left at the pueblo at Molpais. How does Lenina accept what she confronts?
2. Describe the savage. "But cleanliness is next to fordliness." Lenina, conditioned to this maxim, finds the Reservation how? Does Bernard react the same way?
3. What do the two confront for the first time besides age?
4. Of what do the drums remind Lenina? Describe the religious ceremony. What is its significance?
5. Who approaches them after the ceremony? Why does this man envy the boy whipped in the ceremony? Who is John's father?
6. Describe Linda, John's mother. How does her opinion of the Reservation compare to John's? What does she think of the savages? What do they think of her? Does John accept the Savage way of life or Linda's?

## Chapter 8

1. John recalls his childhood. How do the Reservation women treat Linda? Why?
2. Does Linda accept John's calling her 'mother?' When was Linda happiest? In the perfect world she describes, people are never lonely and are always happy. Is this ironic?

3. What does Linda teach John? How does he use this skill as self-defense? Can Linda answer questions he asks about the book on embryos? What 'uncivilized' book does he receive? Does he value this book?

4. Why does John try to kill Pope?

5. "He was all alone, because he had been driven out alone, into this skeleton world of rocks and moonlights." After John's admission, what does Bernard admit?

6. Where does Bernard invite John and Linda to come? What is John's reaction? Why is his Shakespearean quotation ironic?

### Chapter 9

1. Bernard calls Mustapho Mond Why?

2. John watches Lenina sleeping. What does he think of her?

### Chapter 10

1. Why is the Director 'grave' as he enters the Bloomsbury Center hive---"humming busily, joyfully?" How has Bernard erred? "Unorthodoxy threatens more than the life of a mere individual; it strikes at Society itself." What is the value of the Individual in the World State.

2. When the Director threatens to send Bernard to Iceland, whom does Bernard usher into the room? What do the workers do? What does the Director do? why?

### Chapter 11

1. Why does the public desire to see John but not Linda?

2. Back in the World State, what does Linda do? What will be the effect of her soma life? Does John object?

3. How has Bernard changed since his fame as John's guardian?

4. How does John adapt to the World State? Is he impressed by its technology?

5. At Eton School, what definition of a Savage Reservation does John hear in the geography class? How does the class react to the film of a savage religious ceremony?

6. When does death conditioning begin? How is this accomplished?

7. Where does Lenina take John? How does John like the film?

Chapter 12

1. John refuses to be 'guest of honor' at Bernard's party? Are the guests disappointed? What do they do? Is Bernard still self-confident?
2. Why does Mustapho Mond reject the paper "A New Theory of Biology?"
3. Why was Helmholtz in conflict with the Authority?
4. How do Watson and Savage get along together? Is Bernard jealous?

Chapter 13

1. Why is Lenina sad? Where does she go?
2. Does John love Lenina? What does he suggest? Why is he repulsed by her forwardness?
3. "Whore! Impudent strumpet." Does Lenina, according to the World State, deserve such names?
4. The telephone rings. Who is it?

Chapter 14

1. Where does John rush? What is the environment of the dying? What does the nurse do when told Linda is John's mother?
2. How does the nurse treat the dying patients?
3. John recalls Linda's stories about the Other Place. Why is he bitter?
4. Children race around the beds. Why?
5. Why after John kisses Linda, does he become angry?
6. When Linda dies, John sobs. Why is the nurse furious?

Chapter 15

1. Leaving the hospital, John encounters whom? What are these twins receiving? What is John's reactions? Does he now understand the truth about the Brave New World? What does he believe his duty to be?
2. Who rushed to the hospital to help the Savage?
3. How do the Police get control?

Chapter 16

1. Watson, Marx, and the Savage speak to Mustapha Mond. Does John admit he dislikes civilization? Why is Shakespeare prohibited? Mond states Shakespeare is better than feelies. Why then is it sacrificed for feelies?
2. Why aren't all people Alpha?
3. Where are Bernard and Watson exiled? Why does Mond envy their isolation?

Chapter 17

1. Mond and the Savage discuss religion. Why do people, according to the Controller, believe in God?
2. "But I don't want comfort. I want God, I want poetry, I want real danger, I want freedom, I want goodness. I want sin."
- "In fact" said Mustapha Mond, "You're claiming the right to be unhappy" Reflect. Is John claiming the right of humanity?

Chapter 18

1. Why won't the Controller let John accompany Marx and Watson?
2. John will go "anywhere. I don't care. So long as I can be alone." Why is this ironic after his life on the Reservation?
3. Where does the Savage hide? Why does he try to be uncomfortable? Does he thrive in solitude?
4. Who discovers him? After the reporters leave, who seizes the opportunity for 'spectacular' films? When the Savage is released, the public flocks to his retreat. Who also arrives? How does the Savage achieve permanent isolation?

General Questions

1. In Huxley's World State--like Orwell's Oceania 1984-- what is a human being worth? Compare Orwell's and Huxley's predicted world conditions.
2. To what is society A. F. 632 geared? How does it achieve its aim?
3. The 'God' of Brave New World is Henry Ford. Although we never see him as a character, his importance is obvious. Why is Henry Ford the God of this society?
4. Are we as close as Huxley warns in his 'foreward' to this type of society? Must we decentralize immediately as he tells us?