

12 AP Summer Reading

There will be two required readings for this summer. The first is *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley, and the second you will choose for yourself from among these works:

The Mayor of Casterbridge, by Thomas Hardy

Invisible Man, by Ralph Ellison (not *The Invisible Man* by Wells)

Beloved, by Toni Morrison

Crime and Punishment, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Great Expectations, by Charles Dickens

Brave New World

Overview: *Brave New World* is a novel written in 1931 by Aldous Huxley and published in 1932. Set in London of AD 2540 (632 A.F. in the book), the novel anticipates developments in reproductive technology and sleep-learning that combine to change society. The future society is an embodiment of the ideals that form the basis of futurology (Wikipedia).

Parental Advisory: *Brave New World* portrays a society characterized by government-advocated drug use and promiscuity. However, these are portrayed as destructive to society. It is a cautionary tale, not a prescription for advancement.

The Mayor of Casterbridge

Overview: *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886), subtitled "The Life and Death of a Man of Character", is a tragic novel by British author Thomas Hardy. It is set in the fictional town of Casterbridge (based on the town of Dorchester in Dorset). The book is one of Hardy's Wessex novels, all set in a fictional rustic England. The novel is often considered one of Hardy's greatest works (Wikipedia).

Parental Advisory: It is exceedingly unlikely that anyone will find anything objectionable about this Victorian novel.

Invisible Man

Overview: *Invisible Man* is a 1952 novel written by Ralph Ellison. It addresses many of the social and intellectual issues facing African-Americans early in the twentieth century, including black nationalism, the relationship between black identity and Marxism, and the reformist racial policies of Booker T. Washington, as well as issues of individuality and personal identity (Wikipedia).

Parental Advisory: Some violence, sex alluded to in a non-explicit offhand way.

Beloved

Overview: *Beloved* is a novel by the American writer Toni Morrison, published in 1987. Set during 1873 soon after the American Civil War (1861–1865), it is based on the true story of the African-American slave, Margaret Garner, who temporarily escaped slavery during 1856 in Kentucky by fleeing to Ohio, a free state. A posse arrived to retrieve her and her children by the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which gave slave owners the right to pursue slaves across state borders. Margaret killed her two-year-old daughter rather than allow her to be recaptured.

Beloved's main character, Sethe, kills her daughter and tries to kill her other three children when a posse arrives in Ohio to return them to Sweet Home, the plantation in Kentucky from which Sethe had recently fled. The daughter, Beloved, returns years later to haunt the home of Sethe at 124 Bluestone Road, Cincinnati. The story opens with an introduction to the ghost: "124 was spiteful. Full of a baby's venom." (Wikipedia).

Parental Advisory: Violence, bewitching, the awful legacy of slavery, elements that can be interpreted as supernatural.

Crime and Punishment

Overview: *Crime and Punishment* is a novel by the Russian author Fyodor Dostoyevsky. It was first published in the literary journal *The Russian Messenger* in twelve monthly installments during 1866. It was later published in a single volume. This is the second of Dostoyevsky's full-length novels following his return from ten years of exile in Siberia. *Crime and Punishment* is the first great novel of his "mature period" of writing.

Crime and Punishment focuses on the mental anguish and moral dilemmas of Rodion Romanovich Raskolnikov, an impoverished ex-student in St. Petersburg who formulates and executes a plan to kill an unscrupulous pawnbroker for her cash. Raskolnikov argues that with the pawnbroker's money he can perform good deeds to counterbalance the crime, while ridding the world of a worthless parasite. He also commits this murder to test his own hypothesis that some people are naturally capable of such things, and even *have the right* to do them (Wikipedia).

Parental Advisory: Brief violence, lengthy punishment. It is a morally upright tale.

Great Expectations

Overview: *Great Expectations* is a novel by Charles Dickens. It depicts the growth and personal development of an orphan named Pip. The novel was first published in serial form in *All the Year Round* from 1 December 1860 to August 1861 (Wikipedia).

Parental Advisory: It is exceedingly unlikely any parent would find this Victorian novel objectionable in any way.

This packet contains two written assignments to be completed for your first major grade of the course. The assignments will be explained during the 12 AP meeting and will be due on the first day of class. If you need to contact me during the summer for further clarification, call 938-0847 and leave a message.

Assignment 1: Vocabulary Words and Study Questions for *Brave New World*

Provide a definition for each vocabulary word and write an original sentence with it. Be sure your sentence contains a context clue of some kind; it need not be terribly explicit.

Vocabulary: predestine, spasmodic, viviparous, apertures, maudlin, erotic, effusive, tactual (tactile), monogamy, promiscuous, incessant, innocuous, profound, voluptuous, hierarchy, persevere, premonition, incoherent, senility, deprecating, impunity, subversive, self-indulgence, atonement, strumpet

Answer the chapter questions in complete sentences.

Chapter 1

1. Describe the setting for the opening chapter of *Brave New World*. In what city and year does this novel take place?
2. What is the motto of the World State?
3. Explain what is happening at the Hatchery and Conditioning Center.
4. Describe Bokanovsky's process.
5. What are the five castes of the World State?

Chapter 2

1. What two objects are the babies being conditioned to dislike?
2. Why does the State condition the masses to dislike the country?
3. Explain how hypnopaedia works.
4. What do the child's mind and, later, the adult's become?

Chapter 3

Note: This chapter presents a kaleidoscopic view of the State's way of life. Think of it as you would a rapid succession of TV images presented to make a single impression.

1. What is the requirement for any new games? Why?
2. Explain the State's attitude toward sex. How does the State regard marriage?
3. "Ending is better than mending." "The more stitches, the less riches." How do these sayings express the economic view of the State?

Chapter 4

1. Where do Bernard Marx and Lenina Crowe plan to visit?
2. Explain Bernard Marx's attitude toward the State.

3. What is Helmholtz Watson's job?
4. Explain Watson's feeling toward the State.

Chapter 5

Compare the recreation and social activities of the lower castes with those of the upper castes.

Chapter 6

1. Over the stormy water of the English Channel, what desire does Bernard express to Lenina?
2. List three adjectives or phrases to describe Lenina's personality.
3. The Director (Tomakin) tells Bernard of a visit he made to the New Mexico Indian Reservation twenty years ago. What unusual thing happened there?
4. Bernard learns that he is going to be deported to Iceland. Why?
5. Rephrase Lenina's saying "Was and will make me ill. I take a gramme and only am."

Chapter 7

1. List three conditions Lenina dislikes at the Reservation.
2. How are these conditions contrary to what she has been taught and conditioned?
3. What is the purpose of the whipping ceremony that Bernard and Lenina witness?
4. John (The Savage) reveals he was born on the Reservation. Who is his father and where is he now?
5. Linda describes ways in which she cannot reconcile her way of life in the Other Place with that of the Reservation. List ways that seem to trouble her most.

Chapter 8

1. Why does Linda suffer dislike and rejection on the Reservation? Why do the women especially dislike her?
2. What is mescal and how does it help Linda?
3. From what sources has John obtained his education?
4. When John was sixteen, he went with the Indian boys to a puberty ceremony. Describe what happened and how it affected John.
5. What do Bernard and John have in common?

Chapter 9

1. Explain why Bernard wishes to take John and Linda to London.
2. List three adjectives or phrases to describe John's feelings when he discovers Lenina asleep on her soma holiday.

Chapter 10

1. Name three faults that the D.H.C. finds with Bernard's behavior. How does Bernard react to the D.H.C.'s accusations?
2. What "obscenity" does Linda fling at the D.H.C. (Tomakin)?
3. How do the workers react to John's calling the D.H.C. "My father"? Why?

Chapter 11

1. What happens to the D.H.C. after the scene in the Fertilizing Room?
2. Give three reasons why no one had the smallest desire to see Linda.
3. How does Dr. Shaw justify keeping Linda on a soma-holiday even though it will shorten her life?
4. Explain Bernard's sudden increased popularity.
5. Give two reasons the Savage (John) shows little astonishment or awe at civilized inventions.
6. Describe the Savage's reaction to the sight of work being done by single Bokanovsky groups.
7. Who is Ariel?
8. In the Electrical Equipment Company, "Each process is carried out, so far as possible, by a single Bokavonsky group." Explain what this means.
9. What does the phrase "civilized infertility" mean?
10. The Savage views the factory, saying, "O brave new world that has such people in it." What are his true feelings about the people? How do you know?
11. The libraries of the World State contain only reference books. Why?
12. How is John affected by the feelies?

Chapter 12

1. Helmholtz, the propaganda writer, and John have become friends. When John reads to him from *Romeo and Juliet*, Helmholtz bursts into laughter. State three things that amuse him.
2. Helmholtz calls Shakespeare a "marvelous propaganda technician." How does he explain Shakespeare's success?

Chapter 13

1. What happens when John wants to make love to Lenina?
2. Explain the essential difference in the natures of John and Lenina.

Chapter 14

1. Explain the purpose and method of death conditioning.
2. Why does John become angry at the children?

Chapter 15

1. What does John say he will teach the mob of hospital workers?
2. Describe John's actions at the hospital.
3. How do the people react to what John does?
4. Describe the actions taken by the World State Police.

Chapter 16

1. Give three statements why Shakespeare is prohibited in the World State.
2. How does Mustapha Mond say he paid for being too much interested in truth?

Chapter 17

1. What two things does the Savage (John) say that the people have sacrificed or their happiness?
2. What third sacrifice does the Controller add?
3. Why do you think the people of the World State have no need of a god?
4. What does the Controller call "Christianity without tears"? Explain.
5. The Savage claims the "right to be unhappy." Explain this statement. Include some of the specific unhappiness that he is saying are his right.

Chapter 18

After Bernard and Helmholtz are exiled, the Savage runs away to be alone. Relate the conclusion of the novel in a good paragraph.

Assignment 2: Writing Assignment for *Brave New World*

One of the assigned novels for 2011 Summer Reading is *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley. *Brave New World* is a utopian novel, but the "ideal society" it portrays is one few readers would consider ideal. Many have interpreted the novel as a cautionary tale, as much a warning of what to avoid as a vision of what might be. The novel was written in 1932 during the throes of a global depression and amid the rise to power in Germany of a charismatic politician named Adolf Hitler.

Choose one of the following options and respond with a well-organized essay.

- Choose two literary elements (characterization, setting, irony, tone, plot, suspense, foreshadowing, etc.) and explain how they are important in expressing the theme(s) of the novel.
- Explain how the society portrayed in the novel fosters community, identity, and stability among its population.
- In most works of literature, the reader has no trouble discerning the main character. In others, no character stands out as the protagonist. Which do you feel is the case with *Brave New World*? Either identify the protagonist and antagonist and explain how these characters meet

the definitions or make the lack of clearly identifiable protagonist and antagonist the focus of your essay.

Manuscript Requirements for All Assignments:

- Papers will be one-sided, double-spaced, Times New Roman font size 12, and a minimum of 500 words in length.
- Your name, my name, the course title, and the due date (the first day of classes) will appear in four lines at the top right-hand side of the first page.
- Title will appear on page one—no title page!
- Papers will be stapled at upper-left corner—no folders!
- Papers not conforming to requirements will be rejected.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the theft of intellectual property. In my classes, the penalty for plagiarism is a zero on the assignment and parent contact. In the “real world”, the penalties are much harsher, including expulsion from university, lost credits, civil liability, etc. If you use the ideas and/or words of any source, you must cite that source (use MLA documentation style). You must also summarize and paraphrase carefully, avoiding the phraseology of the source, except in the case of direct quotations. I will Google several sentences from each paper. If this search leads me to your source, it is likely that your paraphrasing or summarizing was not sufficient to avoid a charge of plagiarism. You would not believe how often this sad scenario occurs. Be original!

The Self-Chosen Work:

If I were you, I would do a little Google search to find out something about the offerings and choose on that basis. Maybe you prefer something short or something easy. Maybe you will select on the basis of what you will find interesting. It does not matter in the least to me which of the array you select. There will be no written assignment this summer for your selection, but you had better read it or you will be unprepared for the first day of class. Sometimes you are required to write an in-class essay on the spot in response to a writing prompt. You would do well to thoroughly understand your self-chosen work.