

Summer Reading for English 2311/2312- Brave New World

Brave New World is an anti-utopian novel by Aldous Huxley. Through the text, the author uses irony and satire to question the values of 1931 London society. The futuristic world created by Huxley illustrates the possibilities that exist when a society's trends and principles are taken to an extreme. Huxley accomplishes this by questioning the nature and value of conformity as opposed to individuality. As a novel focused on ideas, the plot is secondary and perhaps simplistic. Rather than concentrating solely on the details of the plot, focus your efforts instead on the ironic commentary of contemporary values presented by Huxley.

As you read, explore, and experience the novel, write in your books. Underline pivotal quotations and particularly powerful phrases and passages. Write your comments or questions in the margins. Your assignment, which is due the second week of class, is to complete two activities as outlined on the following pages in an effort to illuminate major themes, attitudes, and literary devices employed throughout the text.

While this novel and journaling assignment may be challenging, it will also be fun and enlightening. Enjoy the reading experience!

***Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley**

As you read *Brave New World*, respond to the text in two ways. First, complete the Snippets activity. In addition, choose one additional activity from the four offered below.

Snippets Activity--Required

Select 10 snippets from the text. In literature a snippet is defined as a tidbit or morsel, a well-turned sentence or phrase, an idea extraordinaire, or written words that affect the personality and/or touch the soul. Please note that a single word does not a snippet make.

For each of the 10 selected snippets, type the passage being sure to properly document the page number from your edition of the novel. Follow the snippet with a paragraph explaining why you selected that snippet from the novel or what it means to you personally. This is not as much an interpretation of the quote within the novel's context as it is an explanation of the quote's personal meaning. Why did you select it? How does the quote speak to you? Please also mention any literary devices used in the snippet.

Avoid quotations listed in Spark Notes, Cliffs Notes and other similar incarnations. Develop your responses completely and thoughtfully, understanding that a single sentence of explanation is not sufficient.

Choose *one* of the following:

Movie trailer

Select a major scene or event from the novel that exhibits the theme of the work. Create a 3-5 minute multi-media presentation or mini-movie representing that scene or event while emphasizing the theme. Include a one-page explanation of the project and theme describing specifically how that theme is displayed in your original creation.

Book jacket

Create an original, illustrated book jacket for the novel. Convey the theme and mood of the text through the colors, images and graphics you choose for your original artwork. Include necessary information such as title and author. Compose a one-page explanation of the project describing specifically how the theme is communicated in your piece.

Soundtrack

Choose ten songs that represent the events and themes in the novel. Create a music CD with one-minute samplings from each of the ten selected songs. Write a paragraph explanation for each song including the title, composer and performer. Explain why you selected the song and which specific scene it would accompany. Use good judgment when selecting appropriate lyrics for a school assignment.

Exploration of scientific research or theories

Research and write about a recent scientific breakthrough or exploration that resembles or is reminiscent of some aspect of the novel or would be appropriate as part of the novel. Use at least two outside sources in your exploration of research or theory and then relate the topic to the novel. Produce a minimum of two pages of research and original commentary for your paper.