

***Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley** (Published by Perennial Classics, Harper Collins)

Approved for use in Advanced Placement Communication Arts IV, Communication Arts IV, and Contemporary Communications

Summary

Brave New World is Aldous Huxley's 1930's classic criticism of the modern world. The novel takes a critical view of a futuristic society in which most aspects of life have been streamlined into assembly line simplicity; all aspects of human life have been regulated. The ramifications of the creation of such a strikingly different society and culture are explored.

Connection to the Curriculum

Brave New World is a rich source from which to teach a wide variety of literary concepts and devices along with evaluating the ethical obligations required of those involved in scientific advancement. Through Huxley's portrayal of a futuristic society, readers are strongly cautioned about the dangers for humanity when unbridled scientific advancement goes unchecked. Numerous literary concepts can be taught through the novel: allusion, metaphor, characterization, satire, archetypal imagery, and tone. Additionally, the past and modern cultural connections can be investigated in light of the concepts Huxley presents. Throughout the course of reading the novel, meaningful literary discussions regarding Huxley's warning, historical context, and current day relevance can occur. The concepts of utopian/dystopian society can also be evaluated. This novel is generally considered to be a must-read for college bound students, and it is a classic of modern literature.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.2- The students read fluently. 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1-The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.3.5- The student identifies, interprets, and analyzes the use of figurative language.

1.4.7- The student identifies characteristics of narrative, expository, technical, and persuasive texts.

1.4.10- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, evaluative, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after reading the text.

1.4.11- The student uses information from the text to make inferences and draw conclusions.

1.4.17- The student analyzes and evaluates how an author's style and use of literary devices work together to achieve his or her purpose for writing text.

Literature:

2.1.4- The student analyzes themes, tone, and the author's point of view across a variety of literary works and genres using textual evidence and considering audience and purpose.

A Note on the Text: (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Brave New World, in its development of a futuristic society, introduces the ideas of "soma" (a drug to induce happiness so no sadness is felt), sex without emotion (as procreation is no longer needed when conveyors produce children), and a new class system (cloning people to be workers). These extreme ideas are essential to the development of Huxley's political commentary and predictions for the future.

AP Connections

Brave New World has been referenced on the AP Literature exam, and many college-preparatory reading lists include this title.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities