

Name: _____ Brave New World Period: _____

CHAPTERS 1-3: SATIRE

BACKGROUND:

Many students are familiar with the different genres, or categories, of literature—fiction, nonfiction, poetry, autobiography, biography, plays, newspaper, folk tales—to name a few. However, there are often many subgenres of literature within these genres. For example, under the broad genre of plays, there are the subgenres of comedy, tragedy, and history. Under the genre of mystery, there are the subgenres of thriller, detective, historical, romantic, and suspense.

Brave New World falls under the genre of fiction (or science fiction) and the subgenre of satire. Satire is a piece of work that tries to expose, attack, and/or ridicule the foolishness, wrongdoings, or strange behavior of society. Satire is often humorous, using exaggeration, irony, sarcasm, and parody to catch the attention of the reader and promote changes in behavior. Modern satire can be seen on television shows such as *Saturday Night Live*, *The Simpsons*, or in political cartoons in newspapers and magazines.

Brave New World is a satire of the political and social values of the early 1920s and 30s. In Great Britain, the Industrial Revolution occurred between 1750 and the 1900s, with an influx of workers moving from farming and agriculture to big city factories. Innovations such as the steam engine, cotton gin, Morse Code, dynamite, electricity, and the telegraph were invented during this time. In 1903 the Ford Model T, the first mass-produced automobile, was produced by Henry Ford. It was a time of great advancement and change, which often brought feelings of instability and vulnerability to the people of the time.

Many philosophers, artists, authors, and politicians questioned the need for these rapid changes and wondered: are they really beneficial? Many were certain that machines were taking over the world and believed human beings would one day become useless and obsolete. In *Brave New World*, Huxley certainly challenges these scientific and technological changes and questions whether they represent progress or the obliteration of the world as we know it.

TASK:

After you have read chapters 1-3, complete the assignment below. In the first column is a fictional process or entity made up by Huxley, along with an explanation. In the second column, compare these inventions to something that exists in our world today. Then, in the third column, explain the similarities. In the last column, answer the following questions: 1) Knowing what we know today, what might have been Huxley's reasons for including these in his novel? 2) What social or political statements could Huxley be making about human beings and society? An example has been done for you:

<u>FICTIONAL EXAMPLE & EXPLANATION</u>	<u>REAL (MODERN) SIMILARITY</u>	<u>EXPLANATION</u>	<u>HUXLEY'S REASONS/STATEMENTS/MESSAGE</u>
Example: Bokanovsky's Process/Bokanovsky Twins <i>Process of creating numerous human beings (up to 96) from one egg</i>	<i>Cloning</i>	<i>Duplicating a single gene or segment of DNA to create an identical cell (Dolly the sheep)</i>	<i>Huxley didn't realize it, but this was a real possibility—and in the 20th Century, we have achieved it. Huxley may have been warning of the loss of individuality and identity for the sake of science.</i>
1) Hypnopædia <i>Sleep teaching</i>			
2) Malthusian Belt <i>Contraceptive belt</i>			
3) Soma <i>Legal drug with no side effects or social stigma</i>			
4) Social Conditioning <i>Teaching people to appreciate and fully accept their position in life</i>			

Name _____

Date _____

Fact Sheet about the World State

Directions: Use the words below to complete the sentences using each word only once. The statements review facts you have learned thus far about the World State.

predestined
spasmodic
viviparous
hypnopaedia

apertures
maudlin
effusive
tactical

monogamy
promiscuous
incessant
erotic

1. The people of the World State were expected to be _____ in their sexual behavior.
2. An _____ buzzing of helicopters filled the air above the club house as the upper castes descended to play Electromagnetic Golf and Centrifugal Bumble-puppy.
3. Children of the World State were conditioned by _____.
4. The "feelies" had amazing visual, audio, and _____ senses.
5. Marriage customs of the United States and western Europe are known as _____.
6. Lower castes in the World State were _____ only to perform jobs of routine or physical labor.
7. In Centrifugal Bumble-puppy, a revolving force hurled a ball through one of numerous _____ as players attempted to catch it.
8. Humans, horses, and monkeys all have _____ reproductive systems.
9. Children of the World State were encouraged to play _____ games so they would have no self-consciousness about sex.
10. When being conditioned by electric shocks, the babies gave _____ yelps and their bodies stiffened and twitched.
11. The D. H. C. darted forward to greet the Controller, Mustapha Mond, in an _____ manner. "Controller! What an unexpected pleasure!" he said.
12. "Charming, Charming!" The D.H.C. spoke in a rather _____ tone when he observed the children at play.

(OVER) →