

# **IDHAYA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, KUMBAKONAM**



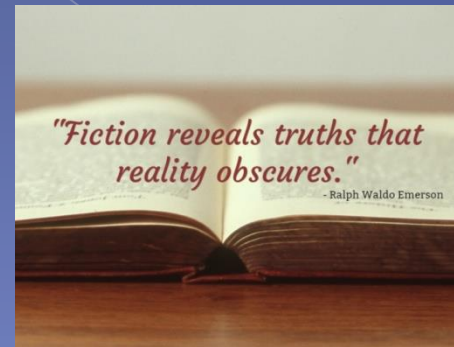
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**NAME OF THE FACULTY : MS. R. SANTHANALAKSHMI**

# *Fiction*



# ABOUT FICTION

- Fiction generally is a narrative form, in any medium, consisting of people, events, or places that are imaginary, in other words, not based strictly on history or fact. In its most narrow usage, fiction refers to written narratives in prose and often specifically novels, though also novellas and short stories.
- More broadly, fiction has come to encompass stories with imaginary elements in any format, including not just writings but also most live theatrical performances, films, television programs, radio dramas, comics, role-playing games, and video games.



All categories of books or stories can be called either fiction or non-fiction.

## **Fiction**

- A made up story
- Can tell about things that *could* happen
- Is read for fun
- Characters may be like real people or imaginary

## **Non-Fiction**

- Has facts that can be checked and proven
- The author is an expert on this information

# A BRAVE NEW WORLD

- ❖ **Brave New World is a dystopian(a vision of a future) novel by English author Aldous Huxley, written in 1931 and published in 1932.**
- ❖ **The novel is set in A.F. 632, approximately seven centuries after the twentieth century. A.F. stands for the year of Ford, named for the great industrialist Henry Ford who refined mass production techniques for automobiles.**
- ❖ **The novel anticipates huge scientific advancements in reproductive technology, sleep-learning, psychological manipulation and classical conditioning that are combined to make a dystopian society which is challenged by only a single individual: the story's protagonist.**
- ❖ **World Controllers rule the world and ensure the stability of society through the creation of a five-tiered caste system. Alphas and Betas are at the top of the system and act as the scientists, politicians, and other top minds, while Gammas, Deltas, and Epsilons are at the bottom and represent the world's industrial working class.**
- ❖ **A drug called soma ensures that no one ever feels pain or remains unhappy, and members of every caste receive rations of the drug. Pre- and post-natal conditioning further ensures social stability.**

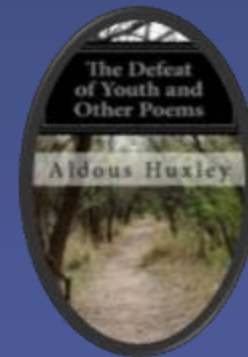
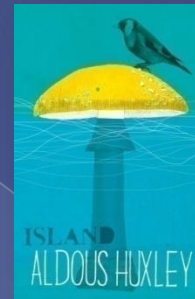
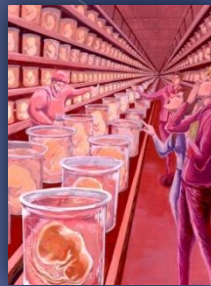
# A BRIEF AUTHOR INTRODUCTION

- Aldous Leonard Huxley was an English writer and philosopher.
- He was born in 26 July 1894 near Godalming Surrey in England.
- He was the neice of the famous English poet and critic Mathew Arnold.
- Huxley is a prolific writer. Huxley was a humanist and pacifist. He grew interested in philosophical mysticism and universalism.
- He published his collection of verse “The Burning Wheel” in 1916.

**ALDOUS  
HUXLEY**



- His three novels 'Jonah', 'The Deafeart of Youth' and 'Leda' appeared in 1917, 1918 and 1920 respectively.
- His colletion of Short stories, appeared in 1920.
- In his most famous novel Brave New World (1932) and his final novel Island (1962), he presented his vision of dystopia and utopia, respectively.



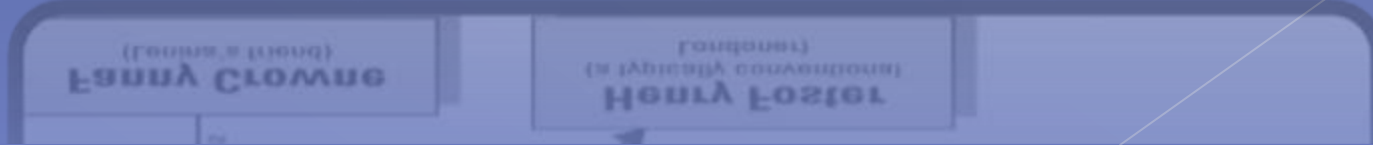
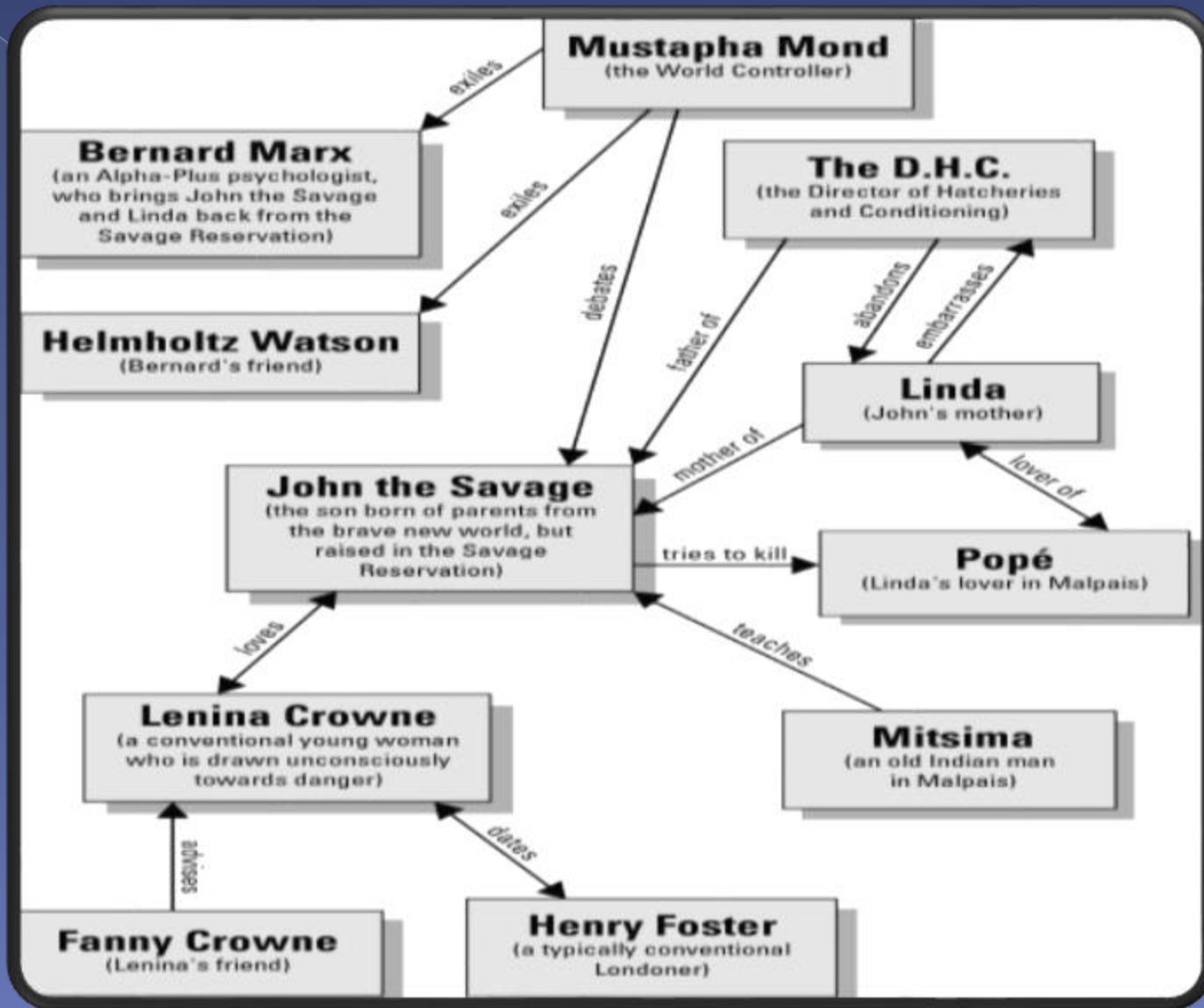
- On his deathbed, unable to speak owing to advanced laryngeal cancer, Huxley made a written request to his wife Laura for "LSD,intramuscular." According to her account of his death in This Timeless Moment, she obliged with an injection at 11:20 a.m. and a second dose an hour later; Huxley died aged 69, at 5:20 p.m. on 22 November 1963.



## Character List

- ❖ John: a savage from the Reservation who found himself alienated there and in the New World
- ❖ Bernard Marx: an Alpha with the phenotype of a lower caste; finds himself alienated because of this; enjoys popularity for bringing John to World State
- ❖ Hemholtz Watson: an Alpha teacher who “thinks too much”; dislikes the World State like Bernard ; writer
- ❖ Lenina Crowne: dates Foster, Marx, and is attracted to John; her morals reflect those of the typical citizen
- ❖ Mustapha Mond: the World Controller of W. Europe; used to be interested in arts, books, etc. but gave it up for stability
- ❖ Linda: John’s mother who used to live in the World State but was left on a Savage Reservation by The Director; ends up overdosing on soma





# Brave New World

Here's how the future goes down:



- 1 Hatchery Tour**  
During the tour, we learn all about the creepy new world and how people are made.



- 2 Date**  
Bernard has a date with Lenina, but really wants to know about true love.



- 3 Reservation**  
Bernard takes Lenina on vacation. The director says that he had visited the reservation long ago.



- 4 Soma**  
Bernard gets fired and takes soma to deal.



- 5 John**  
Bernard meets John on the reservation and discovers he is the son of the director.



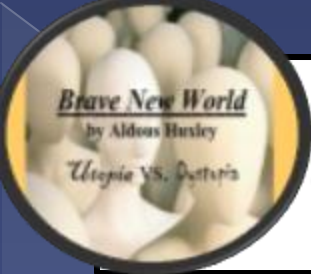
- 6 Civilization**  
Bernard brings John and Linda back to civilization. The director is ruined by the return of his wife and son.



- 7 John Hates This Life**  
Lenina wants sex with John, but he wants to stay chaste. Nobody cares about death. He starts a riot.



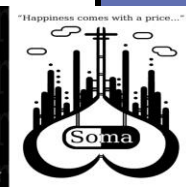
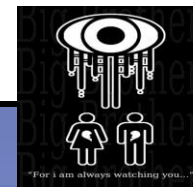
- 8 Lighthouse**  
John becomes a celebrity for beating himself to feel sorrow, and eventually hangs himself.



# *Plot Overview of Brave New World*

- **The novel opens in the Central London Hatching and Conditioning Centre, where the Director of the Hatchery and one of his assistants, Henry Foster, are giving a tour to a group of boys.**
- **The boys learn about the Bokanovsky and Podsnap Processes that allow the Hatchery to produce thousands of nearly identical human embryos.**
- **During the gestation period the embryos travel in bottles along a conveyor belt through a factorylike building, and are conditioned to belong to one of five castes: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, or Epsilon.**
- **The Alpha embryos are destined to become the leaders and thinkers of the World State. Each of the succeeding castes is conditioned to be slightly less physically and intellectually impressive.**
- **The Epsilons, stunted and stupefied by oxygen deprivation and chemical treatments, are destined to perform menial labor. Lenina Crowne, an employee at the factory, describes to the boys how she vaccinates embryos destined for tropical climates.**

- **The students view the various techniques for producing more babies and watch as the process segregates babies into various castes.**
- **After the babies are decanted from their bottles, they are conditioned through Neo-Pavlovian conditioning and hypnopaedia (sleep-teaching) .**
- **In Neo-Pavlovian conditioning, babies enter a room filled with books and roses. When the babies approach the books or the roses, alarms and sirens sound, and the babies receive a small electric shock, which frightens them so that when they confront the same items for a second time, they recoil in fear.**
- **Hypnopaedia teaches babies and children while they are asleep by playing ethical phrases numerous times so that the phrases will become a subconscious part of each person.**
- **The World Controller of Western Europe, His Fordship Mustapha Mond appears and gives the students a lecture about the way things used to be.**
- **Before the Utopian world order was established, he explains that people used to be parents and have children through live birth. This existence led to dirty homes with families where emotions got in the way of happiness and stability.**



- ⊙ **The first world reformers tried to change things, but the old governments ignored them. War finally ensued, culminating in the use of anthrax bombs.**
- ⊙ **After the so-called Nine Years' War, the world suffered through an economic crisis. Exhausted by their disastrous living conditions, people finally allowed the world reformers to seize control.**
- ⊙ **The reformers soon eradicated religion, monogamy, and most other individualistic traits, and they stabilized society with the introduction of the caste system and the use of soma.**
- ⊙ **Bernard Marx is introduced as a short, dark haired Alpha who is believed to have accidentally received a dose of alcohol as a fetus on the assembly line.**
- ⊙ **His coworkers dislike him and talk about him in derogatory tones. Bernard has a crush on Lenina Crowne, another Alpha, and she informs the reader that he asked her to go with him to the Savage Reservations several weeks earlier.**
- ⊙ **Lenina has been dating Henry Foster for the past several months, but since long-term relationships are discouraged, she agrees to go with Bernard Marx to the Reservations.**
- ⊙ **Bernard goes to Tomakin, the Director, and gets the Director's signature to enter the Reservations. The Director tells a story about how he went there twenty-five years earlier with a woman. During a storm, she became lost, and circumstances forced him to leave her there.**

- ◉ **The Director then realizes he should not have told Bernard this story and defensively begins to yell at him. Bernard leaves unruffled and goes to talk to his good friend Helmholtz Watson about his meeting with the Director.**
- ◉ **Helmholtz Watson is an intellectually superior Alpha who has become disillusioned with the society. He is tired of his work, which consists of writing slogans and statements to inspire people.**
- ◉ **Helmholtz indicates that he is searching for a way of expressing something, but he still does not know what. He pities Bernard because he realizes that neither of them can completely fit into the society.**
- ◉ **Bernard flies with Lenina to the Savage Reservations. While there he realizes he left a tap of perfume running in his room, and so he calls Helmholtz Watson to ask him to turn it off.**
- ◉ **Helmholtz tells him that the Director is about to transfer Bernard to Iceland because Bernard has been acting so antisocial lately.**
- ◉ **Bernard and Lenina enter the compound and watch the Indians perform a ritualistic dance to ensure a good harvest. A young man named John approaches them and tells them about himself.**
- ◉ **He was born to a woman named Linda who had been left on the Reservation nearly twenty-five years earlier. John is anxious to learn all about the Utopian world.**



- **Bernard realizes that Linda is almost certainly the woman mentioned by the Director. Talking to John, he learns that Linda was ostracized because of her willingness to sleep with all the men in the village, and that as a result John was raised in isolation from the rest of the village.**
- **John explains that he learned to read using a book called *The Chemical and Bacteriological Conditioning of the Embryo* and *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*, the latter given to Linda by one of her lovers, Popé. John tells Bernard that he is eager to see the “Other Place”—the “brave new world” that his mother has told him so much about.**
- **Bernard invites him to return to the World State with him. John agrees but insists that Linda be allowed to come as well.**
- **While Lenina, disgusted with the Reservation, takes enough soma to knock her out for eighteen hours, Bernard flies to Santa Fe where he calls Mustapha Mond and receives permission to bring John and Linda back to the World State. Meanwhile, John breaks into the house where Lenina is lying intoxicated and unconscious, and barely suppresses his desire to touch her.**
- **Bernard, Lenina, John, and Linda fly to the World State, where the Director is waiting to exile Bernard in front of his Alpha coworkers. But Bernard turns the tables by introducing John and Linda.**

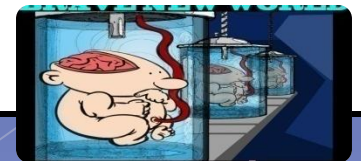


- ◉ **John becomes a hit with London society because of his strange life led on the Reservation. But while touring the factories and schools of the World State, John becomes increasingly disturbed by the society that he sees.**
- ◉ **His sexual attraction to Lenina remains, but he desires more than simple lust, and he finds himself terribly confused. As the discoverer and guardian of the “Savage,” Bernard also becomes popular.**
- ◉ **Bernard introduces them, John and Helmholtz quickly take to each other. John reads Helmholtz parts of Romeo and Juliet, but Helmholtz cannot keep himself from laughing at a serious passage about love, marriage, and parents—ideas that are ridiculous, almost scatological in World State culture.**
- ◉ **His strange behavior, Lenina becomes obsessed with John, refusing Henry’s invitation to see a feely. She takes soma and visits John at Bernard’s apartment, where she hopes to seduce him. But John responds to her advances with curses, blows, and lines from Shakespeare.**



- ◉ **At the Hospital for the Dying he watches her die while a group of lower-caste boys receiving their “death conditioning” wonder why she is so unattractive. The boys are simply curious, but John becomes enraged.**
- ◉ **After Linda dies, John meets a group of Delta clones who are receiving their soma ration. He tries to convince them to revolt, throwing the soma out the window, and a riot results.**
- ◉ **Bernard and Helmholtz, hearing of the riot, rush to the scene and come to John’s aid. After the riot is calmed by police with soma vapor, John, Helmholtz, and Bernard are arrested and brought to the office of Mustapha Mond.**
- ◉ **John and Mond debate the value of the World State’s policies, John arguing that they dehumanize the residents of the World State and Mond arguing that stability and happiness are more important than humanity.**
- ◉ **John protests that, without these things, human life is not worth living. Bernard reacts wildly when Mond says that he and Helmholtz will be exiled to distant islands, and he is carried from the room.**
- ◉ **Helmholtz accepts the exile readily, thinking it will give him a chance to write, and soon follows Bernard out of the room. John and Mond continue their conversation. They discuss religion and the use of soma to control negative emotions and social harmony.**

- **John runs away from London to an abandoned lighthouse on the outskirts of the city, where he sets up a small garden and builds bows and arrows.**
- **His guilty conscience over Linda's death, John makes a whip and hits himself with it. Some Deltas witness him in self-flagellation, and within three days, reporters show up to interview him. He manages to scare most of them away.**
- **One man catches John beating himself and films the entire event. Within a day hundreds of helicopters arrive, carrying people who want to see him beat himself. John cannot escape them all.**
- **Lenina and Henry Foster also arrive and when John sees Lenina, he starts to beat her with the whip. The crowd soon begins to chant "Orgy-porgy," a sensual hymn used to generate a feeling of oneness.**
- **John loses himself within the crowd and wakes up the next day after taking soma and engaging in the sensual dance of the hymn. He is overwhelmed with guilt and self-hatred. That evening he is found dead in the lighthouse as he hangs from an archway.**



# **BRAVE NEW WORLD: THEMES**



SCIENCE



SEX



POWER



SUFFERING



LITERATURE  
& WRITING



FREEDOM &  
CONFINEMENT



ISOLATION



DRUGS &  
ALCOHOL



IDENTITY



SPIRITUALITY



SOCIETY  
& CLASS



DISSATISFACTION

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ISOLATION

DRUGS &  
ALCOHOL

IDENTITY

SPIRITUALITY

SOCIETY  
& CLASS

DISSATISFACTION

*"Actual happiness always looks pretty squalid in comparison with the overcompensations for misery. And, of course, stability isn't nearly so spectacular as instability. And being contented has none of the glamour of a good fight against misfortune, none of the picturesqueness of a struggle with temptation, or a fatal overthrow by passion or doubt. Happiness is never grand."  
- Aldous Huxley, Brave New World*



