

AP 12-Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Read 1984 by George Orwell and Brave New World by Aldous Huxley and write a comparative essay. Both of these are categorized as Anti-Utopian novels. Be sure to turn in an outline with your paper. Papers should be 600 word minimum, and each body paragraph should have at least one quote from each novel to support your topic sentence for that paragraph. Remember to turn in an outline and to cite your quotes. (Huxley 96) (Orwell 124)

Choose three issues that lend themselves to comparison and contrast. The final five-paragraph essay should be a minimum of 600 words. Both authors treat several elements that concern them (loss of individuality, sex, the family, propaganda, the government, classes of people, conditioning of children, dangers that may come to be and may have already manifested themselves, the media influence, etc.). Take the three elements that you notice the most and use at least one quote from each novel in each of the body paragraphs.

You will have a quiz on 1984 on August 8th and one on Brave New World on August 22nd. After a discussion of each novel, you will have a test covering both novels. (Aug. 30th) Your essay is due on the first day of school as is your quote sheet- August 8th. Brave New World is an easier, faster read. 1984 is a little more complex. I would read it last. I am not asking you to answer study questions, but to guide your reading, I am asking you to label each chapter and type the two best quotes in the chapter and explain each one briefly. Do this as you go so that it won't be a last minute thing. Don't start the year behind- essay, quiz, quiz, quotes, and test- 5 grades right off the bat- Come prepared.

*For each chapter of each novel, choose two quotes that you think are very significant and explain why you chose each one. Label and number each chapter very clearly. Any time you love a quote for the language in it, use it. We will be looking at Language all year! Do not work on this assignment together!!

From 1984, I will be looking for 48 quotes.

From Brave New World, I will be looking for 36 quotes.

Books for next year. Buy a clean copy.

MLA Handbook- 8th Edition (may have)

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen (need immediately)

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

Othello by William Shakespeare

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines

I have included four worksheets on Brave New World, but they are not required for AP. They could help you prepare for the quiz, however.

Brave New World Study Questions Ch. 1-8

1. Who doesn't want to end up with whom in bed on the first date and says, "I want to feel something strong. I want to know what passion is."
2. Who isn't pleased with Bernard and threatens to send him to Iceland?
3. Who says, "Cleanliness is next to fordliness" and is disgusted with the Savage Reservation?
4. About what is Bernard speaking when he says to Lenina, "What a wonderfully intimate relationship."
5. What is it physically about John that makes him an outcast at the reservation?
6. What is an event that is discussed from which John is excluded and he really wants to be a part of?
7. What does Popé give to Linda that is the Reservation equivalent of soma?
8. Which hypnopeadiac phrase is concerned with the consumerism of the society?
9. Who is "he?" "But he heard nothing and for him, nobody was coming."
10. Why is Helmholtz discontent in this Brave New World?
11. Why would Ford be idolized in this world?
12. What is a "consumer" society?

1. To which Shakespearean character does John compare Lenina when he sees her sleeping (in a soma coma) in her pink pajamas?
2. Why is this quote irony? "...you will see that no offense is so heinous as unorthodoxy of behavior....Unorthodoxy threatens more than the life of a mere individual; it strikes at society itself." Include the speaker and the person talked about in your answer.
3. Does Linda recognize Tomakin? What are John's first words to Tomakin?
4. Who now "found himself ...treated as a person of outstanding importance."
5. Who is the speaker of "I had six girls last week."?
6. Who is being discussed? "That young man will come to a bad end....He won't find another Savage to help him out a second time."
7. What has Helmholtz done that makes him feel that he is a "marked man?"
8. Of whose relationship is Bernard jealous?
9. Who is speaking to whom in this quote: "...you had to bring her the skin of a mountain lion....Or else a wolf."
10. What is the conflict between John and Lenina?
11. Explain the death conditioning in Chapter 14.
Who is receiving it?
What treat is being given?
Who is appalled by it?
12. Who calls whom a "filthy whore...impudent strumpet?"

1. Who says, "I come to bring you freedom," and when is it said?
2. How did police control the madness at the hospital?
3. Which three people end up in front of Mond?
4. Who says, "We sacrificed high art," and what does it mean?
5. What is the discussion about a society of Alphas?
6. What is Mond's opinion of science?
7. What is "orthodoxy?"
8. Who says, "I should like a thoroughly bad climate?" Why would this person like this?
9. Why, according to Mond, do people need God?
10. Explain the argument about self-denial and indulgence.
11. Who thinks tears are necessary? Says, "Nothing cost enough here."
12. Who says, "I claim them all." What is "them?"
13. Where does the Savage choose to spend his solitude?
14. How does he plan to survive?
15. When he finds himself singing and happy, what does he do?
16. What happens to end his solitude?

17. Why and how does the Savage kill himself?
18. Who is John's mother?
19. Who is John's father?
20. Who is the World Controller?
21. What does it mean to be an "orthodox" party member? Who are two of them, and why would you consider them to be "orthodox?"

General Questions from Brave New World

1. Who wrote Brave New World?
2. Who is the character who shows the idealism and optimism of the author as a young man?
3. Who is the character who shows the cynicism of the author as an older man?
4. What is the name for sleep teaching?
5. What is the name for splitting eggs?
6. Who is the World Controller?
7. Who is Linda's lover on the reservation?
8. Who is John's father?
9. Who is the thoughtful rebel who wants to teach his students to write piercingly?
10. Who is the selfish rebel who only rebels when he is a misfit?
11. Why and how is he a misfit?
12. Where is the Savage Reservation?
13. What kind of novel is Brave New World?
14. What does it mean to be orthodox?
15. Who are two very orthodox characters?
16. What is the feel-good drug?
17. Who goes with Bernard to the Savage Reservation?
18. Who supports denial?
19. Who supports indulgence?
20. Who is exiled to the Falkland's, and how does he feel about it?
21. Who says, "I claim them all," and what is "all?"
22. Why is Linda a misfit at the reservation?

This is a sample AP Test question from 1997. Consider it after you read both summer reading novels. You will have an assignment using it after school begins.

1997

(Suggested Time- 40 minutes. This question counts one-third of the total essay section score.)

In the following passage, the contemporary social critic Neil Postman contrasts George Orwell's vision of the future, as expressed in the novel *1984* (written in 1948) with that of Aldous Huxley in the novel *Brave New World* (1936). Read the passage, considering Postman's assertion that Huxley's vision is more relevant today than is Orwell's. Then, using your own critical understanding of contemporary society as evidence, write a carefully argued essay that agrees or disagrees with Postman's assertion.

We were keeping our eye on 1984. When the year came and the prophecy didn't, thoughtful Americans sang softly in praise of themselves. The roots of liberal democracy had held. Wherever else the terror had happened, we, at least, had not been visited by Orwellian nightmares.

But we had forgotten that alongside Orwell's dark vision, there was another—slightly older, slightly less well known, equally chilling: Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*. Contrary to common belief even among the educated, Huxley and Orwell did not prophesy the same thing. Orwell warns that we will be overcome by an externally imposed oppression. But in Huxley's vision, no Big Brother is required to deprive people of their autonomy, maturity, and history. As he saw it, people will come to love their oppression, to adore the technologies that undo their capacities to think.

What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism. Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. Orwell feared we would become a captive culture. Huxley feared we would become a trivial culture, preoccupied with some equivalent of the feelies, the orgy porgy, and the centrifugal bumblepuppy. As Huxley remarked in *Brave New World Revisited*, the civil libertarians and rationalists who are ever on the alert to oppose tyranny "failed to take into account man's almost infinite appetite for distractions." In *1984*, Huxley added, people are controlled by inflicting pain. In *Brave New World*, they are controlled by inflicting pleasure. In short, Orwell feared that what we hate will ruin us. Huxley feared that what we love will ruin us.