1. Explain how Centrifugal Bumble-puppy is played. What is the government’s perspective on the purpose of games?
2. How does the Director respond to the children he catches engaged in sexual play? In this society, what sort of behavior is considered “normal” and “abnormal?”
3. What does the Director tell the students about the way children were raised in the past? How do the students respond to this information?
4. Who is Mustapha Mond?
5. Beginning on page 34, Huxley juxtaposes scenes between the Director and his students with scenes between Henry Foster and Bernard Marx and scenes of a discussion between Fanny and Lenina Crowne. What is happening in each of these three vignettes? What effect does the juxtaposition of the scenes create?
6. Explain the saying “History is bunk.” Consider the list of things (found on page 35) that the Controller dismisses and suggest a reason for his inclusion of these particular examples of “bunk.” Are there any common themes among them?
7. Based on context clues, what are Feelies (35)?
8. How does the Director describe what a home was? Why effect does his description have on the students?
9. What treatment is Fanny undergoing? How do you think the treatment works? Why do you think it would be prescribed?
10. According to the Director, why did Ford/Freud decide that families were dangerous?
11. Explain the meaning of the proverb, “every one belongs to every one else.” What does Huxley suggest about the reason that the students accept this proverb as truth?
12. Why does Fanny disapprove of Lenina’s relationship with Henry Foster?
13. Explain the allegory that the Director makes using water under pressure in a pipe. How does it illustrate the danger of monogamy or other exclusive relationships? According to the Director, why does promiscuity lead to stability?
14. What does it mean to call a woman “pneumatic?” Why does Henry Foster’s conversation about Lenina anger Bernard Marx?
15. Why doesn’t Fanny approve of Lenina’s interest in Bernard Marx? What is the rumor about Bernard?
16. What is Ectogenesis? According to the Director, why did world governments initially reject this scientific advancement? What other technological and social advances/reforms did they reject, and for what reason? What changed their minds?
17. Explain the “conscription of consumption” (49). How are citizens conditioned to become consumers? Why would appreciating culture or nature be at odds with consumption?
18. Based on context clues, what do you think “Simple Lifers” were? What happened to them?
19. What is a Malthusian belt?
20. What is soma? What purpose does it serve in society?
21. Describe the aging process in the World State.