About the Author

Aldous Huxley (1894-1963)

- wrote 47 books
- age 14 - mother died
- related to members of England’s “intellectual elite”
  - "...brought down on him a weight of intellectual authority and a momentum of moral obligations."
Brave New World

- Written in 4 months in 1931
- Dystopian society - a society of the future that appears ideal but ultimately proves to be flawed or corrupt
- Addresses the issues of the 20th century: industrialization, mass production, political and social shifts, world war
Brave New World Title Origins

“O wonder! / How many goodly creatures are there here! / How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world, / That has such people in’t.”

- Miranda, Shakespeare’s The Tempest
Setting / Background

- London, 2540 AD
- Follows a world war
  - Population has been decimated
  - Surviving governments have united - “World State”
    - To increase stability, 10 World Controllers exercise power over every aspect of the citizens’ lives
• Population is limited; natural reproduction is outlawed
• New children created in “hatcheries” and assigned to social castes
• *Hypnopaedia* - all children subject to social conditioning while they sleep (loss of free will)
• “Soma” dispensed by the World State
• World State built on the principles of the Henry Ford assembly line
  ○ citizens revere Ford as a god

• Point of view: third person omniscient
By the end of the unit, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the origins of the World State and its philosophies about social stability.
2. Describe several specific steps taken by the World State to maintain social order.
3. Describe the citizens’ attitudes toward sexuality and love and explain why they are conditioned to hold these views.
4. Identify the different castes of the society and their social roles.
5. Describe how Bernard initially does not conform to the expectations for his caste and explain how his view of social conformity changes over the course of the story.
6. Contrast Bernard’s and Helmholtz’s personalities and their attitudes toward social conformity.
7. Explain why John’s relationship with Lenina fails, despite their mutual attraction.
8. Contrast Mustapha Mond’s attitude toward the World State and its means of social control with those of the Director of Hatcheries and John Savage.
9. Identify and explain the traits of the World State society that make it a dystopia.