

Brave New World Guided Reading Questions

Chapter One:

Vocabulary: pallid, callow, abject, geniality, florid, zealous, salinity, viscosity, bouillon, prodigious, viviparous, vivacious, interminable, deft, optimum, predestination, sultry, caste, decant

1. Explain how Huxley uses imagery to establish setting and mood. Cite specific examples that you find particularly effective in your response.

The very first sentence of the book paints the Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre as a “squat grey building” that is “cold for all the summer beyond the panes”. Even though the physical temperature of the building is quite warm and tropical, the introductory page continues to suggest that the building is cold in appearance by using words like frozen, wintrous, and goose-flesh.

2. The World State’s motto suggests that community, identity, and stability are the most important qualities in their society. What do you believe are the three most important values for a society?

Unity, passion, and compassion.

3. Explain the fertilization process used in Brave New World. How does the Hatching and Conditioning Centre acquire the necessary ovum and spermatozoa?

The premise of the fertilization process used focuses on creating individuals who are as uniform as possible. Ova from one ovary and spermatozoa from one donor are obtained and then used to create up to 16,000 individuals. Similar to IVF, the ova are submerged in a concentrated solution of spermatozoa until each egg is successfully fertilized. Each fertilized egg is then split continuously until there are 96 identical embryos.

4. What is Bokanovsky’s Process? Which classes undergo Bokanovsky’s Process? Which do not?

Bokanovsky’s Process takes a single fertilized egg and continues to split it until there are 96 identical embryos. Deltas, Gammas, and Epsilons all undergo this process. The Alphas and Betas do not undergo the process.

5. Why would Bokanovsky’s Process help create social stability?

Large groups of identical people allow each group to specialize in a certain job so that the same machinery can be manipulated by the same people. Having groups of like-minded people allows for necessary tasks to be completed.

6. What do you think a “freemartin” is (13)?

Freemartins are a result of female embryos receiving injections of male hormone daily while developing. They are sterile and remind me somewhat of hermaphrodites as they have female features but with some male characteristics due to the testosterone. Freemartins are created to ensure that women do not have children naturally; all children are created in the lab.

7. What is the purpose of depriving some embryos of adequate oxygen?

Depriving some embryos of oxygen physiologically sets these embryos up for fitting into a certain caste. Alphas and Betas are supposed to be stronger and more capable than Deltas, Epsilons, and Gammas; by depriving the lower caste systems of oxygen, these embryos suffer from the consequences and becomes less healthy than the higher castes. The lower the caste, the longer the embryo is deprived of oxygen.

Chapter Two:

Vocabulary: viscose, posthumous, apoplectic, suffuse, indissolubly, gratuitous, smut, sibilant, imperative, indefatigably, inculcate, insinuating

1. Explain the conditioning exercise that the Delta infants at the Centre experience. What is the purpose of the “lesson”? How does it reflect the Pavlov’s theory? Explain the economic rationale for conditioning lower-caste children to hate flowers.

The conditioning of the Delta infants began by exposing the children to books and flower petals. Once set free, the children crawled over to the books and flowers and explored the objects. After a minute or so, the Director instructed that the alarms be turned on. These alarms frightened the children, resulting in hysteria. As if the loud noises were not enough, the nurses also shocked the infants via metal plates on the floor under the books and flower petals. The fear and pain instilled upon the infants is meant to condition them into hating books and flowers. By avoiding books, the Deltas will not learn any information that the government does not intend for them to learn. Books are banned in the Brave New World society, but by conditioning the Deltas to fear and hate books, any rebels who would question this ban wouldn’t have the urge to look further into books. Conditioning the Deltas to hate flowers keeps them in the city and out of the country. Because lower-castes work in the city, taking the time to travel to the country to look at the flowers would not be favorable on the economy. By spending time observing the flowers, the lower-castes would not be working in the cities which would result in less production.

2. How was hypnopædia discovered? What were its limitations?

Hypnopædia was discovered when a boy listened to the radio while he fell asleep. While he was asleep, the radio station broadcasted a story on the Nile River. The next day, when his mother said anything related to the story he heard, he was compelled to repeat what he had heard. Although he was able to memorize things, he was unable to comprehend the information that he retained.

3. Based on context clues, what historical figure is referred to as “Our Ford”?

“Our Ford” likely refers to Henry Ford who is credited with inventing assembly lines in manufacturing cars.

4. Explain the methods used by the class, Elementary Class Consciousness, to condition children.

The children were exposed to a recording in their pillows as they slept that instilled the morals and reasoning for their caste system.

Chapter Three:

Vocabulary: centrifugal, rudimentary, patronizing, contempt, maudlin, rigorously, suppressed, incredulity, surreptitious, averted, unsavory, bunk, derision, contemptuous, teeming, rabble, evocation, squalid, chypre, inscrutable, sadism, chastity, incongruous, emphatically, axiomatic, truculently, stickler, furtive, keen, pneumatic, insurmountable, degrading, indignant

1. What is the government's perspective on the purpose of games?

The purpose of complex games like Centrifugal Bumble-Puppy is to increase consumerism. Complicated machines are needed to play these modern games to promote consumerism; games are not meant to entertain persay.

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?"

It is expected that children explore their sexual desires and even encouraged. Children who do not take to this activity are psychologically examined as it is seen to be unnatural to feel uncomfortable with erotic play.

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?

The students are mortified and disgusted to learn that children in the past were raised by their biological mothers and fathers in groups called families. This concept is forbidden in the society that the students currently live in as "everyone belongs to everyone".

4. Who is Mustapha Mond?

Mustapha Mond is the controller of everything in the World State. He is like a god in the way that he has power over everyone.

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?

The students and the Director are discussing the caveats of past societies; Bernard and Henry argue over the way that women (specifically Lenina) should be treated and thought of; Fanny and Lenina discuss their relationships with men and their contraception requirements. All three scenes reveal various aspects of the World State and how citizens react to certain phrases/ideas. It is apparent that promiscuity is encouraged (for both men and women) and that becoming

romantically invested in someone is blatantly wrong. The juxtaposition of the scenes reveals the views of each character on the World State. For a society where everyone's life is supposed to be planned out, these characters show an awful lot of individualism.

6. How does the Director describe what a home was? Why effect does his description have on the students?

The Director describes a home as an unstable cage where emotions continue to brew until it somehow influences a person's behavior and sways their judgement from being objective to subjective. Like with the term "mother", the students are disgusted by the thought of living in a home.

7. What treatment is Fanny undergoing? How do you think the treatment works? Why do you think it would be prescribed?

Fanny is prescribed some type of pill that mimics pregnancy by releasing hormones into the body. This may be prescribed as it allows women who want the positive feelings of pregnancy without the bearing of children. If a woman can take medicine that mimics pregnancy, the body won't feel the need to be pregnant for real, which benefits the World State.

8. 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?

This proverb is meant to remove the pressures of monogamy between people as to allow them to explore their sexuality. The World State is all about getting what you want when you want it-- that is how to keep people happy. There apparently are not temptations or desires as you may freely take part in them without judgement. It is suggested that the students learned this through hypnopaedia.

9. Why does Fanny disapprove of Lenina's relationship with Henry Foster?

Fanny thinks that Lenina is becoming too involved with Henry as she isn't seeing other men. Fanny is concerned that Lenina may get attached to Henry in a romantic way, so she encourages her to go on dates with other men and "have them".

10. What does it mean to call a woman "pneumatic?" Why does Henry Foster's conversation about Lenina anger Bernard Marx?

In the context of the book, pneumatic seems to be synonymous with sexy or curvy. Henry calls Lenina pneumatic and this angers Bernard as he sees Lenina as a person rather than an object for satisfying one's sexual desires.

11. Why doesn't Fanny approve of Lenina's interest in Bernard Marx? What is the rumor about Bernard?

Fanny thinks Bernard is unattractive as he is short and thin, especially as an Alpha, and therefore sees him as a waste of time. It is rumored that alcohol was added to his test tube while he was developing as an embryo, which stunted his growth.

12. What is a Malthusian belt?

A Malthusian belt is like a bandolier but instead of holding bullets it hold condoms.

13. What is soma? What purpose does it serve in society?

Soma is a drug that is given to all citizens for whenever they begin to feel unhappy and need an escape. Daily rations are distributed to the people and soma is used regularly to take the edge off of life. Soma is used to suppress extreme emotions that could create instability in society; instead of dealing with these emotions (like anger, loneliness, and depression), citizens go on a “holiday”.

14. Describe the aging process in the World State.

Aging does not exist. Procedures are performed to take away wrinkles and the lengthy daily rituals of washing and massaging one’s body ensure that aging is put off for as long possible.

Chapter Four:

Vocabulary: salutation, melancholy, gape, unmalicious, simian, annihilating, stupor, imperiously, rapturous, vivaciously, manifest, cordiality, glum, ruminating, incandescence, averted, contemptuous, wretched, emphatic, indefatigable, imploring, impotence, asceticism, plaintive

1. Describe transportation in the World State.

Transportation, like many other things in the World State, is very advanced. Many Alphas and Betas use helicopters of sorts to fly to places, even if it is just down the street.

2. Why does Bernard find it difficult to interact with others?

Bernard feels as if everyone else is blissfully ignorant to the obvious brainwashing of the World State. He feels out of place because everyone else is happy with the way that things are and he feels as if no one else understands him. Also, he often feels as if he is being judged for his appearance despite the fact that he is an Alpha plus.

3. Who is Helmholtz Watson? What do the two men have in common? What is the basis for their friendship?

Helmholtz Watson is an Alpha, like Bernard, who feels out of place. Unlike Bernard, he is very attractive, built, and charming. Helmholtz often feels like his writing is not up to par with his thoughts. He gets frustrated with his pieces as they don't reflect how he truly feels, yet he can't find any words to describe how he feels either.

Chapter Five:

Vocabulary: plangent, perennially, impenetrable, contraceptive, atonement, lout, solidarity, annihilation, imminence, exultant, galvanic, delirium, consummation, benevolently, prone, supine, rapture, satiety, transfigured

1. How does hypnopædia help condition people to be happy? What details suggest that it is not completely effective?

Hypnopædia brainwashes people of the World State into listening to the social structure determined for them from birth. The phrases repeated are tailored to each caste, promoting the caste that they are meant to be in. When the Delta children were being conditioned, they were constantly reminded that they had it easier than Alphas and Betas but that they were smarter than Epsilons. Some people, however, can see past the technique. Bernard is not at all happy even though he underwent hypnopædia and Helmholtz feels suppressed in his writing, too.

2. After Henry and Lenina leave the cabaret, Huxley comments that they remain in “happy ignorance of the night” and describes the stars as “depressing.” What social commentary does he make by using with his description of nature?

Nature used to be regarded as one of the most beautiful things on Earth for people to dwell in. In the World State, there is such a focus on technology that being with nature is regarded as odd or old fashioned. The stars are regarded as depressing because they remind the citizens of how they've neglected nature.

3. Describe the required solidarity service. What is the purpose of the service? What tactics does the State use to achieve their goal?

The service just reinstates the values of the World State. To make the information palatable, it is presented with soma. After the service, the entire group has an orgy together. The goal of these services is to keep the higher castes satisfied with their role in society.

4. Describe Bernard Marx's response to the solidarity service. How does his response help develop his character?

The soma was not appealing to Bernard. He values having a clear mind and feels that soma fogs his memory in an unpleasant way. The rest of the participants try to pressure Bernard, but he is very persistent. They enjoy the escape the soma provides and take it with pleasure. His refusal to conform to societal norms just enhances the rebellious nature of his character.

Chapter Six:

Vocabulary: grim, putrid, disquieting, obstinately, proffered, blasphemy, voluptuous, cajolery, archness, arresting, reel, unabashed, genial, agitated, scrupulously, solecism, intrinsically, reminiscence, indecorous, anecdote, malignant, infantile, inclination, decorum, exult, embattle, elated, tonic, deplorable, brachycephalic, irrelevant, indefatigable, inconspicuously, serenely, inexorably, appalled, stoicism, carrion, fulminated

1. Why does Lenina have second thoughts about going to the Savage Reservation with Bernard? Why does she decide to go?

Bernard is not the most sociable person and Lenina was worried that if she went with him to the Savage Reservation that she wouldn't enjoy his company. At the Savage Reservation, she wouldn't be able to leave if she didn't enjoy it as it was across the ocean. Lenina ultimately decides to go, remembering Fanny's advice; she needs to be more promiscuous. Bernard can be quite sweet, too.

2. Why does Bernard dislike soma?

It makes him feel out of control and useless.

3. Contrast Bernard's response to nature with Lenina's response.

Bernard was fascinated by the beauty of nature. The stormy ocean waves calmed Bernard. The aggressive force exerted by the waves seem to parallel his internal struggle with society's expectations. Lenina felt uncomfortable with nature. She constantly asked Bernard if they could go back to the city where she didn't have to see the depressing waves.

4. Why is Bernard disappointed that he slept with Lenina on their first date? How does Lenina respond to his suggestion that it would have been better to have waited?

Bernard wanted to build an emotional connection with Lenina before he slept with her. He wanted to put Lenina on a pedestal as to not see her as an object for sexual pleasure but as an emotional companion. Lenina was offended that Bernard suggested that they wait. She saw his refusal to sleep with her as a hint that she was not good in bed or that she was too plump to be attractive.

5. Why doesn't the Director approve of Bernard traveling to the Savage Reservation? What happened to him when he visited the reservation in his youth?

The Director traveled to the Savage Reservation with a woman when he was much younger. Apparently the woman had fallen, and while the Director went to find help, she had left. He tried to find her, but a terrible storm came and he had to go back to the Savage Reservation. He never found her and the thought of leaving her there still haunts him. The Director fears that seeing the

Savage Reservation will in some way fuel Bernard's dislike for the World State. Stability is key in their society, so the Director wants to avoid putting Bernard in any vulnerable positions that might pressure him into rebelling.

6. What upsets Bernard when he is at the Reservation? What does this suggest about his values and the effectiveness of his conditioning? Is he really that different from Lenina?

Bernard is disgusted with Linda's appearance. Even though she is the same age as the Director, she is perceived to be much older in the eyes of Bernard and Lenina. The World State makes sure to minimize the physical effects of aging (like wrinkling, dull hair, and dry skin) by implementing daily pampering and offering more extreme procedures (surgery, botox)-- because of this, Bernard has never been exposed to a naturally aged woman like Linda. He is, in this way, like Lenina. The World State has effectively pressured its citizens to be superficial.

7. Explain the meaning of Lenina's adage: "Was and will make me ill, I take a gramme and only am" (104). How does Huxley's comment that after taking soma "roots and fruits were abolished" relate to Lenina's adage?

Lenina is basically saying that soma takes away any worries about the past or future; it allows you to experience life for what it is in the present, without being preoccupied with other matters. Huxley's comment is of the same premise, just phrased more metaphorically. The roots represent the past and the fruits represent the future. These things are abolished with soma and all that becomes relevant is the growth of the tree.

Chapter Seven:

Vocabulary: precipitous, reciprocated, sullen, contemptuous, precipice, diadem, indignant, incredulity, emaciated, indecent, tactfully, unorthodox, innocuous, semblance, incarnadine

1. How does Lenina respond to the things she sees on the Reservation? What aspects of the life of the savages are particularly distressing to her?

Lenina is not accustomed to many of the Reservation's customs. The clothing disturbs her as it is organic (whereas hers is artificially synthesized in a factory) and she's put off by their odor.

What truly bothered Lenina the most about the Reservation, though, was when the young boy circling the fire began to whip himself. She didn't understand why anyone would be compelled to harm themselves repeatedly, and especially not in front of the entire village.

2. What does Bernard realize when he meets the young blonde savage named John?

Bernard expects all of the savages to have tan skin and coarse black hair, so he was quite taken aback by the appearance of John. He realizes that he is not a native.

3. How does John's mother, Linda, respond when she sees Bernard and Lenina? What has life on the Reservation been like for Linda?

Linda is ecstatic that she gets to meet people from the World State again. She was originally from the World State, and to this day dreams of going back. Linda, being conditioned and groomed in the modern society in London, found it extremely difficult to acclimate to the environment of the Reservation. Monogamy and self discipline were central ideals among the savages and these were two things that Linda never learned. Linda, already an outsider, became even more ostracized when she began sleeping with the husbands of other villagers. In the reservation, this behavior was inappropriate and unacceptable.

Chapter Eight:

Vocabulary: inconceivable, treacherous, lecherous, averted, patronizing, profoundly, squeamish, cordiality, perplexed

1. Summarize John's memories of his childhood. What keeps them from being accepted by the other savages?

He is isolated because of his mother's mishaps. Linda slept with the majority of the men in the village and eventually the wives of these men found out. From then on out, both Linda and John were ostracised in any social gatherings.

2. What did Linda tell John about the Other Place?

Linda focused on telling John about the entertaining parts of the Other Place. She often repeated phrases that she was taught (a lot of them being about soma) as to reminisce to her youth. Linda mentions soma to him as well as the fun activities.

3. What is Linda able to teach John? What does Popé give John shortly after his twelfth birthday?

John is taught how to read from Linda. Pope gave John a copy of one of Shakespeare's plays for his 12th birthday.

4. What ceremony is John excluded from participating in? How does he respond to his exclusion? Why does his experience help him discover "Time and Death and God" (136)?

John is unable to partake in the religious ceremony where a young man proves his loyalty to God by whipping himself and enduring other tortures (this ceremony was the same one that Lenina and Bernard saw upon arrival to the Reservation). John, in turn, "self disciplines" himself by torturing himself. John believes that he must suffer like the other young men to express his faith in God.

5. What do Bernard and John have in common?

Both John and Bernard are outsiders in their communities.

6. What does Bernard offer to do for John and Linda? How does John respond to his offer?

Bernard offers to bring John and Linda back to the World State with him. Linda undeniably wants to go with him, but John is apprehensive.

Chapter Nine:

Vocabulary: pensive, fruitless, resonant, deferential, emphatic, vestal, modesty

1. How does John react to seeing the sleeping Lenina? What is ironic about the way he perceives her? What is John tempted to do when he finds Lenina sound asleep? Why does he stop? Do you think John is noble or just naïve? Explain your answer.

John believes that Lenina is the most beautiful girl he has ever laid eyes on. Watching her sleep so peacefully comforts John and he is tempted to touch her. He wants to caress her cheek and feel her hair, but he stops himself. Without laying a finger on her, John is consumed in guilt. Just having the temptation to touch her weighs him down-- he was supposed to be pure and not lust over women. He sees her as a pure and innocent girl who does not deserve a man so far beneath her like himself. This is ironic considering that Lenina is very promiscuous. I think John is noble. It's refreshing that he values Lenina as a person rather than an object, even if I don't agree that he is below her.

Chapter Ten:

Vocabulary: dispassionately, heinous, unorthodoxy, subvert, coquettishly, undulation, titter, irrepressibly, disengage, scatological, obliquity, impropriety

1. Why do you think Huxley chooses to juxtaposition the description of the process of human fertilization in labs at the Bloomsbury Centre at the beginning of Chapter 10 with the scene between John and the sleeping Lenina at the end of Chapter 9?

These scenes just go to show the polar opposites of the two societies. Lenina is from a technology driven society where there is no religion or monogamy or aging; John, on the other hand, is from a family oriented village that is heavily influenced by God and the corresponding religious morals.

2. Why has the Director called Bernard Marx in for a public meeting? Why does he want to accuse Bernard in front of upper-caste workers? What charges does he make against Bernard? How does Bernard answer the Director's accusations?

The Director wants to remove Bernard from society as he threatens the social stability of the World State. In order to show the upper-caste workers what they may lose if they follow in Bernard's footsteps, he has them join the meeting. The Director claims that Bernard's refusal to partake in the societal norms (taking soma, sleeping around, going to the Feelies) is offensive and dangerous for everyone around him. In response to this blow, Bernard introduces Linda and John to the crowd.

3. What does Linda accuse Tomakin of doing to her? What details suggest that there may be truth to her accusation?

Linda accuses Tomakin of making her have a child. Linda describes traveling with a man (who is supposedly Tomakin) to the Savage Reservation. She hurt herself, and when she woke up, Tomakin was gone. The savages took her back to their village where they took care of her injuries and integrated her into the community. The time that she was abandoned at the Reservation was the same time that Tomakin said he went to the Savage Reservation.

4. In retrospect, what was ironic about the Director's choice of the Fertilizing Room for his meeting with Bernard Shaw?

Creating life in the World State is not at all taboo; in fact, a lot of effort is put towards correctly creating, dividing, and developing the embryos. In this sense, reproduction is not controversial. What is disturbing to so many of the World State citizens is that the Director of the Hatchery is a father. The one thing that the Director biologically produced ends up in the same Fertility Room as him, surrounded by thousands of embryos he helped fertilize.

Chapter Eleven:

Vocabulary: quaint, clamored, demurred, rejuvenate, sonorous, palpitating, senility, carping, elation, mirth, aquiline, flaxen, malice, retching, recoil, apprehensively, pretences, obscurely, temperament, base, ignoble, exultantly

1. Why is there enormous public interest in seeing John, but not in seeing his mother, Linda?

John is handsome and a born-and-raised savage while Linda is aged and a former World State citizen.

2. How does Linda adjust to reentering civilization?

The integration back into civilization shows to be more difficult than what Linda had hoped for. As she had suffered at the reservation for so many years, Linda seems to try and overcompensate by these “lost years” by excessively taking in soma.

3. After being made John’s guardian, how does Bernard respond to his newfound popularity and importance? Why does his response sadden his friend Helmholtz?

Now that Bernard has gained importance, he has started to grow cocky. He loses the individuality that he expressed before. Initially, he viewed women as people; now, he sees them as sexual objects. These changes in Bernard sadden Helmholtz as the one person who he thought he could relate to is now just another citizen.

4. How does John respond to seeing the Bokanovsky Groups in the Electrical Equipment Corporation? Why do you think he is affected this way?

John is extremely disturbed when exposed to the machinery at the Hatchery. John is not used to technology, let alone the societal implications that come with them.

5. Why aren’t upper-caste children Bokanovskified?

Upper-caste children need more intelligence to perform their jobs correctly. Bokanovsky’s Process speeds up maturation but reduces the intelligence of the embryos. Individuality is also important for upper-caste members as they have a larger range of occupations to fill.

6. Why is Lenina excited about going to the Feelies with the Savage? What are the Feelies? How does John react to the experience? Why do you think he has this reaction?

Lenina wants to sleep with John, not only because he is attractive, but also because it would heighten her status in the community. The Feelies are sensual movies. John, being religious, takes issue with the majority of the movie and sensations associated with it. He feels dirty and

barbaric for giving into his sexual desires. As an outsider to the society, it is expected that John would react this way. He believes that relationships should be cherished and that intimacy is important.

7. What does Huxley mean when he writes that John is “Bound by strong vows that had never been pronounced, obedient to laws that had long ceased to run”(170)? How does this explain his reaction to Lenina?

John follows the morals instilled by God. Religion has not been a part of the World State for a very long time, which is what Huxley was referring to when he said, “laws that had long ceased to run”. This strict moral code that John is “bound by” is then reflected in his refusal to sleep with Lenina.

Chapter Twelve:

Vocabulary: bellowing, wheedled, hierarchy, scathing, indignation, unwonted, exultation, sepulchral, declaiming, plaintive, perversely, grievance, discomfited, inexorably, magnanimity, estrangement, copulate, latent, odious, harbinger, defunctive, defile, guffaw, tremulous, mollified, pensive

1. Has Bernard's newfound popularity changed him in any way? What does the way that the people that Bernard invited to his party treat him reveal about their attitude towards Bernard?

Bernard has grown cockier as he has become more popular. No longer does he express concern for other people's feelings and he seems to have built up a lot of his ego. The people at Bernard's party are only there to see John. They don't care about Bernard as a person and are just superficially using him to get to see John.

2. Why does Mustapha Mond decide that "A New Theory of Biology" can't be published?

There is too much knowledge in the piece. By publishing something like that, people may begin to explore reading, which is prohibited. By introducing such a groundbreaking discovery, the World State risks instability among its people.

3. Explain the reason for the immediate connection between Helmholtz and the Savage. How does Bernard respond to their friendship? What does Bernard's response reveal about the type of friend he is?

Helmholtz and John bond over their fascination with writing. The Savage shows Helmholtz Hamlet and Helmholtz is overjoyed to finally find a piece of writing that expresses how he feels. Bernard does not react strongly to their immediate connection like one would expect a friend to do. This implies that Bernard was never truly friends with Helmholtz.

Chapter Thirteen and Chapter Fourteen:

Vocabulary: contemptuously, persevere, sententiously, premonition, rakish, reproach, luscious, peerless, baseness, elation, sanctimonious, drivel, opportune, alluring, abstemious, aghast, imperceptible, impudent, strumpet, ingratiating

Vocabulary: incurious, imbecile, embellished, constituents, undefiled, obstinate, sublime, ordure, balk, imploring, reproach, irresolute

1. Describe the steps that have been taken to create a warm and positive atmosphere at Park Lane Hospital for the Dying.

Children regularly visit to bring some life into the environment. Also, the patients have unlimited access to soma.

2. Why does John's grief upset the nurse? What is she worried might happen as a result of his public display of emotion? How does she attempt to remedy the situation?

The nurse is concerned that John's emotional reaction to his mother's death will scare the children. The point of having the children go to the Hospital for the Dying is to normalize the idea of dying with them. The goal is for the children to view death as an inevitable process that is not to be frightened of. The nurse threatens to have security take him out if he does not comply.

Chapter Fifteen:

Vocabulary: menial, vestibule, peremptorily, derision, reparation, luminous, ardor, bestial, carapace, sullen, petrified, wanton, assailant, redoubled

1. How does John attempt to “save” the Delta workers? How do they respond to him?

John gets ahold of the daily soma rations that are meant to be given out to the Delta workers and destroys them. The workers become very aggravated as they rely on soma's pleasurable effects to get through their days.

2. How do the policemen manage to subdue the angry mob? Why do you think they don't use fear or violence as a method of control?

The policemen drug the angry mob with soma. Violent tactics are avoided as that would cause conflict and instability in the society.

3. What does this chapter reveal about Bernard's character? How is he different from Helmholtz and John?

Bernard is a coward. Helmholtz assists John in throwing the soma away and sticks by his side when the police arrive. Bernard, when questioned by the police, threw Helmholtz and John under the bus. He selfishly looked out for his own personal interests and then made his decisions only on that. Helmholtz and John can commit themselves to causes that they believe in, even if it doesn't benefit them directly; they do it for the common good.

Chapter Sixteen and Chapter Seventeen:

Vocabulary: obscure, deprecating, wrath, bluster, impunity, obstinately, ingenuity, gesticulating, galvanized, paroxysm, abjection, grovel, sedulously

Vocabulary: avowed, listlessness, lulling, obscured, bolstered, superfluous, manifest, degraded, postulates

1. Once John and Mustapha Mond are alone, what do they talk about?

The works of Shakespeare and the flaws in the World State.

2. Does Mustapha Mond believe in God? According to Mond, how were they able to take questions about God out of people's consciousness?

Mustapha Mond does believe in God. However, there was so much tensions between various religions before the World State that violence and wars were always present. To stabilize society, technology was praised as a godly process. Ford was then idolized much like a God would be as to further suggest that the heart of the society was to be based on solely science.

3. What does John say that he wants instead of comfort? What right does Mond suggest that he is claiming?

John says that he wants God, poetry, danger, goodness, and sin. Mond replies to this by saying that John would then also be claiming the right to getting diseases, growing old, experiencing pain, going hungry, and suffering from uncertainty of one's future.

Chapter Eighteen:

Vocabulary: hermitage, pacified, vantage, flagrant, importune, vermin, tangible, unanimity, ineradicably, turpitude

1. Where does John choose to live after leaving civilization? What is symbolic about his choice?

John decides to live on the coast in a desolate lighthouse. Lighthouses offer guidance to ships at sea, and it seems that John might be seeking out some guidance as to what to do with his life.

2. Why does John feel guilty? How does he seek to purify himself? Initially, what is life like for him?

Life is generally peaceful as no one is around to bother him. John is constantly reminded of his mother's death and regrets being angry at her in the moments beforehand. John purifies himself by starving and whipping himself.

3. What attracts reporters to the lighthouse? How does John respond to their intrusion?

Some workers had seen John whipping himself and spread the information. John was extremely angry with their intrusion and he ended up kicking one of the reporters.

4. How does the public receive the film of John whipping himself? Why is their response ironic?

They thoroughly enjoy the film. To the people of the World State, his torture is entertainment.

5. How does John respond to Lenina's presence? What do his actions incite the crowd to begin doing?

John begins to whip Lenina. The crowd proceeds to chant "orgy porgy" as he expresses his frustration towards Lenina.

6. What does John realize when he wakes up? What does he do as a result of this realization? Do you think he made the right decision?

John realizes upon waking up that he had whipped Lenina and consequently had pushed her away from him; he likely would never see his love again. As a result, John hangs himself. I can't justify suicide, but ending the book this way really confirms the message that the author had for his audience.