

**Title: *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley (Published in 1932)**

**Approved for use in Grades 11-12**

**Summary of the Work:**

Largely set in a futuristic World State, whose citizens are environmentally engineered into an intelligence-based social hierarchy, 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.

**Rationale:**

*Brave New World* is, along with Orwell's *1984*, one of the greatest dystopian novels of all time and is widely considered a classic. It uses dystopian tropes to present a satirical criticism of 1930 society and contemporary utopian ideals, making it an ideal choice for students studying science fiction or satire. The book's title is taken from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and the book features allusions and other literary devices characteristic of satire, including irony, hyperbole, and allegory, making it an excellent tool for learning about and discussing literature.

**Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:**

"Mr. Huxley is eloquent in his declaration of an artist's faith in man, and it is his eloquence, bitter in attack, noble in defense, that, when one has closed the book, one remembers."  
--"Saturday Review of Literature"

"A Fantastic racy narrative, full of much excellent satire and literary horseplay."  
--"Forum"

"It is as sparkling, provocative, as brilliant, in the appropriate sense, as impressive as the day it was published. This is in part because its prophetic voice has remained surprisingly contemporary, both in its particular forecasts and in its general tone of semiserious alarm. But it is much more because the book succeeds as a work of art...This is surely Huxley's best book."  
--Martin Green

- \* Resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any Teacher-Librarian to view the scholarly sources.
- \* Scholarly reviews are also available online. Contact the Teacher-Librarian for guidance.

**Noted Distinction:**

In 1999, the Modern Library ranked *Brave New World* at number 5 on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century. In 2003, Robert McCrum, writing for *The Observer*, included *Brave New World* chronologically at number 53 in "the top 100 greatest novels of all time," and the novel was listed at number 87 on The Big Read survey by the BBC. On 5 November 2019, BBC News listed *Brave New World* on its list of the 100 most influential novels.

**Readability**

- Lexile Score: 870
- Readability Level: 7.5

**Learning Resources Guidelines**

- The film meets the [Learning Resources Guidelines](#) and [Board Policy](#).

**Approval:**

**Submitted to Committee: August 2023**

**Approved for Adoption:**

**Notes on the Text:**

*(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)*

This book is a relatively easy read that nonetheless leads to complex concepts ripe for class discussion or thoughtful writing. Huxley's use of language is simple, yet masterful, and it's a perfect pairing with *1984* for a discussion of not only the worries held by previous generations, but also the progress and change that we see in historical events since the 1930s up through current events of today.

**Connection to the Curriculum:**

Students in Science Fiction study utopias and dystopias as a means of examining how people have pushed against perceived problems in their own societies through speculative fiction that predicts future societies and technologies: this novel is a prominent and classic example of this literary style. It's a perfect fit for the "Possible Human Futures" unit.

Students in English IV study the ways in which irony and all the tools of satire can be used to make an argument. In this case, Huxley extrapolates from changes happening during his time to present a criticism which has had an enduring effect on the way

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we view new policies, trends, and technologies.

**Standard Alignment:** *(Type which standard number then link to specific standard document on OPI website.)*

[RL.11-12.2](#)

[RL.11-12.5](#)

[RL.11-12.6](#)

[RL.11-12.10](#)

**Additional Connections:**

*(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)*

This text is primarily used in the Science Fiction elective course and senior English IV: Sports / Satire