

# Bravo New York



classroom - Gaudin

# by

# WILLIS HIXON

very good  
ourselves!  
To the point,  
thoughtful,  
good  
company

962

## Reading Project: Year 5

In our reading project we are going to discuss some of the most famous novels of English and American literature. All the novels in this project require careful reading beyond the plot level. For a full understanding you will have to read between the lines and find the symbolism and allusions of the texts. In order to see these hidden beauties always read with a pencil in your hand and mark any interesting or odd passages in the margin. Discuss your selections in your readers' conferences.

### Step 1: Choosing a novel ✓

Visit Amazon.com in the internet and find the five books in our project. Read the brief plot summaries and some readers' comments, then choose the novel that interests you most. You need not order them at Amazon. All of the books are available in Graz.

#### The Books:

John Steinbeck, *The Pearl*  
 George Orwell, *Animal Farm*  
 Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*  
 William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*  
 J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*  
 Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*

### Step 2: Getting Started: (Reading Diary) ✓

Read the first chapter of your novel and write a 10-minute entry in your reading diary. Please take your reading diary very seriously. Go beyond the plot level and write about all your thoughts, associations, questions... (Check your handout "What is a reading diary?" for further instructions.) Write a second entry into your reading diary after you have read the first half of your novel, and a third one after finishing.

Your reading diary and your marginal notes in the book will be used as a basis for discussion in your readers' conferences. These notes will also help you remember your reflections later (for Matura preparation for example).

### Step 3: Readers' Conferences and Workshop tasks

1. Work in your group and share your reflections and questions. Read each other's diaries and try to answer each other's questions. Ask your teacher for help in case of disagreements or open problems.
2. In each readers' conference choose 10 vocab. items that you would like to remember and write them into your vocab book.
3. Do the workshop tasks carefully and collect all the tasks in a folder.

### Step 4: Preparing the Presentation

Choose one or two of the presentation tasks (see separate handout). Distribute the work load evenly among the group members and design an interesting, well-rounded group presentation. Copy your contribution for all the group members + one for your teacher.

### Step 5: Presentations

Groups present their novels.

Peer-evaluation and feedback of the presentations + Assessment and feedback from teacher

### Step 6: Project Folder

Organize your project folder and hand it in for final assessment. Hand in your reading diary.


# Brave New world

## 1) Analysing the Novel

### Community and identity versus personal freedom

The prime goal of the new society is that everybody accepts his or her role in society and that everybody is pleased with what he is, or which group he belongs to (alpha, beta, gamma....). This is achieved by conditioning and by hypnopaedia (sleep-teaching). The people already get manipulated as embryos and little babies, by either electroshocks or 'simple' propaganda.

In the new society no one has any choice of what they are or will be, they simply are born into their 'roles' in society, which is comparable to the cast-system. Through the new technology and way of leading lives they lose their identity and personality, people don't know anything about love, family or relationships, they are more or less like machines.



# Brave New world

## 1) Analysing the Novel

### Sex

Although relationships have been forbidden in the new society, sex plays a very important role, but not as we have it in our society nowadays. Love isn't related anymore to sex; in fact they don't even really know what love is. Sex is an absolute must and there's no taboo to speak about it, it's more a mistake if you're not completely open to that topic.

Already small kids are familiar to erotic games, which would be unthinkable in our society.

But this attitude towards sex gives guaranty for the stable society, as they want it. There're no feelings that could tire apart people or groups of people, which then would harm the harmony beyond the people. So relationships and love are accused to be abnormal, longer lasting friendships are ridiculous. The wish of family and home has vanished in the new society, and sex has become an activity completely free of responsibility.



## Satire of present day society

There are some important, big themes that get satirized, but also some little things which one might not recognize at the beginning. One big topic is the cloning of embryos. At a special sentence it says: 'The principal of mass production at last applied to biology.' They mean of course the cloning and breeding of humans. The most important information how they fertilize, grow and condition the embryos and later babies one gets already in the first chapter of the novel.

Another big topic is sexuality. The people's attitudes to sexuality can also be summarized into one statement that gets repeated very often in the novel; 'Everyone belongs to everyone else.' That means that there don't exist any families or relationships anymore. Nobody has got a fixed partner. Homosexuality doesn't even get mentioned and the people don't know what families or relationships are. They can't understand it and women blush, ashamed, when they hear about giving birth or giving the breast to the baby. Nobody can imagine what it means to be a father or a mother, all these things simply don't exist anymore.

Probably the biggest theme is the society in general because in the novel exists a kind of advanced caste system. That means there are five different groups; alphas, betas, gammas, deltas and epsilons. The alphas are the most intelligent ones, the epsilons the most stupid. This strictly separated caste system is made possible through the conditioning of embryos and little children which leads us back to the advanced biological science mentioned first.

+

# 1. Analyzing the Novel

## Drugs and Soma

Drugs and soma play a very important role in *Brave New World*, because they make the people dizzy, happy, blind and most important of all, it makes them accepting all. As with nearly all drugs, you become addicted and when you are addicted you have to take it regularly. In *Brave New World* it also acts as a good thing for economics. Because nearly all people take soma, they buy it regularly because otherwise they would become angry and would get withdrawal symptoms they spend very much money on it. Soma could be compared to LSD, Heroin, Cocaine, alcohol, cigarettes cannabis and marijuana in our society. You can get addicted, and have to take it regularly and also get withdrawal symptoms just that taking soma in *Brave New World* is legal and taking drugs in our society is illegal.

soma == body

took drugs instead of dealing with problems



# Summaries

## Mindless consumption and mindless diversions

In the novel 'Brave New World' people aren't themselves anymore. In early ages and even embryo stages, humans get conditioned and told to what they've got to like and do and what they should ignore and hate. The methods of manipulating people are of a very inhumane and cruel kind, just to ensure the stability of economy and society. One could even claim that the people don't really live anymore, it's more like they get bred to do what they should do without any own point of view or belief in any case of life. It seems that everything they do in their work or freetime they don't do out of a personal interest. Or probably they are interested in it, but then only because they got conditioned to like it. Therefore the mindless consumption and diversions are very high because they don't think about what they get told. For them everything is right and nice and perfect and everybody is happy, but if one questions certain rules or attitudes or if one doesn't want to do something everybody else would always like to do, then he or she is accused to be abnormal and weird and these people get sent to special clinics and special surroundings because they could harm the stability of society.

But manipulation is also used in economy. All the freetime activities made possible for people are always bound to high costs for the necessary equipment. People are conditioned to immediately throw everything away if only a little error or wholes in clothes or something just very small that's not normal appears. Don't think they would sometimes start to remove errors if something doesn't work because they would never think of that and they aren't able to remove them anyway. That's good for economy of course because people need a lot and only for a short time before they buy it again.

You can already see some of these attitudes in our present day world. Of course not that radical, but the basis is given. Labels for example are often very important for us and if we have got the possibility we also buy just the best things and often the most expensive. Some of the sports, like golf for example, are very expensive although you don't really need a lot, but the image is very important. And there are a lot other of these little things comparable to the novel 'Brave New World'

+ well done,  
Viktor!

## Reading Project: Year 5

In our reading project we are going to discuss some of the most famous novels of English and American literature. All the novels in this project require careful reading beyond the plot level. For a full understanding you will have to read between the lines and find the symbolism and allusions of the texts. In order to see these hidden beauties always read with a pencil in your hand and mark any interesting or odd passages in the margin. Discuss your selections in your readers' conferences.

### Step 1: Choosing a novel ✓

Visit Amazon.com in the internet and find the five books in our project. Read the brief plot summaries and some readers' comments, then choose the novel that interests you most. You need not order them at Amazon. All of the books are available in Graz.

#### The Books:

John Steinbeck, *The Pearl*  
 George Orwell, *Animal Farm*  
 Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*  
 William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*  
 J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*  
 Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*

### Step 2: Getting Started: (Reading Diary) ✓

Read the first chapter of your novel and write a 10-minute entry in your reading diary. Please take your reading diary very seriously. Go beyond the plot level and write about all your thoughts, associations, questions... (Check your handout "What is a reading diary?" for further instructions.) Write a second entry into your reading diary after you have read the first half of your novel, and a third one after finishing.

Your reading diary and your marginal notes in the book will be used as a basis for discussion in your readers' conferences. These notes will also help you remember your reflections later (for Matura preparation for example).

### Step 3: Readers' Conferences and Workshop tasks

1. Work in your group and share your reflections and questions. Read each other's diaries and try to answer each other's questions. Ask your teacher for help in case of disagreements or open problems.
2. In each readers' conference choose 10 vocab. items that you would like to remember and write them into your vocab book.
3. Do the workshop tasks carefully and collect all the tasks in a folder.

### Step 4: Preparing the Presentation

Choose one or two of the presentation tasks (see separate handout). Distribute the work load evenly among the group members and design an interesting, well-rounded group presentation. Copy your contribution for all the group members + one for your teacher.

### Step 5: Presentations

Groups present their novels.

Peer-evaluation and feedback of the presentations + Assessment and feedback from teacher

### Step 6: Project Folder

Organize your project folder and hand it in for final assessment. Hand in your reading diary.


# Brave New world

## 1) Analysing the Novel

### Community and identity versus personal freedom

The prime goal of the new society is that everybody accepts his or her role in society and that everybody is pleased with what he is, or which group he belongs to (alpha, beta, gamma...). This is achieved by conditioning and by hypnopaedia (sleep-teaching). The people already get manipulated as embryos and little babies, by either electroshocks or 'simple' propaganda.

In the new society no one has any choice of what they are or will be, they simply are born into their 'roles' in society, which is comparable to the cast-system. Through the new technology and way of leading lives they lose their identity and personality, people don't know anything about love, family or relationships, they are more or less like machines.



# Brave New world

## 1) Analysing the Novel

### Sex

Although relationships have been forbidden in the new society, sex plays a very important role, but not as we have it in our society nowadays. Love isn't related anymore to sex; in fact they don't even really know what love is. Sex is an absolute must and there's no taboo to speak about it, it's more a mistake if you're not completely open to that topic.

Already small kids are familiar to erotic games, which would be unthinkable in our society.

But this attitude towards sex gives guaranty for the stable society, as they want it. There're no feelings that could tire apart people or groups of people, which then would harm the harmony beyond the people. So relationships and love are accused to be abnormal, longer lasting friendships are ridiculous. The wish of family and home has vanished in the new society, and sex has become an activity completely free of responsibility.

✓

# 1. Analyzing the Novel

## Drugs and Soma

Drugs and soma play a very important role in *Brave New World*, because they make the people dizzy, happy, blind and most important of all, it makes them accepting all. As with nearly all drugs, you become addicted and when you are addicted you have to take it regularly. In *Brave New World* it also acts as a good thing for economics. Because nearly all people take soma, they buy it regularly because otherwise they would become angry and would get withdrawal symptoms they spend very much money on it. Soma could be compared to LSD, Heroin, Cocaine, alcohol, cigarettes cannabis and marijuana in our society. You can get addicted, and have to take it regularly and also get withdrawal symptoms just that taking soma in *Brave New World* is legal and taking drugs in our society is illegal.

soma => body

took drugs instead of dealing with problems

