

BRAVE NEW WORLD - ACTIVITY SHEET #1

1. Use your own words to explain (define) what the following concepts mean. You can use the internet or books to help you find out. **Some common conventions of science fiction are:**

- Verisimilitude
- sense of wonder
- cognitive estrangement
- alienation
- seeding the text
- lone super hero
- helpless heroine
- evil Villain
- invented lexicon
- emotive language
- info dump

2. Read the information below from HSC ONLINE. For each section, find a **relevant** quote in BNW that you could use to support the idea provided. Take the time to do this properly! These need to be quotes/examples that YOU understand, will remember and would want to discuss in a response.

Verisimilitude

The credibility of Huxley's invented world stems from the resemblance between his context, characterisation and a cultural fear of challenges to the status quo. Huxley's text represents his concerns for misapplied technology and science including advances in psychiatry, psychology and sociology.

EXAMPLE/QUOTE:

Sense of Wonder

The dangers inherent in accelerating productivity by applying the principles of commerce to a production line for humanity are foreshadowed in the early chapters. Alpha plus and Alpha rulers are designed for total control down to Epsilons who are capable of only basic tasks. This thesis permeates the text.

EXAMPLE/QUOTE:

Cognitive estrangement

Scientific advances are embedded in the invented lexicon and many advances were dissonant to Huxley's contemporary readership:

- mass production - humans engineered and decanted in Hatcheries
- genetically determined caste/class system: alpha, beta, gamma, delta or epsilon
- education – neo Pavlovian-conditioning, hypnopaedia
- social conditioning – drug induced euphoria – soma, orgy porgy, death conditioning, solidarity services
- recycling – Slough crematorium
- invented lexicon

EXAMPLE/QUOTE:

Alienation

John, the Savage represents the reader's rejection of moral decadence and threat to individual freedom central to total conformity.

EXAMPLE/QUOTE:

Lone superhero

The Savage is heroic and isolated in defiance of Controller Mond, the regime and totalitarian values. But his ignorance, naivety and fanaticism are comic. Bernard Marx's cowardice, ambition and spite undermine claims to heroism. Only Helmholtz Watson's loyalty, creativity and intellectual integrity are admirable if not heroic.

EXAMPLE/QUOTE:

Helpless heroine

Huxley's misogynistic characterisations of Lenina, Fanny and Linda conform to the stereotype of early science fiction heroine. Hedonistic and devoid of intellectual curiosity they are the products of conditioning.

EXAMPLE/QUOTE:

Evil villain

The World Controller, Mustapha Mond is not a science fiction villain of the traditional kind – especially one found in magazine culture. A cultured, charming, intellectual and former scientist, he is Huxley's warning to the intelligentsia of how easy it is to be seduced by 'Community, Identity, Stability'.

EXAMPLE/QUOTE:

