

BRAVE NEW WORLD: CHAPTER XVI

"In this chapter — the aftermath of the *soma* riot — Mustapha Mond discusses the importance of happiness and stability, even at the cost of truth and freedom. In a sense, this is the conversation both John and Helmholtz have been waiting for — the explanation of everything dissatisfying about the supposedly ideal social system."

(<http://www.cliffsnotes.com>)



"So, you don't much like civilisation,
Mr Savage..."

... "No."

1. In your own words, explain Mond's reasoning for preventing people from seeing Shakespeare (such as Othello) in the Brave New World.
2. Do you think that John the Savage's constant quoting of Shakespeare is any different (better or worse) to the way everyone else quotes hypnopaedia? Explain your view.
3. What do you think Mond means when he says "...stability isn't nearly so spectacular as instability. And being contented has none of the glamour of a good fight against misfortune..."? (p. 195).
4. Find ONE effective language example that demonstrates John's disdain for the Bokanovsky groups on page 195. Identify any language techniques which are used.
5. Find ONE effective quote on page 195 that demonstrate Mond's appreciation of the Bokanovsky groups and identify any language techniques used.
6. Which point of view (The Savage or the World Controller) regarding the Bokanovsky groups do you think is more convincing? Why?
7. "His conditioning has laid down rails along which he's got to run." Explain the context of this statement on page 196. Do you think this is an effective metaphor? Explain why.
8. Summarise the findings of the Cyprus experiment in three sentences only.
9. Consider pages 198-200. Using specific textual examples, explain what commentary is made in relation to science and its influence on society. Write two full paragraphs and refer to relevant language techniques.
10. One of the major issues discussed on pages 200-201 is the idea of truth versus happiness. Why, according to Mond, can these two things not co-exist? What role did the science of mass production play in creating this philosophical conflict?
11. What is 'the price' for stability? In your personal opinion, is this a fair price or is it too high? Explain your answer in one full paragraph.

HOMEWORK: Choose one of the characters who is exiled in chapter 16. Write a diary entry (from their perspective) to explore their reflections on recent events the day after this conversation has taken place. Write two pages and bring it to class next lesson or e-mail it to your teacher.