

Name: Anonymous

School: Yorba Linda High School

Grade: Senior

Book title: *Brave New World*

Book author: Aldous Huxley

Rating: 5/5

*Brave New World* is a science fiction work by Aldous Huxley that takes place in a futuristic utopia. In this world, all human reproduction is controlled by Hatching Centers that produce thousands of embryos. Here, embryos are also separated into castes: (from higher social status to lower) Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and Epsilon. Alphas become leaders and thinkers, but each class is less physically/mentally capable and are destined for physical labor. The story follows an Alpha, Bernard Marx, who is questioning his society which claims to be perfect. His tensions with the rest of his social class—and the world at large—come to a head when he visits a "Savage Reservation," outcasts who do not participate in the utopian society.

I thought this book was fascinating. I've read many science fiction works with utopian societies, but I thought *Brave New World* asked a more interesting question than the rest of them: At one point is life *too* convenient and perfect? In *Brave New World*, drugs and sexual pleasure make all citizens complacent. We feel innately that this "brave new world" is something unnatural and bad, but at the same time this utopia is without an obvious flaw. All people are pleased by the function of their government, the Alphas because they run it all and the lower classes because they don't know any better. Maybe more importantly, all people are happy except for Bernard.

I would recommend this book to everybody, but particularly to students who are beginning to consider current events, politics, and society at large. I think those who enjoyed *1984* by George Orwell will like *Brave New World* even more. Big Brother, a very specific evil in *1984*'s society, is swapped out for a kind of pervading complacency in *Brave New World*, which I find an even scarier concept. So—this book is a must-read! Check it out today!