CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Vocabulary: contemptuously, persevere, sententiously, premonition, rakish, reproach, luscious, peerless, baseness, elation, sanctimonious, drivel, opportune, alluring, abstemious, aghast, imperceptible, impudent, strumpet, ingratiating

1. What is ironic about Henry Foster’s suggestion that Lenina might need a Violent Passion Surrogate treatment?

2. Why do you think Huxley adds the comment about the death of the Alpha-Plus administrator in Mwanza-Mwanza? How do you think he intended the reader to respond to this information?

3. What advice does Fanny give Lenina about how to deal with John? Do you think this is good advice? You may choose to compare this scene to the first scene between Benvolio and Rome in Romeo and Juliet.

4. Analyze John’s confession of love to Lenina. What does it reveal about the way he views her? Is there anything ironic about the language he uses to describe his feelings? How does she respond to him?

5. Why is John unable to return Lenina’s sexual advances? How has his experience of sexuality been influenced by what he has read and seen? What things have shaped Lenina’s view of sexuality?

6. Based on his half of the telephone conversation, what event causes John to leave his house abruptly?

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Vocabulary: incurious, imbecile, embellished, constituents, undefiled, obstinate, sublime, ordure, balk, imploring, reproach, irresolute

1. Describe the steps that have been taken to create a warm and positive atmosphere at Park Lane Hospital for the Dying.

2. Examine Huxley’s use of descriptive language and imagery in the section describing the arrival of the children at the hospital.

Which descriptions are especially effective or evocative?

3. How do John’s memories of his childhood change after the twins arrive? Why does he become angry with his mother?

What happens to her as a result?

4. Why does John’s grief upset the nurse? What is she worried might happen as a result of his public display of emotion?

How does she attempt to remedy the situation?

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Vocabulary: menial, vestibule, peremptorily, derision, reparation, luminous, ardor, bestial, carapace, sullen, petrified, wanton, assailant, redoubled

1. Why does John feel as if the words from The Tempest are mocking him (210)?

2. How does John attempt to “save” the Delta workers? How do they respond to him?

3. How do the policemen manage to subdue the angry mob? Why do you think they don’t use fear or violence as a method of control?

4. What does this chapter reveal about Bernard’s character? How is he different from Helmholtz and John?

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Vocabulary: obscure, deprecating, wrath, bluster, impunity, obstinately, ingenuity, gesticulating, galvanized, paroxysm, abjection, grovel, sedulously

1. What is Mustapha Mond’s position in the Word State? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1

2. How does John respond to Mond’s observation that he doesn’t “much like civilization” (218)? What does John realize about Mustapha Mond? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2

3. According to Mond, why is beauty dangerous? Do you agree with him? What is the “price that must be paid” for social stability?

4. Explain what the Cyprus experiment was. How did this experiment impact social engineering in the World State?

5. What does Mond plan to do with Helmholtz and Marx? How does each man respond to his punishment? What do their responses reveal about their characters? Why does Mond say that their punishment is actually a reward?

6. According to Mond, what is dangerous about science? What limits are imposed on scientific inquiry?

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Vocabulary: avowed, listlessness, lulling, obscured, bolstered, superfluous, manifest, degraded, postulates

1. Once John and Mustapha Mond are alone, what do they talk about? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2

2. What books does Mond refer to as “pornographic?” CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1

3. Why do you think Mond chooses the religious passages that he reads aloud to John? What point is he trying to make?

4. Does Mustapha Mond believe in God? Explain his beliefs. According to Mond, how were they able to take questions about God out of people’s consciousness? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3

5. Summarize both sides of the debate that Mond and John have regarding God.

6. How does Mustapha Mond describe soma? Do you agree with him? Explain your answer.

7. Why are V.P.S. treatments compulsory?

8. What does John say that he wants instead of comfort? What right does Mond suggest that he is claiming?

9. Why do you think Mond ends his conversation with John with the words “You’re welcome” (240)?

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

Vocabulary: hermitage, pacified, vantage, flagrant, importune, vermin, tangible, unanimity, ineradicably, turpitude

1. Why does Mustapha Mond deny John’s request to go to the islands with Helmholtz? What do you think Mond is hoping will happen?

2. Where does John choose to live after leaving civilization? What is symbolic about his choice?

3. Why does John feel guilty? How does he seek to purify himself? Initially, what is life like for him?

4. What attracts reporters to the lighthouse? How does John respond to their intrusion?

5. Who is Darwin Bonaparte? What does he manage to capture on film? How does the public receive his latest film? Why is their response ironic?

6. What is John thinking about when the crowds arrive? Why have they come to see him? How does John respond to them?

7. How does John respond to Lenina’s presence? What do his actions incite the crowd to begin doing? Why do you think John participates?

8. What does John realize when he wakes up? What does he do as a result of this realization? Do you think he made the right decision?