

Summer Reading Advanced Placement Literature and Composition 2009

A Streetcar Named Desire Tennessee Williams
Brave New World Aldous Huxley
Jane Eyre Charlotte Brontë

Brave New World Aldous Huxley

Define the following words, and answer the chapter questions.

Vocabulary: predestine, spasmodic, viviparous, apertures, maudlin, erotic, effusive, tactual, monogamy, promiscuous, incessant, innocuous, profound, voluptuous, hierarchy, persevere, premonition, incoherent, senility, deprecating, impunity, subversive, self-indulgence, atonement, strumpet

Chapter 1

1. Describe the setting for the opening chapter of *Brave New World*. In what city and year does this novel take place?
2. What is the motto of the World State?
3. Explain what is happening at the Hatchery and Conditioning Center.
4. Describe Bokanovsky's process.
5. What are the five castes of the World State?

Chapter 2

1. What two objects are the babies being conditioned to dislike?
2. Why does the State condition the masses to dislike the country?
3. Explain how hypnopaedia works.
4. What do the child's mind and, later, the adult's become?

Chapter 3

Note: This chapter presents a kaleidoscopic view of the State's way of life. Think of it as you would a rapid succession of TV images presented to make a single impression.

1. What is the requirement for any new games? Why?
2. Explain the State's attitude toward sex. How does the State regard marriage?
3. "Ending is better than mending." "The more stitches, the less riches." How do these sayings express the economic view of the State?

Chapter 4

1. Where do Bernard Marx and Lenina Crowe plan to visit?
2. Explain Bernard Marx's attitude toward the State.
3. What is Helmholtz Watson's job?
4. Explain Watson's feeling toward the State.

Chapter 5

Compare the recreation and social activities of the lower castes with those of the upper castes.

Chapter 6

1. Over the stormy water of the English Channel, what desire does Bernard express to Lenina?
2. List three adjectives or phrases to describe Lenina's personality.
3. The Director (Tomakin) tells Bernard of a visit he made to the New Mexico Indian Reservation twenty years ago. What unusual thing happened there?
4. Bernard learns that he is going to be deported to Iceland. Why?
5. Rephrase Lenina's saying "Was and will make me ill. I take a gramme and only am."

Chapter 7

1. List three conditions Lenina dislikes at the Reservation.
2. How are these conditions contrary to what she has been taught and conditioned?
3. What is the purpose of the whipping ceremony that Bernard and Lenina witness?
4. John (The Savage) reveals he was born on the Reservation. Who is his father and where is he now?
5. Linda describes ways in which she cannot reconcile her way of life in the Other Place with that of the Reservation. List ways that seem to trouble her most.

Chapter 8

1. Why does Linda suffer dislike and rejection on the Reservation? Why do the women especially dislike her?
2. What is mescal and how does it help Linda?
3. From what sources has John obtained his education?
4. When John was sixteen, he went with the Indian boys to a puberty ceremony. Describe what happened and how it affected John.
5. What do Bernard and John have in common?

Chapter 9

1. Explain why Bernard wishes to take John and Linda to London.
2. List three adjectives or phrases to describe John's feelings when he discovers Lenina asleep on her soma holiday.

Chapter 10

1. Name three faults that the D.H.C. finds with Bernard's behavior. How does Bernard react to the D.H.C.'s accusations?
2. What "obscenity" does Linda fling at the D.H.C. (Tomakin)?
3. How do the workers react to John's calling the D.H.C. "My father"? Why?

Chapter 11

1. What happens to the D.H.C. after the scene in the Fertilizing Room?
2. Give three reasons why no one had the smallest desire to see Linda.
3. How does Dr. Shaw justify keeping Linda on a soma-holiday even though it will shorten her life?
4. Explain Bernard's sudden increased popularity.
5. Give two reasons the Savage (John) shows little astonishment or awe at civilized inventions.
6. Describe the Savage's reaction to the sight of work being done by single Bokanovsky groups.
7. Who is Ariel?
8. In the Electrical Equipment Company, "Each process is carried out, so far as possible, by a single Bokavonsky group." Explain what this means.
9. What does the phrase "civilized infertility" mean?
10. The Savage views the factory, saying, "O brave new world that has such people in it." What are his true feelings about the people? How do you know?
11. The libraries of the World State contain only reference books. Why?
12. How is John affected by the feelies?

Chapter 12

1. Helmholtz, the propaganda writer, and John have become friends. When John reads to him from *Romeo and Juliet*, Helmholtz bursts into laughter. State three things that amuse him.
2. Helmholtz calls Shakespeare a "marvelous propaganda technician." How does he explain Shakespeare's success?

Chapter 13

1. What happens when John wants to make love to Lenina?
2. Explain the essential difference in the natures of John and Lenina.

Chapter 14

1. Explain the purpose and method of death conditioning.
2. Why does John become angry at the children?

Chapter 15

1. What does John say he will teach the mob of hospital workers?
2. Describe John's actions at the hospital.
3. How do the people react to what John does?
4. Describe the actions taken by the World State Police.

Chapter 16

1. Give three statements why Shakespeare is prohibited in the World State.
2. How does Mustapha Mond say he paid for being too much interested in truth?

Chapter 17

1. What two things does the Savage (John) say that the people have sacrificed or their happiness?
2. What third sacrifice does the Controller add?
3. Why do you think the people of the World State have no need of a god?
4. What does the Controller call "Christianity without tears"? Explain.
5. The Savage claims the "right to be unhappy." Explain this statement. Include some of the specific unhappiness that he is saying are his right.

Chapter 18

After Bernard and Helmholtz are exiled, the Savage runs away to be alone. Relate the conclusion of the novel in a good paragraph.

A Streetcar Named Desire Tennessee Williams

Scene 1

Explain the following. Define the italicized words.

1. The buildings along Elysian Fields were old, but they had a *raffish* charm.
2. Blanche's appearance was *incongruous* to the setting in which she found herself.
3. Blanche spoke with feverish *vivacity* when her sister entered.
4. New Orleans is a *cosmopolitan* city where people of different races intermingle.
5. *Redolences* of coffee and bananas drifted over from the river warehouses.
6. Blanche arrived at her sister's apartment with a *valise*.
7. The tender blue sky *attenuated* the atmosphere of decay.
8. Blanche compared her new surroundings to Poe's "*ghoul*-haunted woodland of Weir!"
9. The setting took on a surprising *lyricism* in the early May evening.
10. Stella affirmed that Stanley's friends were *heterogeneous* types.
11. In what city does the play take place?
12. Describe the physical characteristics of this particular section of the city.
13. Explain "Elysian Fields" in terms of setting.
14. What is the month and time of day?
15. What sounds are heard in the background?
16. What kinds of people are found in this city?
17. Why is the area said to have "an atmosphere of decay"?
18. How large is the building where the Kowalskis live?
19. On which floor do the Kowalskis live?
20. Where do Eunice and Steve live?

The following proper names of people, places, and objects are found in scene 1. In the parenthesis you will find definitions or literal translations with which you may be unfamiliar. How are these names symbolic or ironic?

21. Blanche (white)
22. DuBois (of the woods)
23. Stella (star)
24. Elysian Fields (In Greek mythology, the abode of the good after death)
25. Plantation of Belle Reve (beautiful dreams)
26. A streetcar named Desire
27. A streetcar named Cemeteries

Scenes 2-4

1. According to Stanley, what is the Napoleonic Code, and what is its significance?
2. What actually happened at Belle Reve?
3. Describe the atmosphere of the poker game.
4. Explain why Blanche is interested in Mitch when she actually meets him.
5. What evidence is there in scene 3 that Blanche continues to distort the truth?
6. At the end of scene 3, Blanche says that there is "so much confusion in the world." To what recent events is she referring?
7. In scene 4, how does Stella rationalize her husband's violent behavior of the previous night?
8. Why does Blanche want to send a telegram to Shep Huntleigh?
9. Why do you think Stanley does not reveal the fact that he has overheard the conversation between Blanche and Stella in scene 4?
10. Stella embraces Stanley at the end of scene 4. Explain the significance of this action.

Scenes 5-8

Define the following words. stolid, neurasthenic, daemonic, Bohemian, affectation, portiere, demureness, beau, contrapuntally, amiability

1. What is the purpose of the argument between Eunice and Steve at the beginning of scene 5:
2. Why does Blanche want Mitch?
3. Why does Blanche make a pass at the young man who is collecting the newspapers?
4. Why is Blanche unable to enjoy her evening out with Mitch?
5. What does Mitch's talk of perspiration, his clumsiness, etc., tell you about him?
6. During her courtship with Mitch, how has Blanche presented herself?
7. Explain the tragedy of Blanche's marriage.
8. What did Stanley find out about Blanche's past?
9. Why does Mitch not come to Blanche's birthday party?
10. Why is Stanley's present to Blanche a bust ticket to Laurel especially cruel?

Scenes 9-11

1. Does Blanche admit the facts of her past life to Mitch? Why or why not?
2. Why does the Mexican woman selling flowers remind Blanche of death? (two reasons)
3. Why does Blanche order Mitch to leave the apartment?
4. What kind of mood is Stanley in when he initially arrives home taking Stella to the hospital?
5. Who was Shep Huntleigh? Did he send an invitation to Blanche?
6. Does Stella believe Blanche's story about Stanley's raping her? Why?
7. To whom is Blanche talking when she says, "I've always depended on the kindness of strangers"? What is the irony?
8. What is the relationship between Stanley and Stella at the end of the play?

Jane Eyre
Charlotte Brontë

Always explain thoroughly. Always explain why you agree or disagree, etc.

Study Guide for Chapters 1-10

1. The novel does not begin with exposition of background and character, but rather with direct action. Yet by the end of chapter 1, the reader knows a great deal about Jane Eyre and her situation. Discuss what is known about Jane and the Reeds and why this method of direct action is effective.

2. What vague ideas of school does Jane have when Mr. Lloyd first suggests it? What additional ideas are given by Mr. Brocklehurst's description of Lowood? What is the actuality experienced by Jane at Lowood? Are Jane's experiences at Lowood all bad?

3. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." "Turn the other cheek and do good to them that hate you." How do these two philosophies of life match the characters of Jane Eyre and Helen Burns?

4. Before Jane leaves Lowood, Bessie comes to visit. What are the observations of Bessie regarding Jane's growth and development? At eighteen, is Jane pleased with Bessie's observations? Why does beauty seem so important to Jane?

5. What real people or places or incidents in Charlotte Brontë's life may have contributed to her depiction of certain persons, places, or incidents in the novel?

Study Guide for Chapters 11-19

6. Describe Thornfield Hall. What are Jane's first impressions? How do they later change?

7. Consider Jane's feelings towards Rochester:

- a. at her first meeting on the road
- b. at the interview when he examines her paintings
- c. at his later disclosures of his "sinful" past
- d. on the night of the fire
- e. from his behavior at the house party

8. Reread the description of Jane's paintings (chapter 13). What do they tell the reader about Jane?

9. In what ways has Jane changed or grown since her arrival at Thornfield?

10. In chapter 19, Rochester questions Jane's loyalty. What are her responses? How might this scene be an example of foreshadowing for the next section of the novel?

Study Guide for Chapters 20-27

11. In chapter 19 Rochester questions Jane's loyalty. How does this section of the novel (chapters 20-27) test that loyalty?

12. How does Jane's return to Gateshead show her growth?

13. Jane believes in "presentiments," "sympathies," and "signs." List as many of these as you can, and explain each.

14. Explain Rochester's rationale in saying he has a *right* to marry Jane. Do you agree or disagree?

15. Explain Jane's rationale in deciding to leave Rochester. Do you agree or disagree?

Study Guide for Chapters 28-38

16. Describe Jane's life at Moor House. How does she get along with Diana and Mary? Why is this section important to her growth?

17. How does St. John (pronounced *Sin gin*) Rivers act as a foil (a contrast) for Rochester?

18. How may the proposal of St. John Rivers be paralleled to the proposal of Rochester?

19. Jane returns to Rochester *before* she finds out about Thornfield and Bertha. Is she now willing to accept the position of Rochester's mistress?

20. Why can Jane find happiness with Rochester now? Note the importance of each of the following to Jane:

- a. Rochester's freedom from a wife
- b. Rochester's injuries
- c. Jane's inheritance
- d. Jane's discovery of a family at Moor House
- e. Jane's knowledge of self