

Both 1984 and Brave New World are works of science fiction. Science fiction asks “What if?” questions and explores possible results. Consider the following questions:

1. In feudal societies, people were born into different social classes with specific roles: nobles who governed, scholars who studied, warriors who fought, tradesmen who made things, and peasants who farmed. Do we have similar classes in our society? What if the government decided what your role in society would be?

Tell them today, cell phones & headphones are not to be used/out (the seniors are getting really bad about this). If you see them, please take them and send the device to the office.

2. What if science and psychological conditioning could be used by the government to create different classes of people with different abilities and interests as needed? For example, what if it was possible to grow a plumber, a computer programmer, a manager, or a physicist?

3. What if babies were grown in test tubes and were raised without parents? What would childhood be like? How would adults raised this way be different from adults in our society?

4. What if sex was strictly for recreation and not for reproduction because all babies were produced artificially? Would there still be love? Commitment?

5. What if the government gave everyone drugs to keep them happy so they wouldn't rebel? Would people actually be happy? Would it keep society stable? Would there be negative consequences?

Examine your copy of the book, and make note or discuss the following:

- What, if anything, is on the cover?
- What does the cover art mean?
- Are there any blurbs from reviewers or critics on the back or the front? Are there pictures?
- Is there a summary of the novel on the flyleaf (if present)?
- Is there a short biography of the author or other explanatory materials?
- Is there a Foreword or an Afterword? Who wrote them? Do you think you should read them? If so, when?
- How is the book divided? Are there chapters?