

Brave New World

Chapters 4–6

by Aldous Huxley

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: asceticism, atonement, beneficent, exulting, furtively, indefatigable, inexorably, plaintive, satiety, transfigured

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–3 · A tour of the Hatchery

Section 2 · Chapters 4–6 · Bernard, Helmholtz, and Lenina in London

Section 3 · Chapters 7–9 · Arrival at the Savage Reservation

Section 4 · Chapters 10–12 · The Savage in the World State

Section 5 · Chapters 13–15 · Lenina's feelings for the Savage

Section 6 · Chapters 16–18 · John meets the World Controller

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. He admired the **asceticism** of the desert hermits.

- A. quiet wisdom
- B. severe self-denial
- C. religious devotion

2. He spent years seeking **atonement** for the harm he had caused.

- A. making amends
- B. an excuse
- C. public sympathy

3. The **beneficent** donor paid for the whole town's new library.

- A. wealthy and powerful
- B. proud and boastful
- C. kindly and generous

4. The team was **exulting** after scoring the winning goal.

- A. leaving the field
- B. catching their breath
- C. rejoicing triumphantly

5. She **furtively** glanced at the clock during the test.

- A. nervously and repeatedly
- B. slowly and carefully
- C. secretly and sneakily

6. The **indefatigable** coach ran drills with us all afternoon.

- A. tireless
- B. experienced
- C. demanding

7. The flood waters rose **inexorably**, covering the road by noon.

- A. unstoppably
- B. quickly
- C. gradually

8. The **plaintive** cry of the lost puppy carried across the yard.

- A. loud and piercing
- B. sad and mournful
- C. faint and distant

9. After the huge holiday dinner, **satiety** settled over the guests.

- A. a cheerful mood
- B. the state of being full
- C. a warm drowsiness

10. Falling in love seemed to leave him **transfigured**.

- A. transformed and glowing
- B. nervous and unsure
- C. quiet and thoughtful

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

words that pierce — language so powerful that it reaches people deeply and affects their thoughts and emotions

orgy-porgy — Huxley's childish, rhyming name for the climax of the Solidarity Service, which blends religious communion with collective sexual ritual and parodies spiritual transcendence

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	C
4	C
5	C
6	A
7	A
8	B
9	B
10	A

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 "... if ever they lighted on a fellow creature, at once and furtively averted, Bernard hastened across the roof."

As it is used in the passage, the word "furtively" most nearly suggests that Bernard turns his eyes away in order to...

- A. greet an acquaintance
- B. search the crowd
- C. avoid being noticed

2 "... men who moved through the caste system as a fish through water—so utterly at home as to be unaware either of themselves or of the beneficent and comfortable element in which they had their being."

The passage most strongly suggests that the "beneficent and comfortable element" in which these men live...

- A. keeps them in fear
- B. slowly wears them down
- C. works to their benefit

3 "Mental excess could produce, for its own purposes, the voluntary blindness and deafness of deliberate solitude, the artificial impotence of asceticism."

The mention of "asceticism" in the excerpt primarily functions to show that Helmholtz's mental excess leads him to...

- A. seek out more company
- B. deny himself pleasures
- C. lose his gift for words

4 "He passed his hand across his eyes, he sighed, his voice became plaintive."

In the passage, Bernard's "plaintive" voice characterizes him as...

- A. calm and unconcerned
- B. mournful and self-pitying
- C. genuinely grief-stricken

5 "... thought Bernard miserably, and foresaw for himself yet another failure to achieve atonement."

It can reasonably be inferred that Bernard's feared "failure to achieve atonement" means he will not...

- A. merge into the group
- B. make up for being late
- C. win Morgana's forgiveness

6 "... the peace, not of mere vacant satiety and nothingness, but of balanced life, of energies at rest and in equilibrium."

According to the passage, Fifi's peace is described as...

- A. overfull and numbed
- B. balanced, full, and alive
- C. empty and exhausted

7 "... the sight of her transfigured face was at once an accusation and an ironical reminder of his own separateness."

In the passage, Fifi's "transfigured face" characterizes her as...

- A. radiant and transformed
- B. smug and mocking
- C. anxious and drained

8 "For Bernard left the room with a swagger, exulting, as he banged the door behind him, in the thought that he stood alone, embattled against the order of things ..."

Which choice best describes Bernard's attitude as he leaves the Director's office?

- A. weary and resigned
- B. shaken and fearful
- C. triumphant and emboldened

9 "With his mind's eye, Bernard saw the needle on the scent meter creeping round and round, antlike, indefatigable."

The author most likely describes the scent-meter needle as "antlike, indefatigable" in order to...

- A. stress Bernard's ceaseless worry
- B. show the Warden's energy
- C. praise the machine's design

10 "But inexorably the booming continued."

In context, the word "inexorably" emphasizes that the Warden's booming...

- A. could not be stopped
- B. finally came to an end
- C. paused now and then

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	C	
3	B	Character comprehension.
4	B	Character comprehension.
5	A	Theme comprehension. Here 'atonement' is at-one-ment -- Bernard's longed-for fusion with the group, the Solidarity Service's goal -- not the everyday sense of making amends.
6	B	
7	A	Character comprehension.
8	C	
9	A	Event comprehension. The tireless needle is Bernard's mental image of the scent tap he left running at home, eating into his money while the Warden talks on.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 4–6

Bernard arranges his New Mexico trip with Lenina; Helmholtz Watson is introduced, sharing Bernard's vague discontent. The section follows Lenina's evening with Henry Foster and Bernard's Solidarity Service, then Bernard and Lenina's strained date and their flight to the Savage Reservation. The break after Chapter 6 marks the shift in setting from London to the Reservation.