

The novel "Brave New World" describes a world, in which the consumption of material things and pure enjoyment are seen as the way to an ideal society. The inventor of mass production, the car manufacturer Henry Ford, has become a religious god.

In this society, contact with pain and death is avoided but also motherhood and the natural birth of children is considered as ugly and taboo. Children are produced in a biological factory. In the following excerpt, we see the D.H.C., a powerful functionary, explain the education of children to a group of teenage students:

Outside in the garden, it was playtime. Naked in the warm June sunshine, six or seven hundred little boys and girls were running with shrill yells over the lawns, or playing games, or squatting silently in twos and threes among the flowering **shrubs**. [...]

5 In a little grassy bay between tall clumps of Mediterranean **heather**, two children, a little boy of about seven and a little girl who might have been a year older, were playing, very **gravely** and with all focussed attention of scientists intent on a labour of discovery, a rudimentary sexual game.

"Charming, charming!" the D.H.C. repeated sentimentally.

10 "Charming," the boys politely agreed. But their smile was rather **patronizing**. They had put aside similar childish amusements too **recently** to be able to watch them now without a touch of **contempt**. Charming? but it was just a pair of kids fooling about; that was all. Just kids.

"I always think," the Director was continuing in the same rather maudlin tone, when he was interrupted by a loud boo-hooing.

15 From a neighbouring **shrubbery** emerged a nurse, leading by the hand a small boy, who howled as he went. An **anxious-looking** little girl trotted at her heels.

"What's the matter?" asked the Director.

The nurse shrugged her shoulders. "Nothing much," she answered. "It's just that this little boy seems rather **reluctant** to join in the ordinary erotic play. I'd noticed it once or twice before. And now again today. He started yelling just now..."

20 "Honestly," put in the anxious-looking little girl, "I didn't mean to hurt him or anything. Honestly."

"Of course you didn't, dear," said the nurse **reassuringly**. [The nurse left...]

25 "Exquisite little creature!" said the Director, looking after her. Then, turning to his students, "What I'm going to tell you now, he said "may sound incredible. But then, when you're not **accustomed** to history, most facts about the past *do* sound incredible."

He let out the **amazing** truth. For a very long period before the time of Our Ford, and even for some generations afterwards, erotic play between children had been regarded as abnormal (there was a roar of laughter); and not only abnormal, actually immoral (no!): and had therefore been **rigorously** suppressed.

30 A look of astonished **incredulity** appeared on the faces of his listeners. Poor little kids not allowed to amuse themselves?

They could not believe it.

"Even adolescents," the D.H.C. was saying, "even **adolescents** like yourselves..."

"Not possible!"

35 "**Barring a little surreptitious auto-eroticism and homosexuality** - absolutely nothing."
"Nothing?"

"In most cases, till they were over twenty years old."

"Twenty years old?" echoed the students in a chorus of loud disbelief.

"Twenty," the Director repeated. "I told you that you'd find it incredible."

40 "But what happened?" they asked. "What were the results?"

"The results were terrible." A deep resonant voice broke **startlingly** into the dialogue. [...]

(Aldous Huxley: Brave New World, 1932, pp. 35-37)

Annotations:

shrubs - Gebüsch; heather - Heidestrauch; gravely - ernsthaft; patronizing - herablassend; recently - kürzlich; contempt - Verachtung; shrubbery - Gebüsch; anxious-looking - ängstlich aussehend; reluctant - widerwillig; reassuringly - beruhigend; accustomed - gewöhnt; amazing - fantastisch und verwirrend; rigorously - konsequent; incredulity - Unglaube; adolescents - Jugendliche; " Barring a little surreptitious auto-eroticism" - "abgesehen von ein wenig heimlicher Autoerotik und Homosexualität"; startlingly - erschreckend

Your tasks:

1. Outline in your own words sexual education of children in the society of "Brave New World".

(Befolgen Sie die üblichen Regeln einer Summary aber legen Sie den Schwerpunkt Ihrer Antwort auf die Fragestellung)

2. Compare the way sexuality is treated in the society of "Brave New World" with the way how the society in "The Giver" deals with sex and eroticism.

(Das heißt, Sie leiten aus dem Text konkret die allgemeingesellschaftliche Sicht von Sexualität ab - mit Textbelegen! Verweisen Sie bei dem Vergleich auch konkret(!) auf "The Giver".)

Choose either 3a) or 3b)

3a) Write a letter to the utopian Newsletter "For a better Future!" in which you describe your own ideas about how the sexual education of children should be done in an ideal society.

(Das heißt, ihr Text sieht aus wie ein Brief. Sie entwerfen ein begründetes(!) Modell, Sie beziehen sich konkret auf den Ausgangstext, auf den Roman, auf die Realität. Kein Allgemeingelaber.)

3b) "It is sensible and justified that the state decides about the sexual education of children. This will lead to a better society." Please discuss.

(Das heißt, Sie diskutieren beide Seiten in Abwägung(!). Sie beziehen sich konkret auf den Ausgangstext, auf den Roman, auf die Realität. Kein Allgemeingelaber.)