

Tremper Summer Reading  
Semantics Honors  
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Welcome to Semantics Honors! The focus of Semantics will be the origin and etymology of the English language, levels of language usage, language as a means of communication, and the existence of Semantics in our daily lives. As an introduction to the Semantics Honors course, your summer reading assignment will incorporate many of the themes, philosophies, and ideologies that we will study throughout the course. Part of what you will explore in Semantics Honors is how words influence thought and behavior. To capitalize upon this idea, the novel that you will be reading this summer is Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*.

This novel will introduce you to a society that many would deem a "dystopia", where the inhabitants and their actions seem odd, and at times, horrifying. As you read, consider how language shapes the beliefs and behaviors of these citizens. Why do these people act and think as they do? Also, note words that seem to produce noticeable reactions and which appear to affect the society as a whole. Lastly be aware of similarities and differences between the United States today and the civilization described by Huxley. Consider the accuracy of his predictions about the future.

Assignment: highlight each of the following categories in a different color and provide a key.

- Strong repetitive language
- Words that create a strong emotional reaction in the society
- Symbols used (these must be annotated, give an explanation of what they symbolize)
- Similarities and differences between this society and our own.

Be mindful of the importance of language in the society of Brave New World. This novel will be the basis for class discussion, a project and an essay. Read carefully!

"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored."-Aldous Huxley

Enjoy!

Mrs. Lechusz