

The Impact of English Studies on My Education

Although I love to read, I never imagined that one book would become a significant influence in my life. My high school's Boni Libri program requires that each student read additional novels from a list of classic, world-changing texts. Last year, I chose an interesting book that my mom recommended – Brave New World. The author, Aldous Huxley, quickly grabbed my attention with his controversial, thought-provoking plot involving sterile sensuality, soma, and manufactured babies. This novel's dystopia lacks thoughtfulness, creativity and individuality; the population collectively deifies mass manufacturing through their god, Ford, and also emphasizes the pursuit of mindless pleasure in an attempt to ignore all pain.

After moving on to the next semester's good reading, my thoughts of Huxley's horrific future remained. Curious about the possibility of cloning babies, I chose stem cell research for my junior year research paper. Based on articles I read, the science behind the concept was actually becoming plausible. Would Huxley's futuristic world come into being? The question haunted me. I would trust his "prediction" one day and try to ignore it the next. When I wasn't consumed by Huxley's ominous speculations, I would consider the possibility of advanced scientific techniques that could create babies through an assembly line. Would our society really devolve to casual promiscuity, intellectual stereotyping and substance dependence? These speculations stimulated yet more thought. I discussed with teachers the possibilities of Huxley's profound ideas- enjoying the conversations with my elders. The thoughts and exchanges that resulted from reading Aldous Huxley encouraged me to continue my journey through science. Now that I am in AP Biology, I am studying the development of stimulant drugs that closely resemble soma and the advances in cloning research. The issues raised by Huxley return with extraordinary frequency, leaving me dumbfounded and inspired by Huxley's talent as an author to create such a lasting impression on my own imagination.

Huxley's influence, however, has impacted me beyond science. Wanting to pursue writing myself, I read novels that move past the imaginary world; they come alive and live in the present. The creators of stories, these weavers of words, stir people into action. Without Huxley's fantastical world introducing new possibilities, scientists might have waited longer to probe the secrets surrounding reproduction. The power that Huxley wielded over my imagination remains a marvel. This author has increased my thirst for knowledge of science and literature, uniting two disciplines normally at odds with one another. In my own education, I strive to excel so I can one day write and influence others in the way that Aldous Huxley has inspired me. Going beyond Brave New World, my college education in English will allow me to immerse myself in ancient, medieval, and modern classics to expand my mind and learn how to develop my own ideas by reading about others. Eager for knowledge, I believe this scholarship will help me to excel as a student, a future teacher and a potential author.