

## Reading and discussing (step 2)



Read this passage, find vocabulary, and then talk about the discussion topics.

### The Family

Aldous Huxley's novel *Brave New World* was ranked 5th in the Modern Library (1999) list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century. Written in 1931, it is set in the future (London, 2540), at a time when technology has made families unnecessary.

In the novel, the world is a peaceful place, with food and resources for everyone. Nobody is starving or poor. The population is limited to 2 billion (people die at 60) and everyone is happy. Babies are born in Hatcheries, where they are designed for their future jobs. Marriage, natural birth, parenthood, and pregnancy are all things of the past. Nobody has a family, so there are no relatives to mourn them when they die.

This is very different to the world of the 21st century, in which disease, hunger, global warming, and terrorism are common items on the daily News. Huxley's novel therefore raises important questions: 1. What will we sacrifice for a secure life? 2. How important is freedom of thought? 3. Can we live without parents, brothers, sisters, and children?

## Vocabulary in context

Are there any words you don't know in this reading passage? Choose two words and write them in the table below. Look in the Glossary (► pages 151-168) to find their meanings. Make a new sentence for each word and write it in the table below.

word	sentence
1	
2	

## Discussion topics



1. What do you think of the society in the novel?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Talk about the three questions at the end of the passage.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Would you like to live in a *Brave New World*? Why? Why not?

There are more reading passages at <http://www.finchpark.com/KNUFLE/book-1/unit01/read.html>