Character Portraits

Draw a picture representing each character. Be sure to capture their physical traits, but also display their personality traits. Consider what their facial expressions would be, what their clothes would look like, how other people around them might respond to them. Add things on their person or to the background of the picture to display the most important personality traits of each character.

Include at least 2 quotes on your portrait that are important in revealing your character’s personality.

Consider the following for each character:

John Savage

1. What was his childhood and education like? What effect did that have on him?
2. Belief system: what is most important to him?
3. Consider how Shakespeare’s plays influence his character. How might that effect his ability to cope with others?
4. What actions stand out to you as different or interesting? Is John simply an outsider character looking at the world as we would? Or does he have his own baggage? Consider his interactions with other characters throughout the novel.
5. What is his level of confidence? Where does it come from?

Lenina

1. What is her position in the civilized society? What is her role? How might it be different from the other characters, especially the men?
2. Consider interactions with the other characters: from Bernard and John to Henry Foster and the Arch Community Songster. What do these interactions reveal about her?
3. What is her belief system? Based on what you have seen, what is most important to her?
4. How well does follow the norms of the civilized society? When does she break from them? What might that suggest about her? About people?
5. What is her level of confidence? Where does it come from?

Bernard

1. What is his position in society? How does it influence his personality?
2. Examine some key interactions with other people, namely John Savage, Helmholtz, the Director, and lower caste members. What do these interactions reveal about his character?
3. What is his belief system? What is most important to him?
4. What is his level of confidence? Where does that come from?
5. In his letter to Mustapha Mond, Bernard says that he finds “civilized infantility too easy, or…not expensive enough” (159). Does Bernard seem to showcase the maturity he seems to crave? Why or why not?

Helmholtz Watson

1. What is his position in society? How does it influence his personality?
2. Examine his interactions with other people, namely Bernard and John Savage. What do these interactions reveal about his personality?
3. What is his belief system? What is most important to him?
4. What is his level of confidence? Where does that come from? Why does he accept Bernard as a friend again so easily, even after Bernard rebuffed him during his time of popularity?
5. Helmholtz is enthralled by the world and the poetry revealed to him by John Savage. Yet, he still laughs when John reads Romeo and Juliet. Why does he laugh? What does this reveal about his character?