“Brave New World” Aldous Huxley.
A world run by Organization for the sake of Organization. There is no free will, everybody is happy. The desired population is created in the laboratory – test-tube babies! Huxley’s brother, Julian, a scientist was astonished that Aldous had worked out the science of how to do this (their grandfather TH. Huxley was a famous scientist – the populariser of Darwin).
“Brave New World” was written in 1930. Huxley and others were aware then of the dangers of over-population and talk of eugenics was topical.
Size of population and also a class system according to intelligence was controlled in the laboratory e.g. a moron was created by adding alcohol into the test-tube.
No one was born; they were decanted from their bottle. Sleep teaching was used (this idea seemed a possibility at the time of writing) but there was little need for further indoctrination. T.V. had been discovered but Huxley doesn’t pick up on it. There is no need; human potential has been limited in the laboratory and the infants enter a world where desire is regulated according to needs.
People don’t really do what they like; they have no choice – they like what they do. There is no beauty, only consumption, no one spends time alone.
The fun starts when two members of the alpha class visit a savage reservation and discover a young man, “The Savage” who was born there and stranded in time according to his one source of information of the outside world, the works of Shakespeare which had been left behind on the reservation.
The title “Brave New World” alludes to “The Tempest”. The response of the Savage is that of Miranda to marvellous strangers, “Oh brave new world that has such creatures in it!”
“Brave New World” is a satire of our time. Huxley had set it way into the future but it is happening now. It has a different aspect than Orwell’s “1984” which is described as “a boot in the face forever” – let us not forget the numbers who are daily tortured. “Brave New World” is about people who think they are having a great time but in fact are doing what we’re programmed to do.

“1984”
A world run by Power for the sake of power.
Written at a time when Stalin controlled Russia – his face “Big Brother” was everywhere (Mao later took the same idea). Intellectuals, people who think, are dangerous to dictators – in “1984” these are the party members; the rest of the population, though life is hard, are content to wallow in the squabbles and comfort of their ordinary selves and are no threat – ‘just there’ in the book. It is a world controlled by propaganda and brutality. It is interesting to note that during World War II when the book was written Orwell’s wife, Sonia, worked for the Ministry of Defence in the Propaganda department called “Ministry of Information” (Minitrue) which happened to be in Room 101. “1984” is a satire of our times.