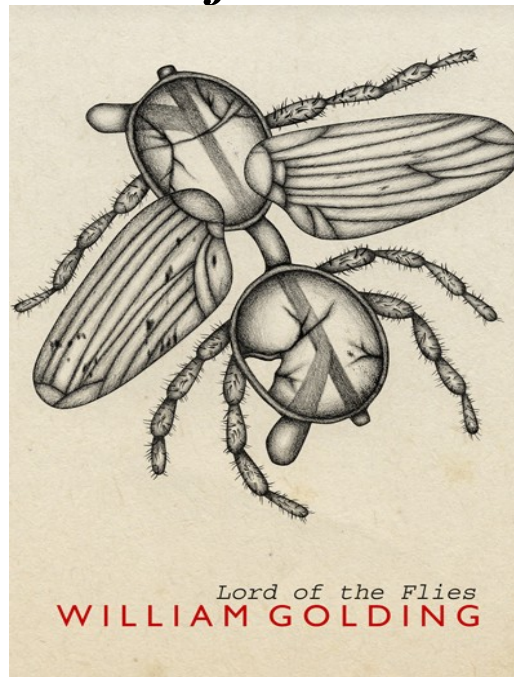


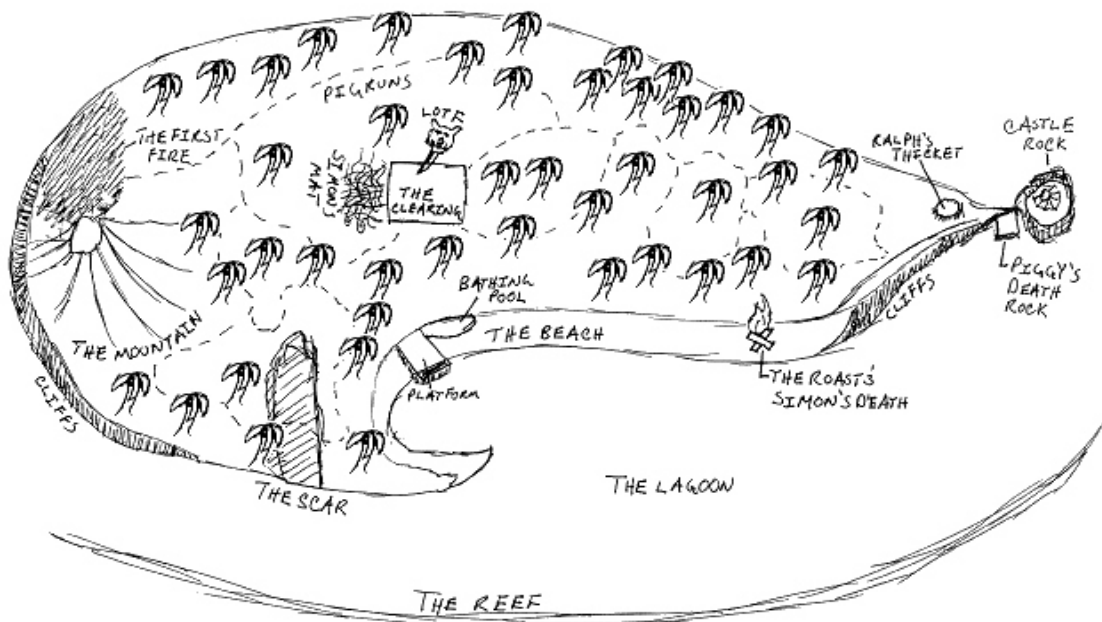
William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*



- **Golding** was born in Cornwall in 1911 and was educated at Marlborough Grammar School and at Brasenose College, Oxford.
- Schoolmaster, a lecturer, an actor, a sailor, and a musician.
- Published a volume of poems in 1935.
- Taught at Bishop Wordsworth's School, Salisbury.
- Joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and finished as Lieutenant in command of a rocket ship. He was present off the French coast for the D-Day invasion, and later at the island of Walcheren.
- After the war he returned to teaching, and began to write again. *Lord of the Flies*, his first novel, was published in 1954. It was filmed by Peter Brook in 1963.

Background on the Novel

- Allegorical novel-An allegory is a literary work in which characters, events, objects, and ideas have secondary or symbolic meanings.
- The title of the novel is a translation of a Hebrew word, “baal-zevuv,” which means chief or principal devil—Satan. An English word derived from the Greek word is “Beelzebub,” which can mean any of the following: Satan, chief devil, an assistant devil second only to Satan, or fallen angel.
- Source is Ballantyne's *The Coral Island*, 1857. Ballantyne emphasizes the courage of English empire builders
- British schoolboys ages 6 to 12 survive a plane crash on a small coral island in the South Pacific during a world war.





Major Conflicts

Ralph vs. Jack

Ralph represents order and composure in society. Eventually Jack grew tired of Ralph being in charge. He let the barbarism inside of him transform him into a savage-like creature and he went on a rampage, destroying the makeshift civilization the boys worked so hard to create.

Boys vs. Beastie

The Beastie symbolizes the Devil, and is a manifestation of all the evil inside the boys. As the boys grew further and further away from civilization, their desire to kill the Beastie grew. They went from being scared at first, to wanting to hang his head on a pole.

Boys vs. Nature

The boys went hunting many times to try to keep themselves alive. At first, Ralph was afraid to kill the sow. Towards the end, Jack's warrior identity brutally murdered the sow and hung his head on a stick.

Boys vs. Piggy

Piggy represents the weak who are often victimized. The boys tortured him because he was fat and needed such thick glasses. His torture can also be considered a lack of understanding, because the boys had likely never met anyone with problems like his. This can be seen in the boys lack of understanding of asthma, or "ass-mar".

Jack vs. Society

The barbaric quality that arises in Jack throughout the book is really a rebellion against society. He grew tired of taking orders from Ralph and participating in the democratic system that they had. This sense of anarchy must have existed inside of him before the encounter on the island began, but his experiences served to bring it out of him.

Key Issues:

The Need for Civilization and Order

Laws and rules are definitely necessary to keep the darker side of human nature in line. When all elements of civilization disappear on the island, the boys revert to a more primitive part of their nature, and they turn into savages and anarchy replaces democracy. Society holds everyone together, and with out civilization and rules, the boy's ideals, values, and basic ideas of what is right and wrong are forgotten, and the evils of human nature emerge.

The Loss of Identity

The boys lose their individual identity when the older children just become known as the biguns, and the younger become known as the littluns. They are not known by their names anymore, but just as a group term. When the hunters paint their faces and kill pigs, they are losing their individualism, and becoming part of a group mentality of savagery. Two twins, named Sam and Eric, "combine" personalities as "samneric." They no longer are known as two separate individuals, but as one person who can no longer separate Sam and Eric.

Human Nature

The shortcomings in human nature will lead to an equally flawed society. Without the restraints of civilization, the behavior of people will regress to their savage beginnings. Survival is of utmost importance. The base form of human nature will lead to anarchy, violence and death.



Themes: William Golding says that "the theme (of the book) is an attempt to trace back the defects of society to the defects of human nature...The moral is that the shape of society must depend on the ethical nature of the individual and not on any political system."

1. The four aspects of social activities (production, social organization, politics and religion\science)
2. Basic needs of society
3. Ecological balance and use of resources
4. The Fascist personality -worship of leader hero -cult of violence
-blaming problems on outside forces -rule by terror and army
5. The problem of evil in Man

Power

Different types of power, some used and abused. Democratic power is shown when choices and decisions are shared among many people on the island. Jack shows authoritarian power by threatening and terrifying others. Some of the boys utilize brute force, when hunting for pigs, and later hunting for Ralph.

Blindness and Sight

Piggy is blind to his immediate surroundings but really understands what is going on on the island. Unfortunately, the boys do not realize that Piggy sees more, and he is treated poorly and is eventually killed.



Fear of the Unknown

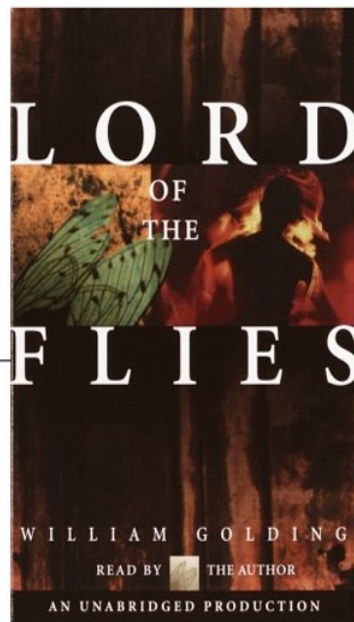
The boy's fear of the unknown on the island leads to their fear of the beast. The boys cannot accept the notion of a beast existing on the island, nor can they let go of it. The recognition that no real beast exists, and that the only beast on the island is fear itself is one of the deepest meanings of the story.



The Conch Shell



Piggy's Glasses



SYMBOLISM IN LORD OF THE FLIES



The Beast



The Lord of the Flies



The Signal Fire

Lord of the Flies- Big Ideas to Discuss

Write "A" next to statements with which you agree. If you disagree, write "D." If you aren't sure, write "NS." Underneath, write why you think this is true. You do not have to agree with the other members of your group.

When given a chance, people often single out and degrade another to improve themselves. *Reasoning:*

Society is what holds everyone together and without these conditions, our ideals, values, and the basics of right and wrong are lost. *Reasoning:*

The power of fear and control can overwhelm a person. *Reasoning:*

If humanity is to survive, innocence may have to be sacrificed. *Reasoning:*

When the institutions of law and order slip away or are ignored, human beings revert to a more primitive part of their nature. *Reasoning:*

Whenever groups of people coexist, there will be a struggle for power.

Reasoning:

It's better to examine the consequences of a decision before it is made, than to discover them afterwards. *Reasoning:*

Children are capable of horrific behavior. *Reasoning:*

Everyone is capable of murder. *Reasoning:*

The reason most people hunt is that they need the meat. *Reasoning:*

What did your group seem to disagree over the most? Why?

***Lord of the Flies* Study Guide: Chapter 1**

Answer the questions. For each answer, indicate the page number in parentheses.

- 1. How did the boys arrive on the island?**
- 2. How did Ralph call the first meeting?**
- 3. What are the names of the twins?**
- 4. What does Ralph's dad do?**
- 5. What nationality are the boys?**
- 6. The island was roughly _____ - shaped.**
- 7. What is the "scar?"**
- 8. For whom did Piggy vote as chief?**
- 9. Who went to make sure the island was really an island?**
 - a. _____**
 - b. _____**
 - c. _____**
- 10. Who is your favorite character so far?**

Chapter 2

Answer the questions. For each answer, indicate the page number in parentheses.

- 1. Who is the only one who may interrupt the speaker holding the conch?**
- 2. Who saw the beast/beastie/snake-like thing?**
- 3. Who says, again and again that there isn't a beast?**
- 4. On Page 37, Ralph makes a two-fold "mission statement." What are the two parts?**
 - 1. _____**
 - 2. _____**
- 5. Why do they need a fire?**
- 6. What did the boys use to start the fire?**

7. Who is the first boy to die?

Who said it? (remember to indicate page numbers)

8. "How do you expect to be rescued if you don't put first things first and act proper?"

9. "I told you to. I told you to get a list of names!"

10. "We'll have rules! Lots of rules! Then when anyone breaks 'em-"

Chapter 3 Huts on the Beach

Answer the questions. For each answer, indicate the page number in parentheses.

1. What is Jack doing as the chapter opens (be specific)?

2. Ralph and _____ are building huts.

3. Why can't Jack get the pig to stay on his spear?

4. All the hunters but Jack have gone where?

5. Who helps the littluns get fruit?

6. At the end of the chapter, where does Simon go?

Who Said it? (Indicate page number)

7. "We want meat!"

8. "I was talking about smoke! Don't you want to be rescued? All you talk

about it pig,pig pig!"

9. "I thought I might kill"

Chapter 4 Painted Faces and Long Hair

Answer the questions. For each answer, indicate the page number in parentheses.

1. Who "still felt the unease of wrongdoing?"

2. Who was affected by the "taboo of the old life?"

3. How was Jack "liberated from the shame of self-consciousness?"

Why did the "littluns" always obey the summons of the conch?

4.

5.

6. Why did Jack want Samneric to get him a coconut?

7. Why weren't the boys rescued?

8. Why were the littluns used to "Stomach aches and a sort or chronic diarrhoea?"

Who said it?

9. "You don't half look a mess"

10. "They don't smell me. They see me, I think. Something pink, under the trees."

Chapter 5 Beast from Water

Answer the questions. For each answer, indicate the page number in parentheses.

1. What is "Taken short?"

2. What does Ralph think they ought to do before they let the fire go out?

3. Who scared the littlun by walking around in the jungle at night?

Who are the two littluns who hold the conch and speak about the beast at the assembly?

4.

5.

Who said it?

6. "The thing is, we need an assembly."

7. "Serve you right if something did get you, you useless lot of cry-babies!"

8. "Life...is scientific, that's what it is."

9. "What I mean is... maybe it's only us."

10. "What are we? Humans? Or animals? Or savages?"

How did Piggy's specs get broken (71)?

Chapter 6-7 Beast from Air-Shadows and Tall Trees

Answer the questions. For each answer, indicate the page number in parentheses.

1. What was the "sign that came down from the world of the grown-ups?"

2. Who saw the "beast" on top of the mountain?

3. What did the boys want to do instead of going to the other side of the island to check the fire?

4. "After all we aren't savages really, and being rescued isn't a game."
 5. "Well, we won't be painted, because we aren't savages."
 6. You're a beast and a swine and a bloody, bloody thief!"
 7. "See? See? That's what you'll get! I meant that ! There isn't a tribe your you anymore! The conch is gone-"
 8. "Which is better, law and rescue, or hunting and breaking things up?"
- Lord of the Flies

Chapter 12 Cry of the Hunters

Answer the questions. For each answer, indicate the page number in parentheses.10 pts.

1. Who was the "savage whose image refused to blend with that ancient picture of a boy in shorts and shirt?"
 2. Why would "bathing [Ralph's] injuries have to wait?"
 3. What did Ralph do to the "Lord of the flies?"
 4. Who had the "memory of a new and shameful loyalty."
 5. Who sharpened a stick on both ends intending to use it on Ralph?
 6. How did they try to get Ralph out of the thicket? -
- Ralph had 3 different strategies for 'escaping' the hunters. What were they?

7.

8.

9.

Who Said it?

10. "Nobody killed, I hope? Any dead bodies?"
11. "They are going to hunt you tomorrow."



Review Questions

Chapter 1: “The Sound of the Shell”

1. Where were the boys going in the plane? Describe what happened to it.
2. Describe the island where the boys landed. What created the “Scar” on the island?
3. What does Piggy find? How is it used?
4. Who is chosen to be the chief? Why?
5. How does Jack wish to contribute to the survival of the boys?

Chapter 2: “Fire on the Mountain”

1. What are the rules that the boys make up?
2. What did the littl’un with the birthmark claim to see? What was the reaction of the group?
3. What idea did Ralph come up with? How was the idea carried out?
4. What was the result of the boys’ carelessness? Who suffered the most?

Chapter 3: “Huts on the Beach”

1. What have Ralph and Simon been doing at the beginning of Chapter 3? What are the rest of the boys doing?
2. What does Ralph think is the most important thing that needs to be addressed on the island? What is his complaint?
3. What does Jack think is the most important?
4. What does Simon do while the other boys are fighting? How is he different from the majority of the other characters?
5. Describe the spot Simon finds in the jungle. Why is this place significant?

to his character?

Chapter 4: “Painted Faces and Long Hair”

1. Describe Roger’s actions. What do they say about his character?
2. What is spotted while the boys are swimming? Why doesn’t it respond?
3. Why is Jack so excited when he first rejoins the boys in this chapter?
How do you think this will lead to the division of the boys?
4. What happens when Jack punches Piggy? Why is this significant?
5. Describe the wild dance that is performed around the fire.

Chapter 5: “Beast From Water”

1. What are the littl’uns preoccupied with in t his chapter? How do the older boys respond to their concerns? What is the thing in reality?
2. How does Simon attempt to settle the matter of the littl’uns’ concerns?
What deeper meaning is implied when Simon says that there may be a beast, but “it’s only us”?
3. What point does Jack bring up during the assembly? What are his reasons for thinking this way?
4. What do the hunters do after breaking up the assembly?

Chapter 6: “Beast From Air”

1. Describe what came down from the sky. What had happened?
2. Who sees the “Beast From the Air” first? Why do they think it is a beast?
What is it in reality?
3. What is the assembly’s reaction to the news brought to them? What does Jack suggest?
4. What do the hunters discover while they are out looking for the beast?
What does Jack think of this?

Chapter 7: “Shadows and Tall Trees”

1. What is on Ralph’s mind at the beginning of this chapter? Who attempts to reassure him?
2. How is the dance in Chapter 7 different from previous dances? Who joins in? How is this evidence that the hunters are becoming more brutal and dangerous?
3. Jack scales the mountain in order to get a better view. What does he think

he sees? What is it in actuality?

Chapter 8: “Gift For the Darkness”

1. Most of the boys decided to leave with Jack. Who are the boys that have stayed with Ralph?
2. What do the hunters discover while out in the forest? What do they do with their discovery?
3. What does Simon encounter while out walking in the forest? What name does he give it and why?
4. Describe the “conversation” Simon has in the forest.

Chapter 9: “A View to a Death”

1. How does the thunderstorm play an important factor in the events of this chapter?
2. What invitation does Jack extend to his guests?
Why do the boys insist on following Jack?
3. Describe the ritual around the fire. How has this event been escalating throughout the novel? How is the dehumanization of the boys coming to a climax?
4. How does Simon die?
How was the “prophecy” of the Lord of the Flies fulfilled?

Chapter 10: “The Shell and the Glasses”

1. What does Piggy say about Simon’s death?
Give specific examples of how savage Jack has become by Chapter 10.
 3. What are Jack and the hunters looking for when they invade the shelter of Ralph, Piggy and Samneric?
 4. How does this symbolize a disappearance of order and clear-sightedness?

Chapter 11: “Castle Rock”

1. What does Jack do in response to Ralph’s attempting to call an assembly?
2. Summarize Piggy’s speech to the boys. How do the boys react to him?
3. What is Roger’s response to Piggy’s speech? How does the event symbolize the disappearance of some of the last remnants of democracy?

Chapter 12: "Cry of the Hunters"

1. What is now the target of the boys' hunting? Who acts as a betrayer? Why?
2. What do the hunters do out of desperation? What is the eventual outcome of this?
3. How does the world of the island mirror the "real" world once the boys are rescued by the Naval officer?

IMPORTANT QUOTES

Each of the following quotes is really important in understanding the novel. Explain the significance of each of these; how does each one contribute to the development of one or more of the following: theme, character development, symbolism, plot development.

1. "This belongs to us". (31)
2. "...the enormity of the knife descending and cutting into living flesh; because of the unbearable blood". (34)
3. "He tried to convey the compulsion to track down and kill that was swallowing him up." (55)
4. "At the back of his mind formed the uncertain outlines of an excuse." (65)
5. "Roger's arm was conditioned by a civilization that knew nothing of him and was in ruins" (67)
6. "But Piggy, for all his ludicrous body, had brains." (85)
7. "' Cos things wouldn't make sense. Houses an' streets, an'--TV-- they wouldn't work." (101)
8. "I hit him all right. The spear stuck in. I wounded him!" (125)
9. "Power lay in the brown swell of his forearms; authority sat on his shoulder and chattered away at his ear like an ape". (135)
10. "Ralph looked away, "I.m frightened. Of us. I want to go home. Oh God, I want to go home". (153)
11. "I will blow the conch, "said Ralph breathlessly. We shan't hear it". (137)

Questions to Consider

Study Questions & Essay Topics¹

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to say that *Lord of the Flies* is an allegorical novel? What are its important symbols?
2. Compare and contrast Ralph and Simon. Both seem to be “good” characters. Is there a difference in their goodness?
3. How does Jack use the beast to control the other boys?

Suggested Essay Topics

1. Of all the characters, it is Piggy who most often has useful ideas and sees the correct way for the boys to organize themselves. Yet the other boys rarely listen to him and frequently abuse him. Why do you think this is the case? In what ways does Golding use Piggy to advance the novel’s themes?
2. What, if anything, might the dead parachutist symbolize? Does he symbolize something other than what the beast and the Lord of the Flies symbolize?
3. The sow’s head and the conch shell each wield a certain kind of power over the boys. In what ways do these objects’ powers differ? In what way is *Lord of the Flies* a novel about power? About the power of symbols? About the power of a person to use symbols to control a group?
4. What role do the littluns play in the novel? In one respect, they serve as gauges of the older boys’ moral positions, for we see whether an older boy is kind or cruel based on how he treats the littluns. But are the littluns important in and of themselves? What might they represent?

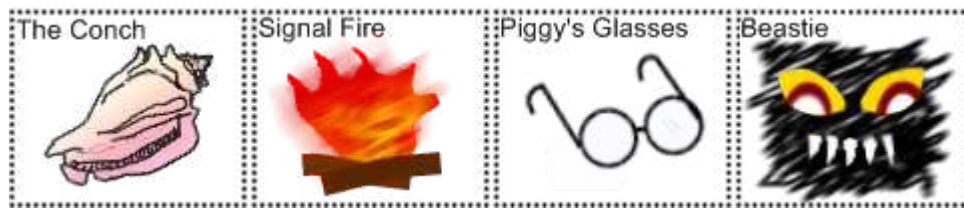
Quotation Quizzes

Chapters 1-6

http://www.argo217.k12.il.us/departs/english/blettiere/LOTF_01-06_quotes.htm

Chapters 7-12

http://www.argo217.k12.il.us/departs/english/blettiere/LOTF_07-12_quotes.htm



LOTF Game

http://nobelprize.org/educational_games/literature/golding/index.html

Online Quizzes

Characters & Symbolism

<http://www.funtrivia.com/playquiz/quiz121706df0eb8.html>

General

<http://www.funtrivia.com/playquiz/quiz10975144d90.html>

Chapter 1

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1231513.html?AP_rand=177229815

Chapter 2

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1237512.html?AP_rand=149746649

Chapter 3

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1237565.html?AP_rand=1407267694

Chapter 4

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1247427.html?AP_rand=602526373

Chapter 5

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1252389.html?AP_rand=361666297

Chapter 6

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1267700.html?AP_rand=2103370463

Chapter 7

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1316916.html?AP_rand=950069022

Chapter 8

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1322808.html?AP_rand=1076842048

Chapter 9

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1334460.html?AP_rand=234466269

Chapter 10

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1340365.html?AP_rand=682940971

Chapter 11

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1344287.html?AP_rand=1856226883

Chapter 12

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1344558.html?AP_rand=68377750

Web Quest Project

<http://www.longwood.k12.ny.us/lhs/teach/webq/lmasterjohnlord/>