



 Prestwick House

# Activity Pack

## LORD OF THE FLIES

BY WILLIAM GOLDING



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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 1

### Setting and Activity

**Objective:** Drawing a concept

#### Activity

Read the description that follows. On a piece of paper, draw your concept of what the island looks like.

They had guessed before that this was an island: clambering among the pink rocks, with the sea on either side, and the crystal heights of air, they had known by some instinct that the sea lay on every side. But there seemed something more fitting in leaving the last word till they stood on the top, and could see a circular horizon of water.

Ralph turned to the others. "This belongs to us." It was roughly boat-shaped: humped near this end with behind them the jumbled descent to the shore. On either side rocks, cliffs, treetops and a steep slope: forward there, the length of the boat, a tamer descent, tree-clad, with hints of pink: and then the jungly flat of the island, dense green, but drawn at the end to a pink tail. There, where the island petered out in water, was another island; a rock, almost detached, standing like a fort, facing them across the green with one bold, pink bastion. The boys surveyed all this, then looked out to sea. They were high up and the afternoon had advanced; the view was not robbed of sharpness by mirage.

"That's a reef. A coral reef. I've seen pictures like that." The reef enclosed more than one side of the island, lying perhaps a mile out and parallel to what they now thought of as their beach. The coral was scribbled in the sea as though a giant had bent down to reproduce the shape of the island in a flowing chalk line but tired before he had finished. Inside was peacock water, rocks and weeds showing as in an aquarium; outside was the dark blue of the sea. The tide was running so that long streaks of foam tailed away from the reef and for a moment they felt that the boat was moving steadily astern.

Jack pointed down. "That's where we landed." Beyond falls and cliffs there was a gash visible in the trees; there were the splintered trunks and then the drag, leaving only a fringe of palm between the scar and the sea. There, too, jutting into the lagoon, was the platform, with insect-like figures moving near it.

- Look for the general shape of the island.
- Place the mountain they're standing on where you feel it is.
- Include the rock, almost detached, that looks like a fortress.
- Visualize the beach and the platform where they gathered, the lagoon, and the coral reef a mile offshore.
- Indicate the scar made by the plane's crash.

**Probing Deeper:** The plane that crashed with the schoolboys on board represents civilization, with its technical achievements and the power to destroy and kill. The island is an untouched paradise set off from the larger world. In this way, it becomes a "microcosm" of what the larger world is and once was. Considering this, what does the scar across island symbolize? Write a short paragraph to respond.

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**Chapters 1, 2, and Ongoing****Characterization****Objective:** Comparing the personal qualities of Jack and Ralph**Activity I**

1. In the chart that follows, decide which of the qualities listed you associate with Ralph, Jack, both boys, or neither boy. Then, write down any one supporting portion from *Lord of the Flies* that you used to reach this conclusion. Use this chart and add to it throughout your reading. The first one is done for you as an example.
2. Review the following list of important qualities many democratic leaders possess. Decide who possesses each quality listed, Jack or Ralph. Then, note the supporting incident from the text. Again, the first one is done for you as an example.

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**Chapters 3 – 8****Characterization and Allegory**

**Objective:** Recognizing how characters in this allegory represent different abstract parts of human nature

**Activity I**

For a dramatization to be done later, keep a log for these three characters: Roger, Simon and Jack. On the Spirituality/Brutality Log on the next page, list comments or incidents which reflect either spirituality or brutality on the part of each character. The more entries you can supply, the better you will understand the characters. The first entry is done for you.

**Chapters 1 – 4****Symbolism**

**Objective:** Interpreting the symbolism in the story

**Activity I**

Some critics believe that in *Lord of the Flies*, the ship is an important symbol. Read the following quotations from Chapter 4, which mention the ship and then note on The Ship As A Symbol chart on the next page how the character involved feels about the ship. The first one is done for you as an example.

At the bottom of the chart, write a sentence stating what abstract idea or concept you believe the departing ship represents for the boys.

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**Chapter 5****Characterization and Theme**

**Objectives:** Inferring the thoughts and emotions of the characters  
Recognizing incidents from the chapter which support the loss of innocence motif

**Activity I**

1. The reader gains insight into Ralph's thoughts in Chapter 5. It is clear that he is taking his responsibilities as leader very seriously after the hunters fail to maintain the fire. Golding includes several passages in this chapter that show that Ralph is losing child-like innocence, which supports one of the major concepts in this book.

Complete the Maturity Chart on the next page by choosing several additional passages that support the statement of theme at the top of the chart.

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**Chapter 7****Contrast and Mood (cont.)**

**Objective:** Recognizing the literary technique of switching moods to emphasize theme

**Activity II**

1. Think about how you feel when you are under tension or stress. What childhood memory can you think of that might have a calming effect on you if you could “daydream” about it in times of anxiety? Write a brief paragraph about this memory. Include at least two images, like those Golding uses, to help the reader understand the mood of your memory.
2. Write another short paragraph about a time in your life when you felt very stressed, anxious, or fearful. Use descriptive images to convey the mood to the reader.

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**Chapters 9 – 11****Plot and Theme**

**Objective:** Recognizing significant plot incidents that help to define theme

**Activity I**

In Chapter 9, Ralph loses his leadership of the group to Jack. The boys' descent into savagery accelerates in Chapters 9, 10, and 11. Complete the Diagram of Savagery Chart on the next page, noting instances from the story that supporting each topic on the diagram. To get you started, the first incident is done for you as an example.

At the bottom of the Diagram of Savagery, write the themes these incidents support.