

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

Lord of the Flies

by William Golding

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Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. state why and in what way this book is a good example of the loss of innocence genre.
2. identify and comment on the following symbols in this novel: the island, the jungle, the ocean, the pig's head, and the major characters.
3. state Golding's view of the essential nature of man and comment on civilization's function in regard to man.
4. identify and discuss the types of power exemplified in this novel.
5. discuss the psychological aspects of this novel, particularly the following:
 - a. Piggy as the scapegoat and the reminder of the rule of intellect;
 - b. Jack as an example of the militaristic mind;
 - c. Ralph as the leader, for whom the following of rules is essential;
 - d. Roger as the sadistic part of humanity;
 - e. fear of the unknown;
 - f. mob mentality.
6. point out and discuss how *Lord of the Flies* exists on at least three levels:
 - a. as an action/adventure story;
 - b. as a psychological novel about people under stress;
 - c. as a symbolic novel about the nature of man and the role of civilization.
7. understand, define, and give examples of the following literary terms:
 - a. simile
 - b. personification
 - c. hyperbole
 - d. metaphor
 - e. foreshadowing
 - f. irony
 - g. alliteration
8. determine who or what the title refers to

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. The Romantics believed that man was inherently good, but had become corrupted by civilization. The boys in this novel were raised on books like *Robinson Crusoe*, *The Blue Lagoon*, *The Coral Island*, and *Swiss Family Robinson*, in which shipwrecked people made decent lives on their island. How does this book portray the opposite of that idea?
2. In Western literature, the jungle is frequently a symbol. What does the jungle represent in this novel?
3. Gradually, the boys become less and less civilized and more and more savage. Trace the progression that Golding sets out.
4. Does this novel, in your opinion, end on an optimistic or pessimistic note?
5. Throughout the novel, the nature of the beast changes for the boys. Trace the boys' perception of the beast from its first mention until the end.
6. Jack and Ralph are said to represent the clash between authoritarianism and democracy. Show how, and to what extent, each personality does, in fact, represent that.
7. Ralph experiences a loss of innocence. Show how he is at the beginning, what crises he undergoes that change him, and how he is at the end.
8. Compare Ralph's "coming of age" in this novel to Gene's "coming of age" in *A Separate Peace* or any other novel that is suitable.
9. How do the following items function as symbols in this novel: Piggy's glasses, the conch shell, the fire, the sea, the pig's head?
10. Point out how and why Piggy is a scapegoat in this world.
11. How does Jack manipulate the boys and use their fear of the beast to get what he wants?
12. There are many instances of irony in this novel. Analyze any three of them.

Note: All references come from the Perigee Book edition of *Lord of the Flies*, copyright 1954.

Chapter Two - Fire on the Mountain

VOCABULARY

assented – consented
borne – held aloft
confirmation – agreement
ebullience – enthusiasm; liveliness
errant – aimless
festooned – decorated
fluently – easily; fluidly
gesticulated – gestured
induced – persuaded
martyred – self-sacrificing
officious – meddlesome
quota – proportional part
recrimination – an accusation in response to another accusation
tumult – commotion

1. What function has the clearing by the lagoon, described as a platform, seem to have assumed?

2. How does the conch become the visible symbol of authority?

3. What are Jack's feelings about rules?

Chapter Six - Beast from Air

VOCABULARY

chasms – marked divisions, separations, or differences
emphatic – forceful; emphasized
guano – seabird droppings
interminable – endless
leviathan – a giant creature
mutinously – rebelliously
plinth – a square rock serving as a base
tremulously – tremblingly

1. What is the beast from the air?

2. What has Ralph fixed his mind on, that the others seem to think of very little? Why do they not seem to share his concern?

3. Why is exploring the castle-like rock formation a scary proposition, and who does it? What is Simon's function here?

Chapter Nine - A View to a Death

VOCABULARY

abominable – despicable
buffet – a forceful hit
ceased – stopped
corpulent – bulky
frowning – wrinkling
inquisitive – curious
prospered – flourished
protruded – stuck out
succulent – juicy
ungainly – clumsy; hard to handle

1. Explain Simon's actions.

2. In this chapter, what are signs of Jack's power?

3. Find an example of personification in this description.

Chapter Eleven - Castle Rock

VOCABULARY

cessation – stopping
myopia – nearsightedness
pinnacles – lofty peaks
propitiatingly – in an effort to restore good will
truculently – savagely

1. What is it that Samneric fear about the savages' warpaint?

2. What does Piggy's speech reveal about his lack of understanding of life on the island?

3. Why does Ralph refuse to paint their faces?

4. Trace the progression of Roger's savagery in this chapter.
