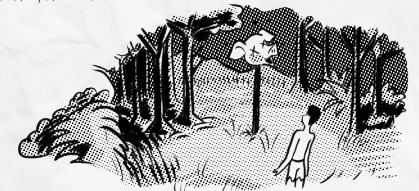
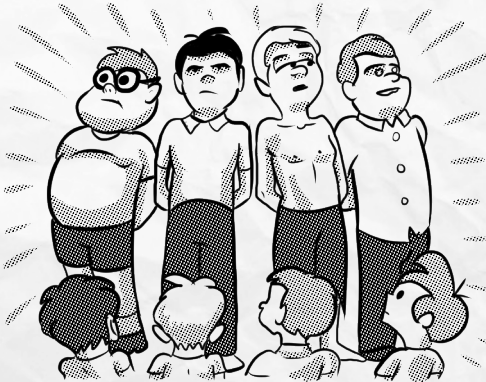
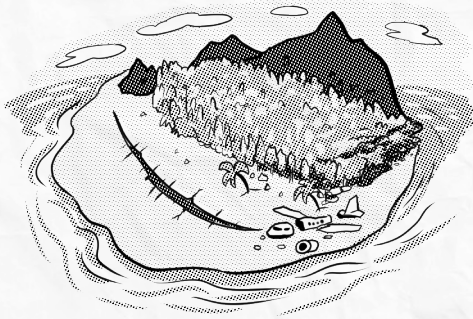


GCSE **Lord of the Flies** *William Golding*



ThinkIT

The Island Setting and Comparison to Other Texts

There are several adventure texts set on islands in the 'adventure story' genre. Why do you think Golding used a similar setting for his text?

Think about how other texts, such as *The Coral Island*, presented the brutal behaviour of native people. How has Golding presented brutal behaviour differently on his island? Why do you think he did this? You could also consider the comparison between the relatively clean killing of the pig in *The Coral Island* in comparison to the brutal killing of the pig in *Lord of the Flies*.

Why do you think Golding explicitly refers to other texts at the start of the novel (*Treasure Island*, *Swallows and Amazons* and *The Coral Island*). What effect does this have on the reader?

In adventure stories that are based on the sea or on islands, often characters encounter pirates or other 'evils' that they have to overcome. How is this different on Golding's island? What message do you think Golding wished to present to his readers?

Some people compare the island setting in *Lord of the Flies* to the Garden of Eden. Why do you think this might be? Find quotations to support your response.

To what extent do you think the comparison to the Garden of Eden is a valid one? Consider not only the appearance, but also what occurs in each location?

Although, on the surface, the island may seem idyllic, Golding presents it in a way to show that it isn't. Find quotations to support this. Why do you think Golding has chosen to present the island in this way? What message do you think he wishes to present to his reader?

How does Golding present the relationship between nature and man? Think about the scar caused by the plane. Think about the way the debris is pulled out to sea and undergrowth grows over the scar. Think about the impact of the fire the boys create.

Contextual Influences

World War Two influences / parallels:

To what extent do you think the Nazi party's rejection of democracy and demand for conformity influences the novel? Which characters in particular?

In what ways do you think the characters of SamnEric are influenced by contextual factors, such as the Nazi party's effect on German society?

In what way could Roger's character be influenced by the Nazi party and key figures within it? Think about how his role develops.

Tension between the USSR and America:

To what extent do you think that Ralph and Jack's leadership styles and characters are inspired by the tensions between the USSR and America after World War Two? Think about the effects of their actions, as well as their beliefs.

Being British – The Empire and social class

To what extent do you think the behaviour of the boys and their treatment of the island is influenced by the British Empire? Think about Ralph's statement that the island belongs to them, at the beginning of the novel.

How are British beliefs about upbringing and education presented in the novel? Think about the relationship between discipline and self-control.

Violence

As the novel progresses, and violence begins to increase, find quotations which present the boys in an animalistic way.

When the boys kill the pig, it could be argued that sexual imagery is used by Golding in his writing. Find quotations to support this view. To what extent do you think that this is the case? Why do you think Golding may have done this?

The uniform of the boys gradually get torn and dirty, they begin to paint their faces. Why do you think Golding did this? Consider the fact that painting faces conceals identities in your response.

Language

At the start of the novel, the boys' language shows them to be well spoken. Why do you think Golding used boys of this social class?

How does the language of the boys change as the novel progresses?

Why do you think Golding created this change in language?

What is meant by the word 'ululation'? What does this show about the boys?

Look at the language used by Jack, Ralph and Piggy. What do you notice about their use of language. Does this change as the novel progresses? Choose quotations for each character to demonstrate your argument.

What terms are used to describe the boys and their meetings throughout the novel? Does this change?

Civilisation, Rules and the Descent into Savagery

How is the symbol of the conch linked to the theme of civilisation and savagery? Think about what happens to it later in the novel and what this represents.

How do the boys respond to the concept of rules at the beginning of the novel? Think in particular about Ralph, Jack and Piggy.

How does Jack's response to rules change as the novel develops? Why do you think Golding created this change?

To what extent is the fire's demise representative of a descent into savagery? Could it be seen as more than this?

What part do rituals play as the novel progresses?

To what extent do you feel that Golding uses this novel to comment on mankind's basic instincts, in comparison to social expectations which we are taught?

Taking your thoughts from the previous question, why do you think that girls are not present in the novel?

You may find it interesting to research Sherif's *The Robber's Cave* experiment.

Symbolism

Consider the uniforms that the boys wear at the start of the novel and that worn by the naval officer at the end of the novel. How might clothing be symbolic in this novel? Think about what Ralph weeps for at the end of the novel.

What other examples of symbolism can you find in the novel?

Character and Theme

Create a timeline for each character, documenting key points and any changes that take place in their character. For example, you could look at the changes in Ralph's emotions. What do you notice? Add key quotations to your timeline.

Using the timelines above, consider and discuss which character changes the most. Consider why Golding made each of the events and changes he has.

Create a grid with a list of the themes of *Lord of the Flies* across the top and a list of key characters down the side. For each character, make notes on how they link to any of the themes you feel are relevant. You should include any key quotations to support your ideas. For example, you could explore how Ralph's behaviour on occasion suggests that everyone has a degree of evil within them.

Structure and Viewpoint

At different points, the novel focuses on individuals or the whole group. Create a map to track these changes throughout the novel. What do you notice? What effect is created by Golding writing in this way?

Look at the beginning of Chapter 6 – what do you notice about the viewpoint at this part of the novel? What effect does it have on the reader?

How does the switch in viewpoint and perspective change at the end of the novel?

Fears and Darkness

To what extent does the boy's belief in 'the beast' assist their descent into savagery?

Why do you think that as irrational fears set in, civilisation slips away? To what extent does fear lead to savage behaviour?

Why do you think that fears appear to be stronger than logical thought and reason?

Make a list of what darkness might symbolise. You could consider, as a starting point, that when colonists discovered Africa, they called it *The Dark Continent*.

How does Simon's experience with hallucinations explore the roles of fear and darkness? To what extent is Simon a victim of darkness?

How does Jack respond to the boys' fears of the beast? To what extent could it be said that he uses this to his advantage?

Leadership

How do Ralph and Jack's approaches to leadership differ? Why do you think one style appeals to the boys at the start of the novel?

What do you think causes the boys to become attracted to a different style of leadership as the novel progresses?

How does Jack change as a leader and character as the novel develops? Why do you think Golding created this change?

What do you think Golding's thoughts about different leadership styles were? Why do you think he presented leadership in the ways he has?

What is symbolised by the stick sharpened at both ends?