

Literary Studies 11/ 12 – *Lord of the Flies*

The final unit for this course is a novel study that examines the nature of Mankind: what are the qualities that make us essentially human, and are those properties inherently good or evil?

Sound familiar? Many of the themes we have examined in Lit. Studies 11/12 have touched on these larger questions, including your most recent poetry unit.

William Golding, the author of *Lord of the Flies*, attempts to answer these large thematic questions in the form of an *allegory*. Take a minute now to watch my video on allegory, and look at the slide I posted for William Golding. How might his background put him in a relevant position to comment on the nature of Mankind?

One of the aims of this unit will be to understand how this story is an allegory, and what all of its little parts (characters, locations, objects, events) could symbolically represent. That is why at the end of each section of questions, you will be asked to consider some of these symbolic meanings.

Getting Started

Mostly everything you submit to me will be on ONE Google Doc. This first week, set one up, copy and paste the assignment in there, and complete the work.

IMPORTANT: SHARE YOUR WORK EVERY TIME YOU COMPLETE A WEEK'S ASSIGNMENTS

Make sure you give me edit permission when you share.

I will be checking and re-checking the document throughout the unit.

This week:

Part A: Complete the LifeBoat Activity (The explanation is attached)

Part B: Read Chapter 1 and Complete the Chapter Questions

1. What has caused the “scar” in the jungle? Does the description of the island suggest a friendly atmosphere, or a hostile atmosphere?
2. How does Golding describe the twelve-year-old Ralph? What does Ralph do that reveals he is still very much a child?
3. List three of Piggy’s physical flaws.
4. How is the cruelty of Ralph demonstrated following Piggy’s confession about his nickname?
5. What does Ralph say about his father that reveals his childhood naivety?
6. What does Piggy realize once the conch shell is retrieved from the water?
7. After Johnny, Sam, Eric and the other children arrive at the platform, Ralph sees “something dark” that is fumbling along” (19) What is this creature?
8. How does Merridew reveal his cruelty following his group’s arrival at the platform?
9. What is there about Ralph that makes him a natural leader?
10. What does Jack want the choir to become?
11. Who are the boys chosen to explore the island?
12. What excuse does Jack give for not killing the pig?

Part C:

Choose THREE characters or objects, and comment on their symbolic significance in the pages you have read so far. Explain what these people, places, or things represent, and try to provide textual evidence to support your claims

Here are some possible examples throughout the novel:

Ralph, Jack, Piggy, Simon, Roger, Sam'n Eric (as one), The Conch, Piggy's Glasses, The Mountain, The Island, Fire, The Beast, Face Paint, Chanting and Dancing, Dead Body in the Parachute, Uniforms, Lord of the Flies.

The LifeBoat Activity

The purpose of the lifeboat activity is to show you that the world can be a complicated, compassionate, and cruel place. The decisions we make may not always be perfect, but they are a reflection what we value (our morality, our survival), and those values are not necessarily consistent from human to human. On a larger scale, humanity ebbs and flows with acts and evidence of true civilization, but also with acts of barbarous savagery. What is the real reflection of our race?

I invite you to make your decision and justifications, and post to the Google Classroom stream so others can read and comment!